

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Leeds City Council held
Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 20th March, 2024

PRESENT: The Lord Mayor Councillor Al Garthwaite in the Chair.

WARD

ADEL & WHARFEDALE

Barry John Anderson
Caroline Anderson

ALWOODLEY

Lyn Buckley
Dan Cohen
Neil Buckley

ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD

Stephen Holrord-Case
Karen Renshaw
Mike Foster

ARMLEY

Andy Parnham
Alice Smart
James McKenna

BEESTON & HOLBECK

Andrew Scopes
Annie Maloney
Gohar Almass

BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY

Tom Hinchcliffe
Kevin Ritchie
Caroline Gruen

BURMANTOFTS & RICHMOND HILL

Nkele Manaka
Luke Farley
Asghar Khan

WARD

CALVERLEY & FARSLEY

Peter Carlill
Andrew Carter
Amanda Carter

CHAPEL ALLERTON

Jane Dowson
Eileen Taylor
Mohammed Rafique

CROSS GATES & WHINMOOR

Pauleen Grahame
James Gibson
Jessica Lennox

FARNLEY & WORTLEY

David Blackburn
Mark Swards
Adrian McCluskey

GARFORTH & SWILLINGTON

Suzanne McCormack
Mark Dobson
Sarah Field

GIPTON & HAREHILLS

Asghar Ali
Salma Arif
Arif Hussain

GUISELEY & RAWDON

Oliver Edwards
Eleanor Thomson
Paul Alderson

HAREWOOD

Ryan Stephenson
Matthew James Robinson
Sam Firth

HEADINGLEY & HYDE PARK

Abdul Hannan
Jonathon Pryor
Alison Garthwaite

HORSFORTH

Raymond Jones
Emmie Bromley
John Garvani

HUNSLET & RIVERSIDE

Paul Wray
Mohammed Iqbal
Ed Carlisle

KILLINGBECK & SEACROFT

Katie Dye

David Jenkins

KIPPAX & METHLEY

Michael Millar
Mary Elizabeth Harland
James Lewis

KIRKSTALL

Andy Rontree
Hannah Bithell

LITTLE LONDON & WOODHOUSE

Abigail Marshall-Katung
Kayleigh Brooks
Javaid Akhtar

MIDDLETON PARK

Emma Pogson-Golden
Wayne Dixon
Sharon Burke

MOORTOWN

Mahalia France-Mir
Sharon Hamilton
Mohammed Shahzad

MORLEY NORTH

Robert Finnigan

Andy Hutchison

MORLEY SOUTH

Jane Senior

OTLEY & YEADON

Ryk Downes
Colin Campbell
Sandy Edward Charles Lay

PUDSEY

Trish Smith
Simon Seary
Dawn Seary

ROTHWELL

Diane Chapman
Barry Stewart Golton
Conrad Hart-Brooke

ROUNDHAY

Jordan Bowden
Zara Hussain
Lisa Martin

TEMPLE NEWSAM

Nicole Sharp
Debra Coupar
Helen Hayden

WEETWOOD

Julie Heselwood
Izaak Wilson
Emma Flint

WETHERBY

Penny Stables
Norma Harrington
Alan James Lamb

90 Announcements

(a) The Lord Mayor welcomed members to this meeting of Full Council and also any members of the public who were joining the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was to be streamed live.

(b) The Lord Mayor informed Council that this would be the last meeting of Council for a number of Councillors as they would not be standing at the local elections in May, The Lord Mayor thanked the following Councillors concerned for many years of public service;

Councillor Almass

Councillor Gruen

Councillor Hutchison

Councillor McKenna

(c) The Lord Mayor informed Council that she would call for a short adjournment at a suitable point during the afternoon.

(d) The Lord Mayor wished Councillor Foster a Happy Birthday.

(e) The Lord Mayor informed Council that a solar powered world peace flame would be installed alongside a plaque in Park Square on 21st March 2024 and all Members were welcome to attend the installation ceremony.

(f) The Lord Mayor informed Council that there was approximately two months left in her year of office and she was planning a number of charity events to which all members were welcome.

91 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was moved by Councillor Flint, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2024 be approved.

92 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

93 Communications

The Chief Executive informed Council that responses to 2 Council resolutions in respect of Transport and the Household Support Fund from the January Council meeting had been received from the Department for Transport and Jo Churchill MP, Minister for Employment, copies of which had previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

94 Deputations

Four deputations were admitted to the meeting and addressed Council, as follows:-

1) Peacelink

2) Plant based Councils

- 3) *Knowle Manor Care Home
- 4) SEND Teaching Assistants

RESOLVED – That the subject matter in respect of deputation 1 be referred to the Director of Strategy & Resources for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member, that the subject matter in respect of deputation 2 be referred to the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment & Director of Strategy & Resources for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member, that the subject matter in respect of deputation 3 be referred to the Director of Adults and Health for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member and that the subject matter in respect of deputation 4 be referred to the Director of Children and Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

*In seconding the resolution in respect of Deputation 3 Councillor Stephenson asked that the relevant ward members be included in any consultation on these matters.

95 Procedural Motion

It was moved by Councillor Flint, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and

RESOLVED - To move that under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 22.1 (Suspension of CPRs), that CPR 3.3 (time limits for business) and CPR 14,1(period permitted for speeches) be suspended in order that the motion to receive Health & Wellbeing Board and Executive Board minutes shall not continue beyond 3.10pm including all summing up and the Leader of Council may speak for upto 5 (not 10) minutes when summing up on the minutes.

96 Report on the Licensing Annual Report 2023

It was moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

RESOLVED – That the Licensing Annual report be received.

97 Report on the Annual Report of the Standards and Conduct Committee

It was moved by Councillor Dowson, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

RESOLVED - That the report of the City Solicitor presenting to Full Council the annual report of the Standards and Conduct Committee be received and the matters set out in the annual report be noted.

98 Procedural Motion

It was moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Finnigan that leave of Council be given to suspend Council Procedure Rule 11.2 (Notice of Questions) to allow;

- Question 7 in the name of Cllr Golton to be heard as Q2
- Q43 in the name of Cllr Finnigan to be heard as Q7
- Q2 in the name of Cllr Downes to be heard as Q43.

Upon being put to the vote the Procedural Motion was lost.

99 Executive Questions

Q1 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space):-

Can the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space confirm the Administration will be changing its mind about charging for

car parking in Golden Acre park following the appraisal of the costs of implementing such a scheme and realising it is a false economy?

The Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space) replied.

Q2 Councillor Downes to the Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles):-

Given the health issues around ultra fine particulates (particulates less than 0.1 microns in diameter) which the Council does not currently monitor, would the Executive Member undertake a study to assess the feasibility of monitoring these harmful particles at strategic locations in Leeds?

The Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space) replied in accordance with CPR 11.3(b).

Q3 Councillor Burke to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education):-

Did the Spring Budget live up to the Executive Member's expectations with regard to school funding?

The Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education) replied.

Q4 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space):-

Would the Council's Administration agree to support community groups, charitable organisations and/or local communities to take a lead on hosting their own community bonfire events, with the proviso they have the correct insurances, risk assessments, traffic management plans and other relevant health and safety plans?

The Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space) replied.

Q5 Councillor Martin to the Executive Member (Housing):-

Please can the Executive Member for Housing provide an update on the progress of the Renters Reform Bill?

The Executive Member (Housing) replied.

Q6 Councillor Alderson to the Executive Member (Resources):-

On 1 April 2024, the Public Space Protection Order for vehicular nuisance will have been in operation for one year, please can the Executive Member for Resources provide Council with the number of Fixed Penalty Notices, or convictions of a criminal offence, that have been issued across the city and in particular in my ward of Guiseley & Rawdon in this time.

The Executive Member (Resources) replied.

At the conclusion of question time, the following questions remained unanswered and it was noted that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.6, written answers would be sent to each Member of Council:-

- Q7 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Communities):-
- Q8 Councillor Iqbal to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q9 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q10 Councillor Hamilton to the Executive Member (Communities).
- Q11 Councillor L Buckley to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q12 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles)
- Q13 Councillor Jenkins to the Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles)
- Q14 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q15 Councillor Scopes to the Executive Member (Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q16 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q17 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q18 Councillor Dye to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q19 Councillor Stables to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q20 Councillor Harrington to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q21 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q22 Councillor Carlisle to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q23 Councillor Flynn to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q24 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q25 Councillor Stables to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q26 Councillor Harrington to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q27 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).

- Q28 Councillor Stables to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q29 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q30 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q31 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q32 Councillor Flynn to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q33 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Communities).
- Q34 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q35 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q36 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q37 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q38 Councillor Flynn to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q39 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q40 Councillor Alderson to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q41 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).
- Q42 Councillor Alderson to the (Economy, Culture and Education).
- Q43 Councillor Finnigan to the Leader of Council.
- Q44 Councillor Alderson to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space)
- Q45 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Sustainable Infrastructure and Development).

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 13.53 to 14.00.

100 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Pryor that the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

RESOLVED – That the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

Council Procedure Rule 4, providing for the winding up of business, was applied prior to all notified comments on the minutes having been debated.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 15.13 to 15.40.

101 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lamb) - Potholes

It was moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor N Buckley that this Council notes with concern that the Administration are not doing enough to address the pothole crisis we have on Leeds' roads and are showing no signs of developing a meaningful strategy for highway maintenance to address the woeful state of so many of our city's roads and pavements.

Potholes create safety hazards and misery for road users, cause damage to vehicles, and cost the Council thousands of pounds in compensation pay outs to those affected.

Recent data shows the number of potholes reported in Leeds has risen by almost 60% under the last five years of the Labour administration, with 13,722 potholes reported last year alone. There were more than 300 accidents relating to potholes in 2023, compared to an average of 190 between 2019 and 2022, and compensation paid out to those affected by potholes has also nearly doubled in recent years. Estimates suggest there is a mean average of 19.5 years backlog in highways maintenance and it would take £288 million to bring all roads up to an acceptable standard.

Council welcomes the huge amount of government funding provided to local authorities, including Leeds, to help repair potholes. This includes £17,719,592 in 2023 for road resurfacing works in Leeds, allocated by WYCA from the government's City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement. But the Council should be investing more of its own money in improving the condition of the city's roads.

Council calls for a report to be presented to Executive Board laying out a clear plan for pothole repair, including addressing the large disparities between the average time it takes to fix potholes in different parts of the city, and setting out a long term strategy for addressing the backlog in highways maintenance work.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Hart-Brooke, seconded by Councillor Downes

Delete paragraphs 4 & 5 and replace with:

Council commits to allocating funding from government and more of its own money in improving the conditions of roads equitably in all wards of the city. The Council will ensure work done by its own teams are done to a professional standard that will endure in a do it right first time approach. Council will also work to enhance the contractual warranties external companies give so that those enjoying multi million pound contracts don't leave roads that look acceptable on day one but quickly deteriorate, leaving the Council to fix and the tax payer paying twice.

The amended motion would then read:

This Council notes with concern that the Administration are not doing enough to address the pothole crisis we have on Leeds' roads and are showing no signs of developing a meaningful strategy for highway maintenance to address the woeful state of so many of our city's roads and pavements.

Potholes create safety hazards and misery for road users, cause damage to vehicles, and cost the Council thousands of pounds in compensation pay outs to those affected.

Recent data shows the number of potholes reported in Leeds has risen by almost 60% under the last five years of the Labour administration, with 13,722 potholes reported last year alone. There were more than 300 accidents relating to potholes in 2023, compared to an average of 190 between 2019 and 2022, and compensation paid out to those affected by potholes has also nearly doubled in recent years. Estimates suggest there is a mean average of 19.5 years backlog in highways maintenance and it would take £288 million to bring all roads up to an acceptable standard

Council commits to allocating funding from government and more of its own money in improving the conditions of roads equitably in all wards of the city. The Council will ensure work done by its own teams are done to a professional standard that will endure in a do it right first time approach. Council will also work to enhance the contractual warranties external companies give so that those enjoying multi million pound contracts don't leave roads that look acceptable on day one but quickly deteriorate, leaving the Council to fix and the tax payer paying twice.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hayden, seconded by Councillor Lewis

Delete all after "This Council..." and replace with:

"...believes the £288m estimated backlog in highways maintenance shows the real impact of Conservative Government austerity on roads in Leeds in the context of the £2.7bn cut from council services by the Government since 2010.

Council supports calls from the Local Government Association for the Government to provide greater, longer term and year-on-year consistency of funding to ensure councils are better supported to deliver the services taxpayers need and deserve. Council welcomes the imminent publication of its highways maintenance strategy to show how this council is addressing the highways maintenance back log caused by chronic government underfunding and calls for a report to update Executive Board on this work."

The amendment in the name of Councillor Hart-Brooke was declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Hayden was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council believes the £288m estimated backlog in highways maintenance shows the real impact of Conservative Government austerity on roads in Leeds in the context of the £2.7bn cut from council services by the Government since 2010.

Council supports calls from the Local Government Association for the Government to provide greater, longer term and year-on-year consistency of funding to ensure councils are better supported to deliver the services taxpayers need and deserve. Council welcomes the imminent publication of its highways maintenance strategy to show how this council is addressing the highways maintenance back log caused by chronic government underfunding and calls for a report to update Executive Board on this work."

On the requisition of Councillors Flint and Lewis the voting on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Hayden was recorded as follows;

YES – 61

Akhtar, Ali, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Manaka, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McCluskey, McKenna, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Swards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Smart, Taylor, Thomson, Wilson, Wray, Blackburn, Carlisle, Stables,

NO – 25

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Andrew Carter, Amanda Carter, Cohen, Firth, Foster, Harrington, Lamb, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson, Chapman, Downes, Golton, Hart-Brooke, Lay, Dobson, Field, McCormack,

ABSTAIN - 4

Dixon, Pogson-Golden, Finnigan, Senior

102 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Golton) - Leeds 400th Anniversary

It was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Chapman that this Council recognises the significance of 400th Anniversary of Leeds receiving our Great Charter as a borough from King Charles I, and commits to celebrating this milestone in our city's history. Council notes the impressive series of events organised to mark the 300th anniversary in 1926 and commits to ensuring that this generation of Leeds citizens enjoys a festival deserving of the 400th anniversary.

In order for this celebration to be truly enjoyed citywide, and to leave a lasting legacy that benefits all communities within the modern boundaries of Leeds, this Council commits to learn the lessons of Leeds 2023 Year of Culture. It is therefore proposed that an all party members board be appointed to review the evaluation reports from Leeds 2023 during 2024, and develop plans during 2025 for the 400th Anniversary Celebration in 2026.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Andrew Carter

Add the following to the end of the motion:

“Part of the role of that Board should be to look for partners within the private sector and wider community to fund the Celebration, with a guiding principle from the project's inception being that there should be no cost to taxpayers other than the Council's convening power.”

Motion would read:

“This Council recognises the significance of 400th Anniversary of Leeds receiving our Great Charter as a borough from King Charles I, and commits to celebrating this milestone in our city's history. Council notes the impressive series of events organised to mark the 300th anniversary in 1926 and commits to ensuring that this generation of Leeds citizens enjoys a festival deserving of the 400th anniversary.

“In order for this celebration to be truly enjoyed citywide, and to leave a lasting legacy that benefits all communities within the modern boundaries of Leeds, this Council commits to learn the lessons of Leeds 2023 Year of Culture. It is therefore proposed that an all party members board be appointed to review the evaluation reports from Leeds 2023 during 2024, and develop plans during 2025 for the 400th Anniversary Celebration in 2026.

“Part of the role of that Board should be to look for partners within the private sector and wider community to fund the Celebration, with a guiding principle from the project’s inception being that there should be no cost to taxpayers other than the Council’s convening power.”

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor Coupar

Delete all after “Leeds citizens enjoys a...” and replace with:

“celebration deserving of our 400th anniversary.

Council further notes that when Leeds became an incorporated borough in 1626, it covered a much smaller area. After being granted city status in 1893 by Queen Victoria, Leeds has subsequently grown between 1912 and 1974 and celebrations of our 400th year will include the entire city.

Council acknowledges the 1100 events taken place during our Leeds 2023 Year of Culture and re-commits to a full detailed independent evaluation of Leeds 2023 which will be presented to our cross party Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board which will feed into future planning.

Council welcomes the £10m investment in British Library North, the £5m investment in the National Poetry Centre, and the increase in Arts Council funding to Leeds that have already come in the wake of Leeds 2023 and acknowledges the impact on our local economy cultural activity has.

Council commits to build on the legacy and impact of Leeds’ history, not least the 100th Anniversary of Leeds United in 2019, the 10th Anniversary of the Tour de France Grand Depart this year, the 300th Birthday of John Smeaton, and will now look to recognise inspirational women from Leeds’ history on the walls of the Council Chamber.

Executive board papers will be brought forward on how we celebrate women from Leeds’ history, and on our future cultural strategy as we approach Leeds’ Quadricentennial.”

Motion would read:

“This Council recognises the significance of 400th Anniversary of Leeds receiving our Great Charter as a borough from King Charles I and commits to celebrating this milestone in our city’s history.

Council notes the impressive series of events organised to mark the 300th anniversary in 1926 and commits to ensuring that this generation of Leeds citizens enjoys a celebration deserving of our 400th anniversary.

Council further notes that when Leeds became an incorporated borough in 1626, it covered a much smaller area. After being granted city status in 1893 by Queen

Victoria, Leeds has subsequently grown between 1912 and 1974 and celebrations of our 400th year will include the entire city.

Council acknowledges the 1100 events taken place during our Leeds 2023 Year of Culture and recommits to a full detailed independent evaluation of Leeds 2023 which will be presented to our cross party Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board which will feed into future planning.

Council welcomes the £10m investment in British Library North, the £5m investment in the National Poetry Centre, and the increase in Arts Council funding to Leeds that have already come in the wake of Leeds 2023 and acknowledges the impact on our local economy cultural activity has.

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Executive board papers will be brought forward on how we celebrate women from Leeds' history, and on our future cultural strategy as we approach Leeds' Quadricentennial."

The amendment in the name of Councillor Foster was declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Pryor was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council recognises the significance of 400th Anniversary of Leeds receiving our Great Charter as a borough from King Charles I and commits to celebrating this milestone in our city's history.

Council notes the impressive series of events organised to mark the 300th anniversary in 1926 and commits to ensuring that this generation of Leeds citizens enjoys a celebration deserving of our 400th anniversary.

Council further notes that when Leeds became an incorporated borough in 1626, it covered a much smaller area. After being granted city status in 1893 by Queen Victoria, Leeds has subsequently grown between 1912 and 1974 and celebrations of our 400th year will include the entire city.

Council acknowledges the 1100 events taken place during our Leeds 2023 Year of Culture and recommits to a full detailed independent evaluation of Leeds 2023 which will be presented to our cross party Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board which will feed into future planning.

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Council commits to build on the legacy and impact of Leeds' history, not least the 100th Anniversary of Leeds United in 2019, the 10th Anniversary of the Tour de France Grand Depart this year, the 300th Birthday of John Smeaton, and will now look to recognise inspirational women from Leeds' history on the walls of the Council Chamber.

Executive board papers will be brought forward on how we celebrate women from Leeds' history, and on our future cultural strategy as we approach Leeds' Quadricentennial."

103 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Coupar) - Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023

It was moved by Councillor Coupar, seconded by Councillor Farley that Council believes that the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom and believes that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is just the latest direct attack on this freedom.

Council regrets the over the past 14 years the Government have continually eroded pay, and to an even greater degree when inflation hit a 41 year high of 11.1%.

Council regrets the Government's failure to deal with the cost-of-living crisis and failure to outlaw poor employment practices, which Council believes have caused recent strike action. Council further regrets this legislation as an attempt to shift the blame onto ordinary workers who have resorted to striking to achieve fair pay and dignity at work.

Council further believes that the regime created by the Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023 is both unworkable and unnecessary and is an attack on the freedoms of working people in Leeds.

Council resolves to request a paper to Executive Board to consider these issues further and calls on the Government to repeal anti-trade union legislation.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Lay

Delete paragraphs two and three.

The amended motion will then read:

Council believes that the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom and believes that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is just the latest direct attack on this freedom.

Council further believes that the regime created by the Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023 is both unworkable and unnecessary and is an attack on the freedoms of working people in Leeds.

Council resolves to request a paper to Executive Board to consider these issues further and calls on the Government to repeal anti-trade union legislation.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Firth, seconded by Councillor Stephenson

Delete all after "Council" and replace with:

"believes working people, parents and pensioners in Leeds should be free to go about their business, get to work, drop their children off at school or access the NHS services their taxes pay for without excessive disruption caused by striking public sector unions.

"Council therefore welcomes the introduction of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023, believing it achieves the appropriate balance between the rights of workers

to withhold their labour and the rights of taxpayers to access the state-funded services and infrastructure they pay for. Council notes the UK has now joined other countries such as France, Spain, and Italy, which already have minimum service laws in place.

“Since 2010, the Conservative Government has delivered one of the best workers’ rights records in the world, with more employees on the payroll than ever before and one of the highest minimum wages in the world – more generous than those in similar economies such as France, Germany and Japan. This is in stark contrast to the inheritance of record high unemployment and reliance on state welfare left by the last Labour Government, and every post-war Labour administration.

“Council recognises the value individual shop stewards add within the workplace, representing their members in individual workplace disputes, including here at Leeds City Council where unions have live disputes against this Council as an employer.

“Council believes trade unions are best placed to fund these activities from their own members’ subscriptions, which is reasonable given trade unions declared assets of over £2.2 billion in 2021/22. There appears to be no need or justification for Leeds taxpayers’ money subsidising trade unions to the tune of £840k when these funds could be used to provide residential care for vulnerable children, addressing this council’s backlog of EHCPs, repairing the city’s roads, or keeping car parking free in local town centres.

“Council is alarmed at the cyclical nature of taxpayers’ money subsidising wealthy trade unions who hold political funds worth more than £30 million; funds used to support the election of Members of this Council’s administration.”

The amendments in the name of Councillor Golton and Councillor Firth were declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That Council believes that the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom and believes that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is just the latest direct attack on this freedom.

Council regrets the over the past 14 years the Government have continually eroded pay, and to an even greater degree when inflation hit a 41 year high of 11.1%.

Council regrets the Government’s failure to deal with the cost-of-living crisis and failure to outlaw poor employment practices, which Council believes have caused recent strike action. Council further regrets this legislation as an attempt to shift the blame onto ordinary workers who have resorted to striking to achieve fair pay and dignity at work.

Council further believes that the regime created by the Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023 is both unworkable and unnecessary and is an attack on the freedoms of working people in Leeds.

Council resolves to request a paper to Executive Board to consider these issues further and calls on the Government to repeal anti-trade union legislation.

On the requisition of Councillor Flint and Lewis the voting on the motion in the name of Councillor Coupar was recorded as follows;

YES – 68

Akhtar, Ali, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Manaka, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McCluskey, McKenna, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Sowards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Taylor, Thomson, Wilson, Wray, Blackburn, Carlisle, Stables, Dixon, Pogson-Golden, Campbell, Chapman, Downes, Golton, Hart-Brooke, Lay.

NO – 15

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Amanda Carter, Firth, Foster, Harrington, Lamb, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson,

ABSTAIN - 2

Finnigan, Senior

Council rose at 5.55 pm