

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 11th January, 2017

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL
(Councillor J McKenna)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 11th JANUARY 2017

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Good afternoon again, everybody. We are now on the official Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Firstly, can I offer my congratulations to Councillor Jane Dowson, who has been nominated by the Labour Group to be the next Lord Mayor of Leeds, the 124th, Jane, in case you are wondering! (*Applause*)

Can I offer congratulations on behalf of this Council to the following who were honoured in the Queen's New Year's Honours List:

Nigel Richardson, CBE, services to children and families;
Professor Carol Smart, CBE, services to social science;
Nicola Adams, OBE, services to boxing;
Angela Cox, OBE, services to education;
Alexander Fox, OBE, services to social care;
Colin Glass, OBE, services to business start ups and entrepreneurship;
Professor Anne Neville, OBE, services to engineering;
Mohammad Taj, OBE, services to trade unionism.

(I have to say he is an old friend of mine is Mohammed, we were young shop stewards together way back in the day and it is really good to see that one.)

Timothy Adams, MBE, services to horse racing and rugby league;
Paul Bennett, MBE, services to rowing;
Roderick Clifton, MBE, services to Council tax processes;

(Yes I know, we shall hear more!)

Kadeena Cox, MBE, services to athletics;
Adam Duggleby, MBE, services to cycling;
Chris Mears MBE, services to diving.

We continue – it has been a very productive time for citizens of Leeds:

Catherine Parlett, MBE, services to children and special education needs and disabilities;
David Wilkinson, MBE, services to the NHS;
Dr Jason Aldiss, BEM, political services;
Dr Siow Yen Andersen, BEM, services to safeguarding children and prevention of domestic violence in North Leeds.

Can we have the usual applause? (*Applause*)

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9th NOVEMBER 2016

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: If we can go on to Item 1 then, Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move in terms of the notice, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call for the vote, please. *(A vote was taken)*
That is CARRIED.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Declarations of Interest. Can I invite Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you. With regards to the Order Paper page 15, item 13, the White Paper on Neighbourhood Networks, I will not be taking part in the debate or the vote on our excellent Networks because I am a manager of one of the Neighbourhood Networks.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Councillor Dobson, that will be recorded.

ITEM 3 - COMMUNICATIONS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we go on to Item 3, Communications. Chief Executive, please.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I would like to confirm to Council that the following responses to Council resolutions have been received from David Gauke MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in respect of the White Paper on Austerity in Local Government considered by Council in September, and Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Schools System, in respect of the White Paper on Grammar Schools considered by Council in November. The responses have previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call in Councillor Leadley? I think he wanted a declaration.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: I did suggest that we might do this *en masse* as we used to do but apparently it is not the procedure. I would like to declare another interest as a Trustee of Morley Elderly Action, which is a member of the Neighbourhood Networks and that would apply to Councillor Varley as well. I suspect there might be hundreds of others.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Lord Mayor, in that case I should declare an interest as Chair of the Calverley, Farsley and Tyersal Live at Home Scheme. Not pecuniary.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: OK. Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: I should declare that I am a Committee Member of the Horsforth Live at Home Scheme.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Any further declarations?

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Chair, I am on the Committee of the Calverley and Farsley Live at Home Scheme.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: I am on the Committee of OPAL.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: OK. Councillor Grahame.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Chair, do we all have to declare them because I am a Trustee of Cross Gates Good Neighbours. We do not have to do it?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we have a clarification? One is employment and the rest are serving members of the committee, so perhaps a clarification from Catherine would be useful.

THE CITY SOLICITOR: Yes, thank you, Chair. Can I just make clear that it is only if you have a disclosable pecuniary interest that you actually have to declare it at the meeting (as Councillor Dobson has done), not take part in the debate and not vote. Any other interests you do not actually have to declare and you can participate and vote as normal.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you, Chair, some guidance then. Item 5 is the Council Tax Support Scheme. My handicapped step-daughter receives Council Tax Support, so I do not have a pecuniary interest but do I need to declare it because she is a beneficiary?

THE CITY SOLICITOR: No, you do not.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Chair, it is my daughter that Councillor Carter was referring to who receives Council Tax Support.

THE CITY SOLICITOR: Same advice.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Same advice.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: We are all very careful these days.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: We fully understand it. If we can go back to Communications, then, you were about to rise.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you very much. Under Council Procedure Rule 2.2(d) as an Executive Board Member, I would like to make a communication to Council. I understand I have got three minutes to do that and I will start now.

At the last Council meeting I drew to the attention of Council the inaccuracy of an Executive Board Minute and its references to The Green home in Seacroft. There were raised eyebrows at that time, it is not a usual procedure to have to raise a

correction to a Minute. However, at the following meeting of the Executive it was accepted that correction needed to be made and it duly was made.

It referred to the fact that before closure of The Green there should be a report back to the Executive Board of the Council relating to discussions taking place with the National Health Service and the need for a seamless transition should the closure be confirmed at that further Exec Board meeting.

I was horrified to discover that on 14th December relatives were called to what is referred to as an emergency meeting at The Green to be informed by officers of the Council, and I quote, “We should have confirmation from the CCG regarding The Green being used as an intermediate care facility and therefore The Green will be shut in July 2017.”

That is totally contrary to the revised Minute, accepted by all Members of the Exec Board at the November meeting of the Exec Board. There was no report back to the Exec Board in December; there is no meeting in January; there is a meeting in February.

I have to ask you, both Leader and Chief Executive, who the hell is running this place? Newer Members of the Council might not be aware but the primary decision making body of this Council is the Exec Board. Our decision making powers are very few, mainly to do with the Budget.

I believe, it appears to me that the decision of the Exec Board has been either misinterpreted or wilfully ignored, or an instruction has been given to officers to move ahead in advance of what the Exec Board instructed. It is not acceptable.

I want the Chief Executive to write to all Members of the Exec Board within seven days explaining what has happened; I want the next Exec Board in February to receive a full report on what has gone on; and I hope that the Scrutiny Board will look at what has gone on as a matter of urgency. The whole process of communication and consultation with residents is not this Council’s strong point in any event and things like this further undermine public confidence in what we resolve in Exec Board of Council and it is not – and I repeat not – acceptable. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Chair, under Procedure Rule 9 I would like to move that the matter raised by Councillor Carter be referred to the Executive Board.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: OK, that is acceptable. We go straight to the vote on it. (*A vote was taken*) That looks unanimous, so that will happen. Is there anybody against, just for the record? No, I have not seen anybody and no abstentions, so that is unanimous. CARRIED.

ITEM 4 - DEPUTATIONS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we move on to Item 4, Deputations. We have four Deputations. The first is Leeds Children’s Mayor; Friends of St John’s Church, Roundhay; Save Parlington Action Group (we know them very well from our email correspondence); Frack Free Leeds and the Knostrop Campaign.

Councillor Ogilvie, please.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that the Deputations are received.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call for the vote? Are we all happy to hear the deputations? (*A vote was taken*) Yes. CARRIED.

DEPUTATION 1 – LEEDS CHILDREN’S MAYOR

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Good afternoon and welcome to today’s Council meeting. Please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your Deputation.

GRACE BRANFORD: I am Grace Branford and I am the Leeds Children’s Mayor. I am with my friends Freya and Lily and I am going to read out my manifesto.

From a young age I have always thought about other people and how I can make their lives better. For example, once I organised a sponsored run where we managed to raise £50 to buy malaria nets for children in Africa. Last year, I organised a teddy tombola and raised £60 for a local children’s charity.

My manifesto is all about giving back to your community and helping people less fortunate than you. I propose that at least once a year each year group in every school in Leeds helps their community in some way. This could be Key Stage 1 children making Christmas cards for an old people’s home or drawing a picture for the children’s ward in a hospital or maybe Key Stage 2 children litter picking in the park or becoming a reading buddy to a younger child in school.

Every child could be involved in deciding on the school’s campaign which could change every year, and every child could choose how they could influence the lives of others. If I was the Children’s Mayor of Leeds this would make a difference and would make every community a happier one.

My manifesto, Be a Good Citizen, Love Thy Neighbour, will teach every child respect and that sometimes giving is better than receiving. Each child will get that feeling of pleasure when the people less fortunate than them thank them for donating an unwanted present or when they get that letter saying thank you for the Christmas cards. Wouldn’t Leeds be such a happier place if everyone helped and supported each other? Every person on the receiving end will know that someone out there is being kind and thinking about them. Why don’t we help the community become one?

The good thing about my manifesto is that it can benefit anyone you choose and everyone who takes part. Some people say it is the thought that counts; that is what I believe. Some people take what they have for granted and don’t always think about others. This is what needs to change. This is why my manifesto will make a difference. Every school can choose their own idea for their own cause and have a good time while helping others; for example baking cakes for voluntary workers in your community could make someone’s day. Bring a smile to your community!

A unique point about my manifesto, it can cost nothing. Last week at my Cubs we washed cars for free and had so much fun. We managed to raise £115 for a dementia charity. It will cost nothing to litter pick or become a reading buddy, maybe only 5p

for a bin bag, and reading books can be borrowed from libraries for free. All it takes is time and effort. Be that kind person and spend time doing something nice for others. If you try to help others, then you will feel so amazing and it doesn't have to cost a penny. Thank you.

(Standing ovation)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. I now call on Councillor Adam Ogilvie, please.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that the matter be referred to the Acting Director of Children's Services for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call for the vote, please. *(A vote was taken)* I do not think I need to count that, I think that is unanimous. Well done! CARRIED.

Thank you for coming to today's meeting. Officers from the relevant department will be in contact with you in due course. Good afternoon and thank you once again for your wonderful speech. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION 2 – FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ROUNDHAY

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Deputation Two is Friends of St John's church, Roundhay.

Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your Deputation.

MS L STAVELEY: Thank you very much. Lord Mayor, Members of the Council, my name is Lynne Staveley and this is Mark Wilson and Roger Potts. We are all Trustees of the Friends of Roundhay St John's Church.

St John's is a very beautiful and historic Grade II listed church. It is sited at the edge of Roundhay Park which, as you know, is one of the jewels in the crown of Leeds City Council and one of the finest Victorian parks in the country. The church was originally part of the Roundhay Park estate. It was built between 1824 and 1826 by Stephen Nicholson, who owned Roundhay Park at that time and who had already built the mansion there in 1817.

The church was beautifully built, with exquisite wood panelling, a golden triptych, carved font and eventually it was fitted with stunning stained glass windows. It contains many memorials to the Nicholson family and other important figures from late 19th and early 20th century Leeds. Many dignitaries from Leeds past including several Lord Mayors are buried in the graveyards and the crypt. There are a number of war graves and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is planning to erect a memorial in the North Graveyard next summer. Louis Le Prince, the man who invented movies and actually made one of his very first moving films, made it in Roundhay Park in 1888 and he designed a grave for his parents-in-law, which is in St

John's Church. The South churchyard contains over 30 graves of the Lupton and Middleton families, who are the ancestors of the Duchess of Cambridge.

In 2010 the Church of England sold St John's Church to the Pentecostal City Mission. They charged them £1 for it and the Pentecostal City Mission undertook to hold their services there, which they did do for a short time, but once problems with the building arose, they abandoned it. By 2012 the whole site had become seriously neglected, and our voluntary group, the Friends of St John's, formed to try to preserve it.

Subsequently we have undertaken a great deal of restoration work in both graveyards, which are now looking attractive and well cared for and which are now visited increasingly often not only by families and friends of people buried there but also by the general public.

Sadly, however, maintenance of the magnificent church building itself can only be described as chaotic. Lead theft has resulted in rain penetrating the church, leading to both internal dry and wet rot. The organ and some of the pews have been removed, which we understand is illegal as both the building and its contents are listed. The whole fabric of the building is at great risk unless repair work is undertaken very soon.

The Council's Heritage Planning officers are fully aware of the situation and have been hugely supportive to us, them and Councillor Macniven who knows all about the church and has visited it often.

The Friends of St John's is now a registered charity. Our campaign to bring the plight of the church to public attention has gained a great deal of support, and our local petition already has over 600 signatures. We have come here today to ask for your help. In the first instance we want to compel the owners to make the building watertight and safe and, secondly, we would like to develop a plan for the longer term future of the church as an integral and historic part of Roundhay Park and part of the cultural and historic legacy of our city. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call upon Councillor Ogilvie, please.

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

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Adam. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Graham. Can we proceed to the vote on this one please? *(A vote was taken)* That is unanimous. CARRIED.

Can I thank you for coming to today's meeting. Officers from the relevant department will be in contact with you in due course. Good afternoon and thank you for coming today.

MS L STAVELEY: Thank you very much and thank you for your support. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION 3 – SAVE PARLINGTON ACTION GROUP

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Deputation three, Save Parlington Action Group.

Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your Deputation.

MR H BEDFORD: Lord Mayor and Members of Council, thank you for the opportunity to make this address to the Chamber. My name is Howard Bedford, I represent Save Parlington Action Group. Members accompanying me of the group here today are Adrian Sykes, Joanne Austin, Neil Beaumont and Karen Baxter.

The group comprises residents of Aberford, Barwick in Elmet, Potterton, Scholes, Micklefield, Garforth and other settlements. We object to proposals for house building on the historic Parlington Estate because it will then destroy our villages.

Our group's membership is large, it is growing and it is active. In just three weeks leading up to 7th November 2016 deadline over 3,300 objections were submitted in response to the policy MX2-39 consultation.

The villages around Parlington have a long and rich history. Evidence of settlements can be traced back to the Iron Age and earlier. The beauty of the villages and settlements around central Leeds is testament to the success of our city ancestors, the success of today's residents and the excellent work of successive Council administrations. The Save Parlington Action Group is not motivated by nostalgia. We enjoy the natural beauty and we want to protect and preserve Parlington for everyone in Leeds.

My Lord Mayor and Members of Council, Leeds residents sense that our countryside is disappearing rapidly and our lives are poorer. The amount of countryside that you are targeting for house building is vast and untenable. Statistics without context can be misleading. Destruction of only small percentages of green belt will cause catastrophic loss. Bang, the Leeds unique environment is gone forever.

Lord Mayor and Members of Council, our group contends that what matters are people's experiences of, and engagement with, the countryside. Value added or value removed from people's lives. People matter every day. An ONS report shows that more than 1,300 villages in England and Wales disappeared in the first decade of this century and that, my Lord Mayor and Members of Council, is a shocking statistic.

You must take steps to plan Leeds's growth better, to act to allow building projects to be sustainably undertaken. Inorganic growth is an outcome of poor planning and panic responses to a growth continuum that has not been dealt with. It is a symptom of bad management by Authorities.

My Lord Mayor and Members of Council, you are the ones we trust to overcome such problems and create positive solutions that lead to organic growth. The destruction of the green belt does not have to occur. Building on brown field land is the only route that you should take and in Leeds there is sufficient brown field land for over 30,000 houses. Green belt serves to prioritise brown field for building. If Parlington is built on, then inner city brown field sites will not be recovered and will not be brought back into life. Building on the lungs of our villages is to condemn them to a slow, painful death.

Adding a giant new housing estate for what the July DPP called car-dependent commuters does not regenerate; it only destroys green belt and it will hollow out our inner city. This is our city and 3,300 of us objected to policy MX2-39.

We want to protect our green belt, our ancient woodland and our children. Lord Mayor, Members of Council, the Save Parlington Action Group is aware that any circumstance for building has to be an exceptional circumstance, yet there is no guidance on what “exceptional circumstances” means.

We request a meeting between our Group and the Council so that you can

1. List and explain specifically what the term “exceptional circumstances” covers;
2. Identify clearly circumstances which are “exceptional”;
3. Explain why you believe there is any circumstance to warrant taking Parlington’s exceptionally special landscape out of green belt and allocating it for house building when PAS and brown field sites exist throughout the city.
4. Explain what changed between September 2015 when Parlington was sieved out in the Green Belt Review, and March 2016 when it was considered as suitable to be put forward for housing. Was a full Green Belt Review carried out during this time?
5. Explain why an Expression of Interest was made by you to DCLG Garden Villages Programme on 29th July 2016 when Parlington is not brown field or public owned land and there has been no community support or engagement. These are all criteria for DCLG’s entry to the programme.

We challenge you to protect Parlington and revert to the use of land aligned with your settlement hierarchy and Core Strategy.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to you meeting with our delegation.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you for your address to Council today. Can I call upon Councillor Ogilvie, please.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that the matter be referred to the Director of City Development for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Adam. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Graham. I now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* I believe that is unanimous, thank you. CARRIED.

Can I thank you for coming to today’s meeting. Officers from the relevant department will be in contact with you in due course. Good afternoon and, again, thank you for coming in and talking to us today. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION 4 – FRACK FREE LEEDS AND THE KNOSTROP CAMPAIGN

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Deputation four is Frack Free Leeds and the Knostrop Campaign.

Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing your companion.

MS C LEGGAT: Hello, Members of Council, good afternoon. My name is Catriona Leggat and this is Ann Chapman. I am here today on behalf of Frack Free Leeds and the Knostrop Campaign who feel that our environment is under threat from the fracking industry.

You may be aware that fracking has now been approved at two locations in the UK - Preston New Road in Lancashire and Kirby Misperton here in Yorkshire. The process of extracting gas by hydraulic fracturing involves injecting large volumes of fracking fluid containing water, sand and a variety of toxic chemicals into a well at high pressure. Some of this fluid rapidly returns to the surface and is known as flowback fluid. Further fluid returns to the surface over a longer time-scale of weeks to months. This fluid is primarily generated from natural sources and therefore includes radioactive material and heavy metals and is known as produced water. Together they are referred to as fracking waste water.

This waste water is heavily contaminated and generated in much larger volumes than in conventional gas extraction. As a consequence dealing with this water is an issue which requires more thought and its harmful contents means that specialist licences are required to treat it.

There are currently only four sites in the UK which hold licences granted by the Environment Agency to treat fracking waste water. These include FCC Environment in Leeds, which is connected to the Yorkshire Water treatment works on Knostrope Lane, and is also known as Knostrop.

The Knostrop treatment facility has a permitted daily capacity of 300m³ and therefore a weekly capacity of 2,100m³. Cuadrilla anticipates a weekly production of 1,750m³ from its site at Preston New Road, equating to 83% of Knostrop's capacity. As the largest of the four treatment facilities and the only one with the potential capacity to receive all of the fracking waste water, Knostrop is the most likely recipient for Cuadrilla's waste.

Our concern that Knostrop will be allowed to receive this waste water is several fold. Our initial worry is that the figures I have just quoted refer to the total capacity of Knostrop and only output from flow testing from one location. It does not consider that FCC will receive waste from other sources, which leads us to question whether it will even have the treatment capacity if production commences at full scale. Moreover, in the UK we do not have the space to hold untreated water and we do not know how the fracking companies propose to deal with such a situation should it arise.

Our next concern is that the lorries which would transport this waste would have to travel a round trip of 170 miles to get from the fracking site at Preston New Road to the Knostrop site. This works out at 235,000 miles per well application. That is equivalent to nine times around the earth and 1,000 tonnes of CO₂. This is directly contributing to the UK's carbon emissions when the country is supposed to be seeking to reduce CO₂ production and Leeds has set a 40% reduction target of CO₂ emissions by 2020.

More immediately, during this travel time there is an ever present risk that an accident may occur. The Fire Brigade has stated that they have no specific protocol to deal with a spillage of fracking waste water. Consequently, such a spill could easily

contaminate ground water. Indeed it is this risk which Yorkshire Water identified as their greatest concern when Frack Free Leeds spoke to them in a meeting in September. They confirmed that a spillage into ground water has the potential to contaminate drinking water sources. This is troubling when you consider the levels of certain chemicals identified in the Preese Hall site. For example, lead was recorded at 60 times drinking water standards.

It is also important to note that until the produced water surfaces, there is no way to know precisely what is contained within it. This is not only troubling in terms of contamination of ground water but also raises questions about how FCC proposes to effectively treat this waste water. As far as we are aware the current approved method is one of removal of solids followed by dilution, before the water is released into the River Aire. However, this dilution method does not prevent the radioactive materials and heavy metals from bio-accumulating in the ecosystem of the river. The Aire was last cleaned up in 2007 at the cost of £110m. It seems such a waste to risk undoing work which improved habitats and made the river a much more enjoyable experience for residents of Leeds.

We are not alone in our concerns. Our group has collected over 1,000 signatures on a petition to stop fracking waste water from being treated at the FCC site in Leeds.

We are aware that Leeds City Council currently oppose the exploration for fracking licences in the Leeds area and we thank and congratulate you for that. We are now asking that the Council takes this a step further and oppose all fracking related activities in the Leeds area, including the treatment of waste water, by publicly backing our campaign and taking any action in their power to block the expansion of the FCC facility which would allow for greater processing of fracking waste water to occur.

We would also like the Council to arrange formal meetings with FCC, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency, as well as ourselves, to learn more about the process that will occur if fracking waste water comes to Leeds and who would be responsible should any incident occur. Thank you for your time and good afternoon. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you for your speech to Council today. Can I now call on Councillor Ogilvie, please.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that the matter be referred to the Director of City Development for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Members.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Adam. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Graham. Can I call for the vote then, please. *(A vote was taken)* I take that to be unanimous. CARRIED.

Therefore can I thank you for coming to today's meeting. Officers from the relevant department will be in contact with you in due course. Good afternoon and once again thank you for coming in and addressing us.

MS C LEGGAT: Thank you. *(Applause)*

ITEM 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD – LOCAL
COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we now go to Item 5, Recommendations of the Executive Board – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18. Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, thank you, Chair. I move the Report in terms of the Notice, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Finnigan, please.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Just to make a few comments on this.

The first thing to say about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is Steve Carey's team put a lot of work into trying to make the unworkable workable and I think we all ought to congratulate them on that. They tried to minimise the damage of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme is regrettable. Welfare reform – absolutely essential. Part and parcel of welfare reform was the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. That basically meant that those who are some of the poorest in our communities end up contributing something towards their Council Tax; very much a mirror image of where we were with the Poll Tax. It is wrong, it saves very little, it is not appropriate and, to be honest, the Government should reflect again on whether they wish to continue with this particular scheme along with the Bedroom Tax which, again, does not work and does not achieve what they want it to achieve and does not achieve the savings that they want to.

Welfare reform – absolutely and entirely essential. Certainly there are some good aspects of Universal Credit. I think what is happening with PIP is by and large a positive but ultimately if we are to deal with welfare reform in its entirety then we do need to start to look at reforming pensioners' welfare payments, because they are significantly some of the main recipients, they are people who have been given a certain level of immunity from welfare reform and to be honest if we are going to make the scheme work and have genuine credibility, despite the fact that I might be regarded as a heretic, then that is the area that we need to look at in the future. Thank you, Mr Chairman. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Robert. Councillor Coupar, please.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councillor Finnigan for your comments on this report. I have noticed, actually, that you have not contacted me whilst I have been in the role of Exec Board Member for Welfare and Benefits and Rights and I would really like to offer to meet with you, Councillor Finnigan, to discuss some of your concerns and issues that you have regarding welfare reform. I am more than happy to meet up and to see if we can accommodate some of them in any way.

I would like to reassure Council that the Council Tax Support Scheme has been through a robust process. It has been through wide public consultation, it has been through the Scrutiny process and all of those processes are in agreement to put it forward to Council for us to support the scheme. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Debra. Can I call for the vote on this one, please. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED. Thank you.

ITEM 6 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
– SUBSTITUTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL COMMITTEES

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we go to Item 6, please, Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee – Substitution Arrangements for Council Committees. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I move in terms of the Notice, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Judith. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Second, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I call for the vote, please. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX AND
BUSINESS RATES TAX BASES FOR 2017/18

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we then go to Item 7, Report on the calculation of the Council Tax and business Rates Tax Bases for 2017/18. Councillor Lewis, James, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Chair. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I second.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. Can I call for the vote on this, please. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED. Thank you.

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can I go to Item 8 then, Report on Appointments. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move the Report of the City Solicitor on Appointments be approved.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Adam. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: I second, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: It has been seconded. Can I proceed to the vote then. *(A vote was taken)* That is therefore CARRIED.

ITEM 9 – REPORT – LEEDS AWARD

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Report, Leeds Award. Councillor Hyde, please.

COUNCILLOR HYDE: Thank you, Chair. I have got the great privilege of recommending to Council that John Wilson receives the Leeds Award. At the Panel it was unanimous, hardly any debate.

John, as we all know in this Chamber, we have known John for a long time but actually a lot of the work that John has been doing is outstanding internationally, nationally, regionally and in Leeds. He is known from Presidents in America to the President of China and all over the place. His work is around the promotion and being an ambassador for this city of ours. He has done an outstanding job and he has represented not just the Lord Mayors and worked with Lord Mayors – and many people in this room have memories of that and I know a couple of my colleagues who will be talking about that shortly.

John's work has been so unassuming how he has gone about it but also very forceful if you have known him. He has delivered the ambassador's role in his role as the Lord Mayor's officer with outstanding and unassuming credibility. He has done a great job.

On a personal note I think it should be told to Council, I have known John actually since I was about 15 and the reason I have known John is that my father taught John to drive. If you ever speak to John or see him again, just say "Albert and the flat cap" and John will laugh, because when my dad taught John to drive, if he did not get his gears right he used to clip him over the head with a flat cap! John used to remind me incessantly over the years I have been in this building since I have known him.

He is a lovely man, he is now doing some work on his allotment and doing some horticultural work and enjoying his life, he tells me, but I think on behalf of this city he has been outstanding and he has done a great job as a servant of the city but also in his private life promoting the city internationally, nationally and locally.

I would just like to move, Chair, that we appoint John Wilson to the Leeds Award.
(hear, hear) (Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I second, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. Councillor Bob Gettings, please.

COUNCILLOR GETTINGS: Chairman, I have known John Wilson for over 20 years, well before I became a Councillor as he always accompanied the Lord Mayor to Siegen twinning events either in Morley or in Siegen. In fact when I go to Siegen the leaders of the different political groups always ask about John. He must be the most travelled officer in the city after accompanying the Lord Mayor on so many foreign visits.

I also met John some 20 years ago when he assisted the Lord Mayor in organising the first Lord Mayor's Ball in Morley Town Hall and again a few years ago when John

and the Lord Mayor's office not only organised the event, the tombola, but also ran the bar.

John certainly became the face of Leeds City Council for wherever he went, wherever he escorted the Lord Mayor, he himself was welcomed as he was so well known and held in such high esteem. John was good at his job.

He knew the protocols, he remembered the names of officials from different organisations of the city and he brought dignity to proceedings when he accompanied the Lord Mayor. His warm personality, his wicked sense of humour and the protective support he gave to the Lord Mayors made him a wonderful ambassador for the city of Leeds and for Leeds City Council.

John is well known, well respected and liked; a natural at the job that he did. For him to retire knowing that he is held in such high regard, evidenced by the standing ovation received at the last meeting and now evidenced by his receiving of this Leeds Award, is a fitting tribute to him and this MBI Group are delighted to support that nomination. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Bob. Councillor Anderson, please, Barry.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Conservative Group we would like to associate ourselves with what has been said beforehand. Everything that you can probably say about John has been said but the only thing that I would add is that, having spoken to a number of the Lord Mayors who have been Conservatives, they would not have had the successful years that they did have if it was not for the help and support and guidance of John, who knows the right thing to do at the right time and whose reputation throughout Yorkshire for knowing the exact thing to do at the correct time and who should stand beside who – and which one of us here has not been told by John at some time or another “Right, it is your turn to go *there*”.

That said, on behalf of the Conservative Group, John, you definitely deserve what you are getting. Thanks very much. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Barry. I had the great honour of being the Lord Mayor in 2010 and served with John and around the Lord Mayor's office he was the fount of all knowledge. He was known as the oracle. If you had a problem, you went to John.

I also believe he is the first serving officer of Leeds City Council to receive such an award, so well done.

Can I call for the vote please, all those in favour and I am sure this is going to be unanimous – I am even going to put my hand up! CARRIED unanimously.

I am sorry, I should have brought in Councillor Hyde to sum up.

COUNCILLOR HYDE: Chair, I do not really need to do that. I think the vote says it all but thanks to my colleagues who sit on the Leeds Award Panel because he is the first officer in this Council to receive the Leeds Award. Well deserved, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Absolutely. I apologise, Councillor Hyde, in my anxiety for the vote, but have taken that and it has all been passed unanimously.

ITEM 1- QUESTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: We shall move on to questions, if we may. We will now move into Questions Time where, for a period of 30 minutes, Members of the Council can ask questions of the Executive Board. First is Councillor Amanda Carter. Amanda, please.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Does the Chair of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel believe that the Police and Crime Commissioner has performed his role competently, given that the region was recently shamed as the worst in England and Wales?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Amanda. Councillor Lowe, please.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: Thank you, Chair. I suspect that Councillor Carter's question relates to the recent BBC report that West Yorkshire Police currently sits at the top of the Crime Severity Index. I wonder why, as a member of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and Safer Leeds, Councillor Carter feels the need to bring this question here at this time when she has the privileged position of being able to receive the facts and figures from the Force herself and to scrutinise and triangulate that information along with her excellent colleagues on the Panel.

West Yorkshire Police is not the crime capital of England and Wales. There are around 3.5 times more crimes recorded in London, whilst Greater Manchester has recently been criticised by HMIC for the under-recording of 40,000 crimes. In comparison with Greater Manchester, HMIC has positively commented on West Yorkshire's commitment to ethical crime recording and these practices have been rigorously scrutinised by Police and Crime Panel Members, including Councillor Carter.

Until we are on a level playing field with regards to recording practices, we cannot rely on misleading and untested statistics other than to say West Yorkshire is not out of kilter with other similar, large urban police areas.

To give further assurance to Members, the latest ONS data shows the risk of household crime in West Yorkshire as of September 2016 stood at 10.7% and personal crime at 2.9%. both of these figures have been improving consistently over the duration of the PCC's incumbency.

West Yorkshire, like other Metropolitan areas, suffers from higher crime rates with higher population density and higher deprivation levels, and yet when it comes to cuts to policing it is these areas that are the hardest hit. Unprecedented Government cuts have resulted in a £140m reduction to the police budget in West Yorkshire, at the cost of over 2,000 police officers and staff since 2010. It is only through raising more money locally via the precept that we are able to start recruiting around 600 police officers this year and also to protect PCSOs as we start to rebuild policing numbers across West Yorkshire.

Satisfaction with the Commissioner's performance was recently evidenced amongst voters when he was re-elected in May with nearly 50% of the vote. Not many of us can say that. Furthermore, Members, the last three HMIC inspections, which are independent, graded the West Yorkshire Police Force as "good", further evidencing the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Yorkshire Police.

Delivering on the outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan over the next five years is not just about reducing crime. It is also about tackling the causes and consequences of crime and it has at its core the need for police and partners, including Councillors, to work together to keep West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe into the future. Therefore, relationships between the Commissioner and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is central to our ability to effectively tackle crime and disorder in our neighbourhoods and I am saddened, therefore, that Councillor Amanda Carter is attempting to jeopardise that relationship for political gain. Leeds deserves better.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Alison. Councillor Carter, is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Yes, Chair, thank you. Given that Greater Manchester and the Met are larger constabularies and have greater challenges than West Yorkshire, yet they appear to be improving and doing better than West Yorkshire, and given that the recording was starting to improve two-and-a-half years ago following a damning HMIC report, does the Chair not agree that the Police and Crime Commissioner has utterly failed to do the job?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: No.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: You're on your own there.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: OK. Can we go to question 2, Councillor Bentley, please.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Can the Leader of Council explain which Executive Member authorised the decision to appeal the ruling of the Information Commissioner regarding Freedom of Information disclosure of Members in Council Tax arrears?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Jon. Councillor Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Chair; thank you, Councillor Bentley. The decision to appeal the ruling of the Information Commissioner in relation to Members and their Council Tax was made by officers of the Council and did not require authorisation from an Executive Member.

In all four cases the summons related to a single missed payment and all four summonses were subsequently withdrawn without the matter going to court. There was clear legal advice that these particular circumstances went beyond the scope of the upper tribunal decision in the Bolton case. In the Bolton case, the Member concerned had been in arrears for a long period and had been summonsed more than once and the matter had to be decided in court. Relevant Members were informed of the action.

The appeal was subsequently withdrawn as on reflection it was decided it was better for the Council to be fully transparent about this matter and provide this information. We have as a Council apologised for not releasing this information earlier and will also be recommending that the Authority publishes an annual release of such information in the future. More details on how this may happen will be provided once this has been finalised.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, James. Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Chair. It is interesting that when it is not a good news story it is officers that seem to take the flak for this. I am grateful for the answer and for the sensible climb down of the original decision, but would you agree with me that failure by individual Members to make adequate arrangements to pay their Council Tax risks bringing them into disrepute and the attempts to withhold the information from the public brings the whole Council into disrepute, and to ensure absolute transparency, would he instruct the Chief Executive to have this information publicly available in the future?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: In case Councillor Bentley did not hear what I said in the answer I have just given I will repeat what I have said, that obviously we have apologised in terms of the initial decision and we have made it clear that information will be published on an annual basis and once the system is finalised we will make more details available.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, James. Councillor Hayden, please.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you, Chair. Would the Executive Member please comment on the Government's decision to abolish the civil service's Child Poverty Unit?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Helen. Councillor Mulherin, please.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Chair and thank you, Councillor Hayden, for your question.

Over 28,000 – that is nearly one in five – Leeds children are living in poverty. Two-thirds of them live in households where at least one parent is in work, according to 2013/14 figures. There is a long-lasting impact of poverty. By GCSE there is a 28% gap in the number of children achieving five A*- C between children entitled to free school meals and their wealthier peers. This, then, leads on to fewer employment opportunities and an ongoing cycle of deprivation.

The Child Poverty Unit was set up by Labour in Government and it was run jointly by the DWP, Department for Education and the Treasury, and kept tackling child poverty high on the political agenda. It saw expansion of child care, targeted employment support, a successful teenage pregnancy strategy, Sure Start Children's Centres rolled out across the country, new domestic violence strategies and improved literacy and numeracy in schools; all policies put in place alongside tax credits and a national minimum wage aimed at reducing and finally eradicating child poverty.

However, the unit saw its staffing halved over the last three years and has now been abolished at a time when the new Prime Minister claims to be intent on tackling burning injustice.

Theresa May's abolition of the Child Poverty Unit is set against a backdrop of rising homelessness, increasing poverty where the inequality gap is widening and the number of children's centres that closed last year doubling the number that closed the year before.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies is now predicting a 50% increase in child poverty by 2020, in stark contrast to the Labour Party's ambition in Government to eradicate it by that time. However, that commitment was replaced by a wider measure of life chances by the Conservative Government, something that they have now also scrapped. How does this fit with the Prime Minister's promise to fight the burning injustice of being poor? The Government argues that work is the best route out of poverty but the evidence does not support this. Recent figures released by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation show that the number of people living in poverty who are in working families has increased from 5.4 million in 2004/5 to 7.4 million in 2014/15. By contrast, the number of people in poverty and workless or retired families has fallen by the same period.

There is clearly a need to tackle the scourge of in-work poverty but also to ensure that support is available to maintain healthy living standards through household incomes and that we begin to see investment again in early intervention to enable us to ensure that every child gets the best start in life.

It is outrageous that as child poverty is on the increase across the country due to Government policy, the target to end that policy has been scrapped and now the unit that was tasked with developing strategy to tackle that poverty has been abolished.

These Government decisions are retrograde steps that could have far-reaching consequences for growing numbers of children and families. These decisions are, as stated, Government priorities. It would appear once again that what our new Prime Minister says and what our new Prime Minister does are two totally different things.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Lisa. Is there a supplementary Helen? No, thank you, we will move on then. Councillor Blackburn, Ann, please.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Chair. Can the Executive Member for communities inform me how many private landlords have joined the Council's Private Rented Accommodation Accreditation Scheme during the last year?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ann. Councillor Coupar, please.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Chair. Councillor Blackburn, I take it from your question that you are referring to the Leeds Landlord Accreditation Scheme. This has been in place since 1997 with the administration of the scheme transferring to the Residential Landlord Association in April 2011 to help improve engagement and links with the private rented sector.

The scheme requires a landlord to renew their membership on an annual basis. As of 31st December 2016 there were 178 landlords, providing between them 11,661 bed spaces. Of these 128 landlords renewed their membership from 2015, and 50 new members joined the scheme during 2016.

The scheme, however, is currently in transition to the Leeds Rental Standard, which is to be launched in the spring of 2017 and the new scheme moves away from Council-led accreditation to a self-regulation model which will be managed by the sector in conjunction with the Council.

The Leeds Rental Standard includes the National Landlords Association, Residential Landlords Association and UNIPOL and will have its own set of procedures and governance arrangements. The aim is to work with the good landlords and promote

them and the work they do whilst allowing the Council to tackle the poor landlords who do not fulfil their duties. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Councillor Coupar. Ann, is there a supplementary please?

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you, Chair. Can you tell me if all the Councillors who are private landlords are also members of this scheme, please.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Can I suggest, Chair, that when somebody is putting a question to the Executive Board Member they put the right question first and not as a supplementary. I will endeavour to get that information for Council Members and Councillor Blackburn after this meeting. I do not have that information in front of me.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Councillor Coupar. Councillor Renshaw, please.

COUNCILLOR RENSHAW: Thank you, Chair. Can the Executive Board Member with responsibility for Planning please update Members on the appeal for Church Fields, otherwise known as Land at Bradford Road, East Ardsley.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Richard Lewis to reply.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Chair. On 22nd December, just three days before Christmas, the City Council received the decisions on three appeals heard in February 2016 in relation to Bradford Road, East Ardsley, land at Breary Lane, East Bramhope and Leeds Road, Collingham. The appeals were recovered by The Secretary of State and had been allowed.

Notwithstanding, the City Council is concerned that these sites should not come forward for development at the current time on the basis of the Central Government commitments to build 250,000 houses a year – that is one million houses by 2020 – conclusions drawn on the Council's Five Year Housing Land Supply position and the status of policy N34, the appeals have been allowed.

With this context also the Secretary of State considers that the Bradford Road site is, I quote, "relatively well served with reasonable accessibility to shops and services" and whilst it is noted that there would be some impact on the Thorpe Lane junction, it is considered by the Secretary of State that this would not be sufficient to justify the refusal of this particular application.

In addition, the Secretary of State is of the view that the scheme would be capable of maintaining the identity of East Ardsley and the view of the church.

Clearly the City Council and local ward Members have a different view on these matters but these views, however reasonable in my opinion, have been dismissed by the Secretary of State.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Richard. Karen, is there a supplementary? No. We will move on. Councillor Carter, then, please.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you, Chair. Will the Leader of Council confirm if Leeds is going to be a pilot area for voter ID?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Yes. Councillor Carter is referring to the recent announcement that there is an intention to have pilots for voter ID in the 2018 Council elections. I can tell you that at the moment we have not been asked to be a pilot area but, indeed, a full list of the participating Authorities has not yet been drawn up. Eighteen electoral areas have been identified by the Electoral Commission but Leeds is not one of them.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Andrew?

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Yes, Chair, given the answer from Councillor Blake, can she answer my supplementary in three parts: (a), did we ask to be a pilot; (b), if not, why not (I gather Councillor Lewis is just giving Councillor Blake the answers, Chair); (c), both those, if that is correct, will we now, even at this late stage, request to be a pilot?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Interesting questions these. No, we did not ask to be a pilot. Indeed, when you look back over the last 20 years there have been no reported cases of personation, which is the technical term that we are looking at here, and we are not intending to put our names forward but we know that it is highly likely that our close colleagues in the rest of West Yorkshire will be asked to take part in the pilot. We have an extremely close working relationship with them and will be meeting with them regularly to share all of the ideas and best practice on current issues. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Judith. Councillor Campbell, please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chair. Could the Executive Member update Council on what action West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner is taking to reduce non-emergency waiting times, i.e. the 101 number?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, thank you, Chair. It is fair to say that we have had a difficult summer this year and after such an undue number of issues that we have had to face an unprecedented amount of call volume on the 101. The Force is starting to see some significant improvements on the 101 service since that.

Significant pressures, however, do remain and last week, for example, 999 demand was 9.4% up on the year before and 101 was 4.7% up on the same period. Despite these pressures independently determined customer satisfaction rates are currently at 96.9% for ease of contact and knowledge of operator. West Yorkshire Police have also been recognised as the best in the country by the HMIC for recognising vulnerability at the initial point of contact.

One issue that is worth highlighting is that the number of non-police calls that the Central Contact Centre received, which was determined at 13% of volume before this summer, has increased to around 20% and on occasion, due to the pressure on other services, meaning that the 101 number is often the unintended fall-back number should calls to other services not get answered.

To help tackle this West Yorkshire Police are working with Local Authorities to help signpost what is and is not a police or Council or other matter and are also leading on more joined-up working between contact centres that will yield further benefits.

West Yorkshire Police are also undertaking a major recruitment exercise to increase staffing numbers in the contact centre as well as on the front line, and West Yorkshire Police are still leading the way with the online contact options and are working closely with communities, for example via Neighbourhood Watch, to publicise these options and their mutual benefits to the public and the Central Contact Centre. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Debra. Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Can I thank Councillor Coupar for the brevity of her answer and the information that actually, since the issue in relation to 101 was raised, the delays appear to have gone up by a considerable percentage. Could she also inform Council how she feels the proposed closure of the Weetwood public desk will affect the demand for 101 services in Leeds?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Coupar, please.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, again, Chair, I do have to reflect on some of the questions that we are receiving here. I, in all honesty, Councillor Campbell, thought you were referring to 101 and did give you an extremely frank and honest answer around that, and yet there was no evidence that you wanted specific information on another issue in your own ward. Can I suggest that when you are putting together your questions that you do so so that we understand what you would like us to answer on the day? Again, I will offer to meet you separately and speak to you around this and get the information to you at a further date. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Debra. Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Thank you, Chair. Will the Leader of Council please update Council on plans for the European Capital of Culture 2023?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Brian. Councillor Blake, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you for the question, Councillor Selby. As all of you will be aware, we have been out in the city consulting on whether we should put ourselves forward to put forward a bid for Capital of Culture 2023 and we have received overwhelming support and offers of financial support as well as support in kind from the educational institutions, but also business is very keen to support our aspirations.

The period following the EU referendum has been one of uncertainty and we did not receive clarification that the Government would release the bid in terms of the launch of the competition. We lobbied very hard with other colleagues around the country from the LGA. Actually all the cross-party MPs from the region also supported us and I am delighted to say that on 16th December, at probably about the last possible moment, the Secretary of State for DCMS did announce the launch of the bid and therefore we are in a process where we can really start to build on the work that we have already done in the city to move this forward.

I am delighted for the cross-party support. Both Dan Cohen and Stewart Golton have been sitting on the Steering Group and we have learned the incredible benefits that came to Liverpool when they were Capital of Culture, to Glasgow as well, in terms of

financial benefit but also reputational benefit. I think all of us would agree the impact has been profound and we are seeing the same with the City of Culture that was spectacularly launched in Hull on 1st January this year. For example, in Hull they have raised £32m-worth of private sector sponsorship and it is still coming in.

So a very significant moment for us. The submission for the bid has to be in by 27th October and I am sure we all look forward to all of our communities being engaged in the process and having the opportunity to celebrate the incredible activities that already take place but also to look at how we can improve, do things better and continue to develop as a great European city. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Judith. Brian? No. We shall move on then, Councillor Hussain.

COUNCILLOR A HUSSAIN: Thank you, Chair. Can the Executive Member update Council on the provision to support people with long-term health conditions back into work please? Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Arif. Councillor Rafique, please.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, Councillor Hussain, for the question. Chair, Leeds has 32,000 residents claiming Employment Support Allowance, which is the out of work benefit for those with a health condition or a disability, with the majority living in our most disadvantaged inner city communities.

The Council is working with partners to pilot new ways of working, access ease of funding and align the work of partners to better support people with health conditions to access help. This is against a backdrop of changes in national programmes commissioned by DWP including the ending of the work programme and work choice and the introduction of the new Health and Work Programme which is funded 20% of the previous programme. Local activity includes the Council's mental health, employability and capacity building pilot established in partnership with Leeds which targets and supports people with mild to moderate mental health.

The service is integral to our offer to customers across a number of cities, community hubs which includes St George's Centre, City Centre, Armley One Stop Shop and Compton Centre. We plan to evaluate the project and train more staff to roll out the provision needs across the network of our hubs.

Reed in Partnership has just commenced delivery of the EC funded Back to Work Programme which is targeted to support people, long-term unemployed people with more than six months and who have a physical disability, a health condition including sensory impairment, mental health or learning disability.

Partnership work to align this provision means that tailored employability support will be available to local residents through the community hubs. The Council has bid for £2.8m to deliver the EC Skills, Employment and Training part of the programme which will be known as The Step, to start delivering in February. It will support long-term unemployed, those who are unemployed for more than twelve months and those not claiming any benefit but over 25 who need support to tackle their barriers to work, including those facing drug and alcohol issues or with mental ill health.

The Council will be responding to Improving Lives, the Work and Health and Disability Green Paper recently published by the Government, by making the case a place based approach and a greater integration between health and employment

services, support services to support disabled people and people with long-term health conditions to get into and stay in work. Thank you, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Mohammed. Councillor Hussain, is there supplementary? No. Councillor Stephenson then, please.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Chair. Can the Executive Member explain why, during his recent conversation with the city's commuters, no feasibility study was commissioned into the benefits of a rapid transport system such as light rail?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Chair. I think it would be helpful for Councillor Stephenson to read the Executive Board report of our last meeting, which was just before Christmas, because I think if he did he would have a better idea of the whole purpose of what was not my conversation with commuters, it was the conversation of this City Council with its residents about the future of transport, concerns about its current shortcomings. That was about both short-term and long-term needs and clearly the £173m, I remind Councillor Stephenson, who I know has been part of Greg Mulholland's wonderful summit on rapid transit, we will not be able to spend that £173m on a mass transit system that we could not achieve in the lifetime of this Parliament, so that is about long-term. In terms of medium term, short-term, the Exec Board report I think gives a very good idea of what we are planning to do and we will do what we can at the right time.

Clearly, to talk in terms of feasibility studies, it is absolutely far too early. We need to be talking to the expert Panel, to the cross-party meetings that we are having to get a view of quite what the right time is and quite what we would want to ask. We should not be about rushing into some feasibility study at an inappropriate time when we would not actually get anything out of it. Thank you, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Chair. I have read the report; I am not sure that you have or I do not know if you wrote it or not but if you actually read it, my question was why you have not commissioned the feasibility study before now. I asked you to commit to that; you did not quite go that far so I will ask again. Perhaps you could say "Yes" or "No", very simply "Yes" or "No" – will you commit to a feasibility study and, failing that, will you agree to meet with rail specialists such as Alstom UK or Light Rail UK who support all party groups in Westminster to discuss this in more detail?

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ryan. Councillor Richard Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: First question, it is quite interesting, I thank you for that because you have given me an opportunity to perhaps clarify the position in terms of our meetings with a number of organisations and there have been accusations that Councillor Blake has not responded to correspondence. I have actually seen the correspondence where she has got back to one particular organisation; another one went public and said that we had not talked to them when they had come in to talk to us – they talked to us about what we were going to do with the £173m and then they kind of got a bit bored because we told them what we were going to do with the £173m, we asked them to come back, they did not so we are actually consulting a lot of groups and we are prepared to talk to, effectively, everybody.

It is not on me to decide off the cuff in a Council meeting should we have a feasibility study or not. It is for us to have proper conversations with all parties here, it is for us to have conversations with the experts who are working with us and then we will come to a joint decision as to what is the right approach, but to think of things in terms of commissioning a feasibility study, no, that is not the way you go about things. I am very concerned that the debate seems to be about these knee jerk takes on what you should do as an organisation.

This is an incredibly serious issue which requires all of us to take a view on it and to play a part. I would, on behalf of the Leader, extend that to everybody in this Chamber. It is not about knee jerk reactions, quick fixes. It is about a serious discussion and debate where we can all come to a conclusion as to the right way forward in the long term, because what has happened in the past has been about people agreeing to something on one day and then a year later, *a la* Greg Mulholland, finding that it is a little bit – there is a chance for a bit of opportunism, let's go for it. That is not what we want and I think the people in this Chamber are better than that and I hope that we can all, including Councillor Stephenson, really take part in this debate and work forward to get the solution that the city deserves and needs. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Richard. That now concludes question. Members who have not had the opportunity to ask their questions will, as usual, receive a written communication, as will the rest of us.

ITEM 11 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we go to page 11, please, Item 11. We are now moving into the item to receive and comment upon the Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board.

Councillor Blake, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I move that the Minutes be received.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I second, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. Consideration of comments on the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes will be for a period of up to 20 minutes. Councillor Golton, please.

Health and Wellbeing Board

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Chair. I am referring to the Health and Wellbeing papers. We have recently had a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board where the local CCGs brought forward their operational plans. This is friendly fire, because I saw Councillor Charlwood straining to hear. It is not actually going to be criticism.

What I am wanting to say today is, to the rest of Council here, because most of you do not get access to get to the Health and Wellbeing Board, it was intended to be set up as a very important strategic body for the city and other Local Authorities across the

country to recognise the fact that the only way that you tackle an increasingly expensive health and care system is to try and bring some kind of accountability to it, and the best forum for that was a Local Authority who would be able hopefully to add the granularity and the knowledge and the experience of local delivery into a public body that is not used to being second guessed.

This meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board was fantastic, and it was because of the elected Members who were around that table. We had officers from the NHS come forward with their draft operational plans in the expectation that it would get nodded through. Councillor Mulherin was fearless in her support of her portfolio and pointed out how little resonance there was in what had been prepared in those operational plans in terms of reference to children and young people and threatened to withhold her support for it and would not vote it through.

I did my usual in talking about how it did not make reference to localism and how engagement with the local community and, more importantly, the elected Members who are there to ensure that local services fit their local community are not engaged, that was also mentioned as well. It was also pointed out that in their work they had not actually made reference to housing, to jobs or to physical activity in how their CCGs would be able to fulfil their role in the wider city agenda and, of course, surprisingly enough, very little about social prescribing.

I just wanted to report back to the rest of the Council that your voice is being heard on the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is not just a rubber stamping group and if you have any further intelligence where you think the Health Service is not working for you in your area and people are not working in an integrated fashion, please get in touch with Rebecca Charlwood and she will make sure it gets on our agenda.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Can I call on Councillor Flynn, please.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you, Chair. I am speaking to Minute 39 of the Health and Wellbeing Board Minutes regarding the CCG operational plans. The CCG has signed off most of the Adult Social Care contracts but the funding for the new model of community intermediate care beds remains outstanding and specifically around the proposed facility at The Green. I do not intend to say any more about The Green, Councillor Carter made it fairly clear what our views were earlier on. I would just like to associate myself and support the comments that he made and perhaps we should think about the effect of what happened before Christmas on the residents of The Green.

Having made some enquiries about the new CIC beds and the facility that is planned for The Green, I understand that there is a particularly high quality care required for this kind of facility and there were some doubts about whether or not this could be provided at The Green. My understanding also is that the CCG funding for The Green is not likely to be decided until towards the end of the month and I would be very grateful if the Lead Member could confirm that there is sufficient quality of care available and they are keen to transfer it eventually to the CIC facility, and that the funding hopefully will be in place to do so. Thank you very much indeed, Chair.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Billy. Councillor Hussain, please, Ghulam.

COUNCILLOR G HUSSAIN: Thank you, Chair. I am speaking on Minute 39 page 190. At the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting the NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Operational Plan 2017/19 was the subject of discussion and I would like to say a few words on specifically the potential of strong partnership working in the city.

Firstly, as those of you who have read the report which was taken to the Board for consideration, you will be aware that NHS guidance requires that all the CCGs and providers develop this two year plan to secure the delivery of what is known as nine 'must do' priorities. These cover a range of key areas such as urgent and emergency care to improving quality of care and delivering priorities related to mental health. Clearly these operational plans are significant in demonstrating the CCGs will deliver these priorities, but they also highlight the importance of working strategically with local health and care partners who contribute importantly to the wider health and wellbeing of the population here in Leeds.

After all, Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for the strategic and population based health needs of their communities and therefore have a key role to play with the local health and care systems.

Members will also be aware that the Refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy also makes it very clear that a strong partnership will be vital in achieving outcomes set in the plan such as people living longer and healthier lives. Indeed, our plan goes further in that it commits to promoting partnership where possible, working as one organisation for Leeds. This only highlights the significance of meeting key challenges but also points to a recognition that organisations working as one can achieve better, fairer and more sustainable health and wellbeing in Leeds.

I think it would be fair to say that through the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board in recent years the commitment to work more closely and consequently driving the objectives of the overarching strategy for this city's support partners and the Council to think more broadly about the way we seek to address these inequalities in the city. Indeed, the strategy for the city was created together with the partners from the NHS and sectors beyond. It is a self-representation of the key collaboration work which is taking place. The impact can be far reaching, addressing issues of poverty and wider socio-economic concerns.

Leeds clearly is one of the key health centres in the country and one of the ways we have achieved this is through strength and partnership which cross many sectors but are all fundamentally driven by the same ambition to be the best city for health and wellbeing. The collaborative working approach will remain fundamental to achieving our bold vision for the city and it is crucial that we continue to work with our partners to achieving positive health outcomes for the city. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ghulam. Councillor Pryor, please.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Chair, I wish to speak on Minute 39, page 190. Over the next 25 years the number of people who live in Leeds is predicted to grow by over 15%. The number of people aged over 65 is estimated to rise by almost a third to over 150,000 by 2030. The city is going to provide more complex care for more people.

As we have to care more and more for an ageing population, health spending has risen at an historically low rate of 1.1% in real terms since 2010. Rising cost pressures means a potentially significant financial gap by 2021 across Leeds health and social care organisations. We have to make the best use of collective resources across

organisations to help sustain and develop the city's health and care system because, frankly, the Government is wilfully ignoring the crisis in our health service.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy puts people at the centre of all of the twelve priority areas we have set for the city while recognising that our greatest strength and our most important asset is our people.

As the Strategy notes, wellbeing starts with our people, our connections with family, friends and colleagues, the care and compassion we show one another and the environment we create to live in together.

It is crucial that the Leeds CCG Operational Plans 2017/19 support the delivery of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016/21. One of these priorities in the strategy includes strong, engaged and well connected communities and it was noted that throughout 2016 NHS Leeds CCGs implemented and tested social prescribing services which offer support over and above those provided by GPs and community services to meet the holistic needs of patients.

The challenges we face as a city also require that the Council, along with partners such as the CCGs and the Third Sector, are closely working together and key plans are aligned to ensure that we can achieve the bold vision we have set for the city to improve the health of the poorest the fastest. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, John. Councillor Charlwood to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Chair. Thank you to all Members who both sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board, contribute to it and who have commented today. Thank you, Councillor Golton, for your comments – very welcome - and Councillor Mulherin did robustly challenge the process and the NHS CCGs commissioning paper that we had, which was thin on detail but it was thin on detail for a reason, because their timescale for change had shifted earlier. However, we should never let that just go and we should always keep reminding them and all the partners in the city who help to deliver our health and care strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy to remember the priorities that we set and to come back to them all the time.

I wonder whether we should – and I think this is already in train but I think we should have an annual or bi-annual update report on how we are all doing to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the priorities outcomes within it, and if all of the Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board can contribute to that, then I think it might add to one element of that system being CCGs, a very big element being that they commission it, much of it. We also have a part to play in that, as does the voluntary sector in doing the whole strategy and better outcomes for the people of Leeds, so I think that would be really useful.

I think The Green – I am really pleased you have raised The Green. It is interesting, at the last Council meeting we were criticised for the way we as a Council department had communicated with Manorfield residents, and I think we took that very much to heart and said right, we need to communicate better with people as to what is coming, and that is exactly what we have done with The Green. Just, from Councillor Carter's earlier points, we are bringing a report as promised to the February Executive Board, so nothing in that letter was anything contrary to all the meetings that we have had, contrary to what has been already decided.

You mentioned the quality and the intermediate care beds. We have an agreement in principle to provide intermediate care at The Green, so I do not recognise that comment that you made about the quality. However, I think we would do some repairs and maintenance to make it certainly have some investment put into it at some scale to make it operate properly at that level. I think that is enough to say that it would be fine to use as a community intermediate care facility.

Thanks to other Members for comments as well. I think I just wanted to raise that we had a really good meeting last time but we only had one paper on the agenda, which was the one we have all discussed. I just wanted also to touch on the quality of care and the services we have in the city and the recognition of those. We have had St Gemma's Hospice inspected by CQC as an outstanding facility and the Health and Wellbeing Board Members and Scrutiny Members were invited there with their Executive team to look around and to learn what outstanding care support looks like. That was a fantastic visit so thank you to them.

We have today had notification that the Health and Wellbeing Centre Robin Lane in Pudsey, a GP practice with the Health and Wellbeing Centre, has been rated as outstanding, which is fantastic and they have made comments about how there is an elderly person's pathway that is stopping people from going into hospital. They can see what impact it is having on people going into hospital, which is excellent. We have had the York Street practice, which works with some of the most vulnerable people in the city also rated as outstanding.

Where the Health and Wellbeing Board has a real opportunity is to share that practice. We go and visit them as a group, we hold the Members of the Board to account to deliver better outstanding care, so there are some really, really great ways we can use the Health and Wellbeing Board to drive change at a time of very difficult financial pressures, as we all know in the social and health care system. Thank you.
(Applause)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Rebecca. We now move to the Executive Board. Consideration of comments on Executive Board minutes will be heard until 4.10. Councillor Golton, please.

(i) Employment, Skills and Opportunity

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Is this on Employment, Skills and Opportunity, Chair? Yes, Employment, Skills and Opportunity. Thanks for the clarification.

Yes, Councillor Charlwood talked about the visit to St Gemma's Hospice. I accompanied her on that. It is a very inspiring organisation and a great example of an idea that we think has been around for a long time and has become part of our established way of doing things. It was actually an idea that was borne in the community of a particular group of people and they made things happen and once they had actually made things happen after being dismissed by the authorities, their value was all of a sudden recognised and then supported effectively as well as strategically by those in charge of health and care priorities. Yes, it is a very impressive organisation which got "Outstanding" in its CQC reports.

One of the things that they did mention, though, that was a challenge to them overwhelmingly was their ability to get trained nurses and this is a challenge that faces the majority of care providers and as our population gets more elderly, it will need a

little bit more in terms of intervention from nursing care and I think we need to do something about that in our own city, even if it is a national issue which we are facing. Of course, nursing shortages are presenting all over the UK.

We are meant to be one of those few Authorities that actually has a health specialism and it is particularly identified as part of our economic growth strategy. Surely we should be able to find some way whereby, for instance, if we are facing a shortage of trained graduate based nurses, should we not also find a different way of delivering some of our care which might be attributed to those that have an associated nursing style apprenticeship? If we could develop such a qualification in our own city I would expect it would enable far more people to get involved in the care economy in our city and also perhaps have a greater impact on those pressures that are facing us right now and create better outcomes for our older people. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Councillor Downes, please.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Chairman. I am speaking on the same Minute. I am the Chair of the Outer North West Community Committee's Employment, Learning and the Local Economy sub-group.

There has been a lot of great work done, I feel, by the Council in employment, skills etc and working with Councillor Rafique and the Board there. I would like to compliment the work done around the Victoria Gate development where various meetings with John Lewis and the casino have seen a lot of employment for local people.

Moving back to my area, I regularly get updates from Council officers and Councillor Rafique of apprenticeship opportunities for young people. Whilst it is not a major issue in my area, there are still people who are seeking employment, especially young people, and I think it is absolutely vital that the Council continues to do this excellent work in promoting the opportunities. When I receive those emails I then immediately put them out on to social media, on to Facebook, on to Twitter and it is well received within the local community that I am doing so, to basically appraise people of what is available. It is not always clear to people so just a word of thank you and some good news, I think. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ryk. Councillor Arif, Salma, please.

COUNCILLOR ARIF: Thank you, Chair. Through you I also wish to speak on Minute 103 page 197. As all corners of the Chamber will be aware, increasing the volume and quality of apprenticeships opportunities is a priority not only for the Government but also for this Council. Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity for people in our city to gain access to employment and start real careers. They are varied, diverse and offer strong opportunities at the high end technical level whilst providing key skills and qualifications simultaneously.

What is more, an increasing number of employers are investing in apprenticeships, meaning that doors are opening everywhere in our city for our citizens. We have numerous examples where apprenticeships have made a real difference, especially in reducing youth unemployment and the Leeds Apprenticeship Club has already supported over 500 young people into an apprenticeship. As a Council we play a pivotal role as both a promoter and an employer of apprenticeships and we have already been working to actively increase the number of apprentices currently employed within the organisation.

We now have 250 apprentices employed with us, covering mostly Level 2 opportunities in areas such as administration, child care and construction. With this in mind, we are developing a number of higher level opportunities to complement our existing offer with roles in ICT, Legal and Project Management all being imminently available.

The Apprenticeship Levy will, through the expansion of our internal apprenticeship base, provide us with some important opportunities. We will use this increased intake next year to target opportunities to people in the most deprived areas of our city, providing access to employment which may not otherwise have been offered.

In addition, an influx of new entrants to the organisation will present the chance to promote and improve the diversity of our workforce and contribute to making the organisation truly reflective of the public we serve. We remain, however, aware that there is still more to be done, particularly in addressing some of the skills gaps that exist across the market. The work we have done so far combined with both the Apprenticeship levy and our plans set out with the Employment and Skills Service will be crucial to continuing our upward trend in apprenticeship uptake across the city.

Our apprenticeship offer combined with our wider work across the city contributes directly to our ambition to enable all our residents to benefit from a strong economy in a compassionate city. Our commitment to ensuring this goes beyond words by paying all our apprentices the Council's minimum hourly rate of £8.25 to ensure that all our residents reap the benefit of our city's growing economy. Thank you, Chair.

(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Salma. Councillor Ann Blackburn, please.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Chair. An apprenticeship for a trade takes three years. My father was a woodworker/cabinet worker many, many years ago. He received five shillings for those three years and when he finished his apprenticeship he got the fantastic amount of seven shillings and six pence, so I think that shows how long ago that was. It was a trade for life and though he did not stay in the trade all his life, because he chose to buy a shop and become a grocer/greengrocer, he did return to it later in life, as training for the trade stays with you all your life.

I do not see an apprenticeship as a replacement for a university degree. It is the young people who want to see that we continue to have genuine trades in Leeds such as engineering. It is these youngsters who may never be able to get a degree but have plenty to offer our great city by becoming an apprentice in industry and that is what I want to see more of.

Just before I finish can I refer to what Councillor Golton previously said about nursing. There are a lot of trained nurses out there. I can tell you that one of my son's friends was actually what you might call made redundant, as were quite a lot of nurses a few years ago, and they went into other things because the work was not there for them because the Trusts did not, I do not know whether they did not want to pay them or whatever, but there was a lot of nurses let go. They are still out there so we do have the nurses, we just need to encourage them to come back into it. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ann. Councillor Dowson, please.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you, Chair. Just to say that we want technical education to have parity with academic education. It is not a second class choice, it actually is a choice that people make because that is what they want to do and it has a parity.

Anyway, I welcome the opportunity and I am commenting on Minute 115 page 205 of the West Yorkshire Area Based Review of Post-16 Education and Training.

We all know Leeds is a hugely aspirational city and has become a major economic driver in the North of England. Key to this now, and more importantly in the future, is having a highly qualified and trained workforce, one offering the skills that employers need to maintain businesses in Leeds and also to attract new businesses looking to relocate in the area.

Forecasts show there will be a greater demand for higher level technical and specialist skills in the future and we must, as a city and as a region, be prepared. To achieve this we need to raise the profile of technical education which has been seen by many parents and young people as the poor relation to the academic route. Access to highly qualified technical provision where employers supported by experts from education set the standards required that will give technical subjects greater credibility and ultimately lead to skilled employment for our young people.

Back in July 2015 the Skills Minister announced plans for the restructuring of the post-16 education and training sector, announcing plans for 37 area based reviews, of which Leeds was to be one. The review primarily sought to address the financial stability of the post-16 sector and not the skills gap that exists across the country.

When I first heard this I thought it was a bit of a joke because it is the Tory Government that has reduced funding by on average £540 per learner going into sixth form education over the last six years, and this accounts to the sector losing £3.8m. Since 2011/12 funding for the 16 to 18 year olds in colleges has reduced by £12m – that is 22% of their budget into 2016/16.

Let's face it, some aspects of the Government's post-16 Skills Plan announced in July are, I have to say, long overdue. We have been crying out for a technical education system in which employers play a leading role and one in which there is close integration between college based and employment based technical education. Currently we have a vocational market with thousands of options that blurs decision making. The post-16 Skills Plan proposes 15 technical routes, ranging from construction to digital to transport and logistics and so on.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Could you finish, please?

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you, Chair. Just to say that we hope that going forward this plan will actually work and it will work for Leeds and not be based on the priorities of the national scene. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you. Councillor Iqbal, please.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: Thank you, Chair. I will be speaking on Minute 115, page 205, also on the Area Based Review of Post-16 Education and Training focusing on post-16 options for care leavers.

In Leeds we have the ambition to become a NEET free city, meaning that all our young children, people aged 16 to 19, will be in education, employment or training.

Members will be aware a Scrutiny inquiry investigated the support available in Leeds to reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET and our Members paid tribute to the hard work that is ongoing across the city.

In June 2016 we had 250 less young people who were NEET than in June 2015, meaning that the percentage of our 16-19 cohort in the city who are NEET has fallen to 6.1%. What is more, significant work has been done over the past four years to lower the number of young people with a “not known” status. We now have 1,725 less young people whose status is not known, meaning that there is only 1.9% of the 16-19 cohort whose status is not known. This is the lowest level recorded in Leeds and well below the 6.3% recorded nationally.

We can now be more confident in our NEET data than ever before and it is important that we can more appropriately direct resources across the city to effectively support young people into education and employment.

This data also allows us to target support to groups of young people who make up a larger percentage of the overall NEET cohort in the city. Most children, looked after and care leavers, are over-represented in the NEET cohort in Leeds. Currently care leavers account for 36% of the 16-19 cohort. We have undertaken an analysis led by the Care to Work Group and our social care teams to understand and address significant barriers experienced by these young people. Since mid-November we have been running the Head Start Phase 2 programme. This is an externally funded and time limited piece of work targeted to care leavers in Leeds, running until March. This investment of £225,000 will support approximately 25 young people and offer up to 14 weeks of training, mentoring and a work placement opportunity.

In preparation of their work placement, participants will attend a four week training course focusing on employment, employability skills, confidence building, team working and budgeting. We know that ongoing support is crucial for care leavers who are NEET to get into and importantly remain in education, employment and training. Therefore, each participant will be assigned a dedicated key worker who will support them throughout the duration of the programme. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Mohammed. Councillor Cleasby, please.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: First, could I compliment Councillor Rafique on the quality and the frequency of the information that we as Members receive about the apprenticeship vacancies. I think that is a very worthwhile exercise to do and I do appreciate that. Having said that I am disappointed that it is you that will be responding.

I am disappointed – I speak to the same Minute as Councillor Dowson but I think with my words you would think I was speaking to another Minute. Councillor Dowson spoke about Leeds, Leeds, Leeds which I admire very much as she does but unfortunately 115 is West Yorkshire Area Based Review of Post-16 Education and Training. That is my concern that we think so much as a city and an inner city and poor people in our city and do not think, and obviously some of you who are in the know and have caused me to make Freedom of Information requests, know that I am talking about the opportunity that was missed, the great opportunity that was missed to have the Horsforth Campus site of Leeds City College as an Outer North West, Outer West Sixth Form College, which would have freed up, would have had the potential to have freed up up to 2,000 places, sixth form places, at our secondary schools around it because of the way the roads could have fed it. That meant we would have created

without any further expense 2,000 places at our secondary schools without any new build and it is crazy not to do that and it is even crazier the way that the senior people of this Council handled it. The way that they forced me to make Freedom of Information requests. That should not happen.

Councillor Rafique, whilst I compliment you on the way that you give us freedom of access to information, I am criticising the people above you. Thank you, Council.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Brian. Councillor Rafique, please.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, Chair and can I thank everybody for your contributions. If I can start in the order you have actually spoken and I will start with Councillor Golton.

With regard to the people who are working with the care providers or in care homes and your question about trained nurses, as you know I think as a country, as a nation we do have nationally a shortage of trained nurses and this is, I think, one of the reasons why we have a lot of people, migrant communities coming to work in our NHS system, but you are quite right, I think we need people with skills to work in our care homes and the care providers need to ensure that is done.

I am not really sure, there is actually, of course, a route and we are looking at working with the City College and NHS Trust to find a way where people, it may not be graduate nurses qualification but a route into a qualification through the apprenticeship route that will actually get people the right skills and the right qualification so they are up to the job.

One of the problems with apprenticeships, and I will go on to the point made by Councillor Blackburn about promoting apprenticeships, what you have said I totally agree with you and that is something we do as a Council both within the Council, with our partners and with the schools as well. We have got an Apprenticeship Fair on 6th March. Last year the Apprenticeship Fair attracted 5,000 people which was held at the Leeds Arena. Apart from obviously giving those young people information, the idea is that you are trying to promote what apprenticeships are about and also to give that crucial information to parents as well. We will continue to do that.

One of the problems is there are enough apprenticeships at Level 2 where you need ideally five A*-Cs. There is a shortage at the higher level which again, for instance, one of the biggest shortages is in the digital sector and we are working with the universities to create an apprenticeship degree in that area, but also those who do not get five A*-C have to go through either traineeship or pre-apprenticeship to do that. If you are on Level 2 or a foundation level apprenticeship, the level of pay if you are under 18 is £3.45, I think, which is not much to get many people out of their bed, particularly if you have got so much to travel and pay for dinner and travel money and all that. I think that is actually outside our remit. What we do in Council is we pay all our apprentices who are Council workers, as Councillor Salma Arif has said, £8.25. £8.25, that is what we pay regardless of their age.

If I could move on to Councillor Ryk Downes, can I thank you for your comments but also the work you and all the other Community Committee Employment, Skills and Welfare Champions play and attend the meetings. I think without that work we would not be able to do the work we are doing so thank you for that and we will continue to disseminate that information to all the colleagues. It is nice to hear that sometimes you wonder when you are sending emails on a weekly whether that is useful, but when you

hear that that is encouraging and we will make sure that is actually cascaded on to everybody.

With regard to Victoria Gate, I can assure you that we have got the information about Victoria Gate. About 599 people actually secured jobs out of which I think 366 were from the Leeds postcode. I am pleased to say that people from every ward of the city have actually got a job in John Lewis out of those 366. The lowest number is two, and I can give you by ward as well, and the highest is 28, which is Headingley ward. Obviously those wards are target wards, which are inner city wards where the employment stats are higher, the numbers are higher, that is where we have been working, but I can assure you, that has not always been – there are wards outside the inner city who have actually got quite good numbers. That is that. We have about 17 apprentices working in the construction stage of the Victoria Gate, eleven of which actually attended the Leeds College of Building.

Moving on to Councillor Arif. You talked about some of the work taking place around the promoting of apprenticeships across the city and I am particularly encouraged by that, and there are rising numbers within the Council. I am confident that we have got 250 at the moment which is I think almost double what we had a bit more than a year ago and I am confident we are well prepared to deal with the Apprenticeship Levy which kicks in next year.

I just want to talk about Councillor Dowson. Councillor Dowson, you are quite right about the post-16 review. I think it was not thought through, it was a missed opportunity and just what Councillor Cleasby has said about sixth forms, I think had we included the sixth forms then we would be having a different discussion here today because the sixth forms were not included in the post-16 review, and that is what was said by the House of Commons Education Select Committee as well.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Mohammed, can you finish, please.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: All in all, Chair, I just want to add what Councillor Iqbal said about the people living in care and those who are NEET. I think our work is across the board and I think together the journey we are going on we could actually continue to make that difference to people who are out of work who are young people and who are on the margins of the labour market. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Mohammed. We now go on to Health, Wellbeing and Adults and it is Stewart. It is Health, Wellbeing and Adults, Stewart!

(ii) Health, Wellbeing and Adults

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks, Chair, I am prepared this time. I am going to be talking to the papers which refer to the Adult Safeguarding Board Report and also Time to Shine.

I am putting the two together because I think we need to think a little bit about how one can support the other. The Council has an interesting attitude towards community based care. We have the most impressive set of Neighbourhood Networks of any Local Authority and that was one again a local idea that people set up thinking how do we look after our older people, and then the Council has actually stepped up to the mark and thought they deliver far more value and create far greater prevention, the serious things happening to these old people, we should therefore be supporting these organisations to do as much as possible. What a great success story it has been in the

city that we have so many and that they are officially recognised and they are resourced so far.

Then, of course, we have the Safeguarding Board report, which is where we are more and more understanding of the fact that there are times when adults, whether they are more elderly or whether they are vulnerable through a learning difficulty, can be abused by people who are in a position where they should be caring for them.

The way that we commission our care in this city can have an impact on that so, for instance, residential settings are really easy places for the CQC to go into and to inspect and to report back on the level of care that people are getting. As we have mentioned earlier, St Gemma's itself was able to get an "outstanding" score as a social enterprise delivering care in this city.

However, our policy is to make sure that there are less and less people going into residential care settings and that they should be looked after more and more in their own homes. How easy is it for the likes of the CQC to inspect individual houses? How easy is it for us to have assurance that we are helping more and more people in their own home but the vigilance about the care which they are getting is less able to be done? These are the questions that we need to ask ourselves and this is one of the reasons why the Liberal Democrat Group has been very keen to encourage the development of social enterprise within communities not just to deliver those areas that the Council is confident of them delivering but also perhaps challenging communities to deliver some of that more high end care.

We have examples of the likes of St Gemma's Hospice where community organisations actually have an advantage over some of the others in delivering this, and I will go into more detail of that in the White Paper debate. Thank you, Chair.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Councillor Wilford, please. Terry.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Chair. I am talking about the adult safeguarding which is Minute 100 page 194, and also Minute 114 page 204, the time to Shine Project. I am going to tie them both together. Here we go.

I have read the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16 and Strategic Plan. Contained therein are four ambitions for 2016/19, four key ambitions for the next three years. Ambition number one is to seek out the voice of the adult at risk; ambition number two is to improve awareness of safeguarding issues across our communities; ambition number three is to improve responses to domestic abuse and violence; ambition number four is to learn from experience and to improve how we work. We have many partnerships to help us achieve these aims and to improve safeguarding across the city of Leeds.

In my experience of adult social care, a safeguarding investigation is a serious event and as a healthcare team you have to justify your practice and co-operate with the investigation. As a care team a safeguarding investigation brings with it self doubt, added stress, mistrust of colleagues and vulnerability. This is for a care team; imagine then the flip side, the safeguarding of a vulnerable adult or child.

Reading the report I believe communication is essential for good practice, the sharing of information, confidentiality permitting and when appropriate. The report suggests the way forward for safeguarding in our city of Leeds. We as a Council are bound by

the Care Act and legislation, statutory responsibilities and the need to deliver best care and intervention for all our citizens.

I hope as Members, as carers, we are as innovative in practice as we are in reports such as the Safeguarding Adults Board.

This is Minute 114, page 204, the Time to Shine Project. This project should not fail. We have partnerships on board, Leeds Older People's Forum to name but one. We are talking about how to tackle loneliness and social isolation for older people. Can we use the term "older people" rather than "elderly"? This is just a bugbear for me.

So yes, social isolation and loneliness. Let me bring these issues closer to home to a local level, to my mother, who has spent the last year in and out of hospital – a broken hip, a stroke - my mother who masks a broken hip and a stroke very well. All she wants is to be at home, thank you very much, and have a cig. Prevention, innovative approaches, community committees, funding and investment, autonomy and choice. The criterion where care begins and autonomy is a risk to the individual. It is not that simple. I agree, my mother is 87 years old...

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Terry, can you finish, please.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: ...and such an actress to mask a broken hip, a stroke. The fact is smoking is a risk but at 87 a risk worth taking and a choice for my mother. The Time to Shine Project is commendable but in my mother's case I do make it happen for her. Thank you very much, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Terry. Councillor Macniven, please.

COUNCILLOR MACNIVEN: Thank you, Chair. I am speaking on Minute 100, page 194, the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2015/16 and its Strategic Plan, and Minute 114, page 204, on the Time to Shine Project.

Age UK published a recent report entitled "No-one should have no-one" working to end loneliness amongst older people which has highlighted some concerning national information such as 1.2 million older people in the UK are chronically lonely; half a million people over the age of 60 usually spend every day alone; a further half a million go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all.

In Leeds the 2011 census shows that there are almost 150,000 people aged 60 and over, 20% of the total population. By 2021 the number of people in the 60 years plus age group is expected to rise to 265,585.

The Leeds Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2015/16 emphasises the Council's support for safeguarding older people through working in partnership with multiple agencies all focused on delivering the vision for Leeds to be a safe place for everyone. The Safeguarding Adults Board has clear objectives to alleviate loneliness and social isolation. Its declared ambition to seek out the voice of adults at risk, is practically demonstrated by the work being delivered around listening to and engaging with older people suffering social isolation and loneliness.

One of the major strategic and operational vehicles to ensure that our desire for Leeds to be a city which values our citizens through the ageing process is Time to Shine which the Leeds Older People's Forum successfully bid to the Big Lottery Fund Ageing Better Programme for funding to address the social isolation of those aged 50

years plus. One hundred bids were submitted nationally and only 14 were successful, ours being one.

This success of Leeds Older People's Forum is to be applauded and the £6m Big Lottery Award will ensure that through to 2021 working with 23 delivery partners – for example Cara we are reconnecting older people of Irish heritage; BME Elders Network are supporting South Asian communities in Leeds; Young at Art creating social interaction through culture and art. A range of methodologies will be deployed to test out delivery alternatives to identify and support socially isolated older people contributing to a national and local evidence base.

The aim is to identify and mitigate difficulties, positively achieve the desired outcomes using a test and learn approach.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can you finish, Christine, please.

COUNCILLOR MACNIVEN: Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Christine. Councillor Barry Anderson, please.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. I refer to Minute 114, page 204. Can I welcome this report when it came to Exec Board. I think it was a fantastic thing to see being brought forward and the presentation that we were given that day was excellent to listen to. Also I do feel that this work that has been done by Time to Shine does support a lot of the Neighbourhood Networks. We have already had Councillor Golton making reference to them and I do think they also complement some of the work that the Neighbourhood Networks do as well, which is a vital way of getting services out there.

I also welcome the media campaign that they did on social media to look at isolation, because too many people, as Councillor Macniven has just said, are being left isolated and it is very lonely. Some people who you might not think are actually isolated and lonely are actually, and I will make some reference to some of those later on.

This has been an excellent start, it shows a good example of how good partnership working delivers for this city and when no one particular group is effectively leading it needs a partnership approach, and it is something I think that we can learn from as a Council instead of necessarily always taking the lead on things, giving people a chance, empowering them to take things and they will deliver.

There are some questions that need to be answered, not directly by the Council, I accept, but ones that we need to look at. Once this funding is over, what is going to happen next? How can we be sure that we can get some Lottery funding or some other source of the funding? Yes it would be nice if the Council had the money that they could do it themselves but it is unlikely, so what can we do just now to try and help that process so that there is not going to be a vacuum comes along when the funding runs out?

We do have also the need to develop strategies in a city as to how we are going to address loneliness. What more can we all do as local ward Members in various other ways of doing it? What more can we do in terms of our strategies for social isolation? What measurable outcomes are we going to have?

What I want to do is make special reference to some of the outreach work that has been done on behalf of older men, particularly in the Chinese and the South Asian communities, for example the Association of Blind Asians, which is quite self-explanatory what the is going to be. Then one, and I am not going to try and pronounce the Chinese pronunciation of it, but in the report it calls it Happy Pandas and if you can just leave it with me because my Chinese is not good enough to say it. What that is is older Chinese men who are isolated because of the unsocial hours that they work. People like me and some of you who are going to restaurants late at night, a lot of these men are left isolated as a result of it.

I will conclude by saying, as I said, it is an excellent start and let us see what we can do to go about sustaining it. Thank you, Chair. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Barry. Councillor Caroline Anderson, please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. I would like to speak to Minute 114 on page 204, the Time to Shine Project.

As Members will be aware loneliness can be devastating for people. They might lose a partner whom they have been married to for sometimes over 50 years and suddenly they find themselves on their own. Children have left home and even though they may have lots of friends and neighbours, they lose confidence in being able to go out and to make friends or join new groups and they feel that they cannot do this on their own.

There is, of course, a difference between loneliness and isolation. People are isolated for all sorts of reasons, sometimes because they are actually caring themselves for a loved one and have no time to join groups and when that loved one dies they have got them to think what are they going to make of the rest of their life.

Thanks to the Adult Social Care sub-group on the Outer North-West Area Committee led by Councillor Graham Latty, the Council now has an app which is used by a number of the public services – the Fire Authority, the Police, postmen, postwomen – where they have the ability to report to the relevant authority any instances they come across of where a person might be isolated. They are trained to look out for signs that might point to isolation and they can report this through the app so that the Adult Social Care team and other relevant Council departments or public services can take action to ensure the wellbeing of the person concerned and try and help them.

In respect of loneliness, I always think that nobody should be lonely in a city like Leeds, there is so much to do but sadly not everyone is motivated to take part in things and that is where help is needed to encourage and even cajole them into going out and joining it. I accept this is not easy but when you read the Exec Board report help is not far away, whichever part of Leeds you live in.

Time to Shine places a great deal of focus on community initiatives and in this respect cannot be seen in isolation to the Neighbourhood Networks. I know that my local Neighbourhood Network OPAL – Older People’s Action in the Locality – based in Leeds 16 has been able to use some Time to Shine money to employ an extra member of staff.

I was very interested to read that a lot of the projects are actually aimed at men as other speakers have said. Men find it more difficult to strike out on their own when a partner dies and it is great to know that we have identified this as a particular need.

I would just like to be grateful for an update from the relevant Member on the Time to Shine funding review and the extension to the two year contracts. I would encourage all Members to ensure they are aware of the very important work done because of the Time to Shine funding and to make sure that we continue with this. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Caroline. Councillor Ragan, please.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you, Chair and fellow Councillors. I would like to speak on Minute 114, page 204.

I am so pleased to get this opportunity to talk in my maiden speech about the critical work and importance of the Time to Shine programme. As many of you in this Chamber will be aware, the programme through a range of projects supports older people who are socially isolated through a diverse range of approaches across the city. As local ward Councillors we all represent diverse areas of the city and that includes many older residents who play a crucial role in our communities.

Since representing the ward of Burmantofts and Richmond Hill I have seen, as I am sure many of you have seen too, the profound effect that social isolation can have on our older people in the city. We know this can be explained by a range of factors from a fear of leaving the home to personal and financial circumstances. What remains a common thread through all these cases is that the impact of those affected can be devastating. Fortunately I was pleased to hear that we as a Council take this issue incredibly seriously and recently learning about the work of the £6m Time to Shine project has shown some of the critical work taking place in the city.

Importantly as we reach the end of the first year of the project, communities across the city are starting to see the impact of this investment. In its first year Time to Shine has reached almost 2,300 people in Leeds who have either taken part in or helped to run projects, or who have taken part in consultation exercises. This I am sure Members will agree shows the project is working.

Managed by Leeds Older People's Forum, the first year of the project has also seen that 23 delivery partners have been commissioned to provide innovative projects that help to tackle social isolation in Leeds. This is a huge amount of work that is being carried out but in the time I have I think it would be worth mentioning a few of the programmes.

Streetlink, run by Richmond Hill Elderly Action, is a project which captures the strong community spirit supporting the neighbours to look out for each other. Local people are invited to become street agents to take the active but non-intrusive role of the good neighbour to older people in their community. What may seem a small act of just checking in with an older resident in a community we know can have a huge positive impact on our older residents.

Digital Angels is another programme working. Run by Age UK it seeks to address the digital divide which we know can encourage social isolation by supporting older people to get on line for the first time in their own home, over the phone and through communal digital tea parties. This programme is playing a key role in widening their social groups and crucially showing our older people they are not alone.

It really is exciting to reflect on the work that has been carried out over this first year of Time to Shine and what more can be done in the coming years to tackle social isolation in Leeds. We all know Leeds is seeking to be an age friendly city and the

best city to grow old in (thank goodness for that!) and part of the good work that has taken place as part of this project and beyond will, I hope, go a long way in making this vision a reality. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Denise. I have to apologise to you, it is not marked down as a maiden speech today but the Members, when you pointed it out, were very well behaved and that was an excellent first speech. I am sure we will hear many more in the coming months and years. Thank you.

Councillor Ronnie Grahame, please.

COUNCILLOR R GRAHAME: Thank you, Chair, thank you ladies and gentlemen, Councillors. Follow that, where Denise as a new Member giving a speech like that on the elderly and the loneliness of the people concerned, Chair.

Chair, some Members here today may have seen the last Executive Board meeting where representatives from some of the groups involved in the Time to Shine Project, such as the Leeds Older People's Forum, presented some of the work taking place across the city to tackle social isolation and loneliness. It is a crime, is loneliness.

Some of the factors that are affecting older people are genuinely shocking and make it very clear why this project as well as the wider work of the Council to tackle loneliness amongst older people is so important.

More than half of people aged 75 and over live alone in Leeds. 70% of older people admitted that their only form of company throughout their day is possibly the TV. Loneliness is as harmful as smoking possibly 15 cigarettes a day. Behind these figures are people and it is truly heartbreaking to see the impact that that has on our older communities and the little to no social contact that some of them have. As one of the representatives said at the last Board meeting, loneliness should not be a symptom of old age.

With projects like Time to Shine we can do so much to address these issues and I am pleased to learn through the work of the project we have been able to support so many people. What is also really great to see is some of the programmes which the Council is driving to also support older people in our communities. We have taken the citizenship approach recognising that everyone has a part to play and can contribute to making Leeds an age friendly city.

Some of the current projects we are actually involved in show our commitment to achieve our ambition from developing the housing strategies, particularly for older people to the Neighbourhood Networks which also reach so many people across the city. More recently the launch of the Refreshed Age Friendly Charter I hope also demonstrates the city's commitment to an age friendly Leeds and also shows that each of us, whether as a Council, health provider, business owner or a citizen have a role to play and the responsibility to support older people and ensure they live healthy fulfilling lives with care plans in place, and act as dementia buddies.

Clearly there is a lot of work taking place across Leeds in partnership with the Council and I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of our investment in older people in the years to come.

To finish off with, ladies and gentlemen, Chair, I would like to end on a note which I think is important to highlight and it is a point which was mentioned at the Executive Board meeting in December and sums up why we are working with partners on

programmes like Time to Shine. Being alone should be a choice and should not be a way of life. We all still have family and friends we often speak to and meet regularly; not everyone is as lucky as some of us here today. That is why we must do everything we can to support older people in our communities and ensure they never feel lonely again. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ronnie. Can I call upon Councillor Garthwaite, please.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: Chair, in relation to Minute 114 page 204. Loneliness and social isolation are among the biggest issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older people – that is LGBT for short. Growing up at a time when to be LGBT was to be seen as shocking, disgusting or even criminal, it was very hard if not impossible to come out and live life to the full. In this country male homosexuality only became legal in 1967 when some of today’s older gay men were already aged 30 or 40 or more. As we all know, prejudice does still exist.

Not surprisingly a recent YouGov study found that only half of older LGBT people would be comfortable coming out and expressing their true identity. Worries about needing care in later life, housing and health are all much higher than for heterosexual people. Many LGBT senior citizens report anxiety about accessing services for fear of discrimination.

Some older people – I know obviously not all but some older people – do have supportive families and faiths and strong networks of friends. Sadly, many fewer older LGBT people are so blessed. All this results in more loneliness and higher risks of isolation, so addressing this is a key priority. Sadly, ageism can also play a part. Some years ago there was a conference for older people in Leeds in this Civic Hall to identify causes of social isolation and on my table the younger facilitator was reluctant to write the words “lesbian and gay” on the flip chart for the report back and even more reluctant to actually say them when she reported back. We insisted and none of the participants were put off, they nodded in agreement. Because of all the inconclusive work done by Leeds City Council this is much less likely to happen today. The Time to Shine project is there for older LGBT people. Shine works with Age UK Leeds and Yorkshire MESMAC to engage with older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens to work in partnership to make the city more inclusive and to provide a programme of activities.

For example, at Pride this year they ran an older people’s older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender friendly space. This was a quiet area, you could sit down and talk and enjoy refreshments and there was a bar. Everyone enjoyed it, I certainly did.

We support SAGE but we must not leave it at that. We need to remember that older LGBT citizens are part of all communities in Leeds, can be found everywhere and must be made welcome. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Al. Can I call Councillor Taylor please, Eileen.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR: Thank you, Chair, fellow Councillors. I am speaking on Minute 114 page 204. Leeds is a healthy and caring city for all ages where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest. As many of you here will be aware, this is the vision set out in the City’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the next five years.

Critically the importance of the word “all ages” highlight the importance we as a Council and health and caring partners have placed on producing a plan which improves the health and wellbeing of all ages, both young and old. However, we all recognise different issues impact people in different ways such as the challenge produced by social isolation and loneliness.

Critically the work of the Time to Shine project will also have a role to play in contributing to achieving some of the priorities set out in the City Wide Health Strategy which has created an age friendly city where people age well. This ambition however cannot be achieved without the invaluable contribution, engagement, passion of our partners with which we share a common understanding of where Leeds ought to be, that this is the city which is caring and compassionate, where Leeds community is strong, engaged and well connected and also has older people at the heart of our community.

Time to Shine looks at the Leeds citizens the same way we do, seeing the strengths of older people and recognising their role of employment, volunteers, investors, customers. They know just like we do that building our city’s most valuable asset, the individual and the community, is the surest way to achieve the goal of reducing loneliness and social isolation.

This is our Health and Wellbeing Strategy emphasised the importance of partnership working with our health and care partners across the city. The Time to Shine project is like an extension of this and the potential of strong outcome which can be achieved through city wide partnership. I would like to commend the excellent work of our partners, the Leeds Older People’s Forum in leading this project. I am proud to see that the initiative has delivered support across the city, proving a success, demonstrating its benefit and values. With the help of the Leeds Older People’s Forum, Time to Shine, UK Age Leeds and many others we are taking a step further in the fight against loneliness and social isolation. Putting all these together we are the closest to understand their inclusion. This is crucial to the success of the story. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Eileen. Councillor Charlwood to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Chair. I am so grateful to hear Members all across the Chamber have a clear passion and shared motivation on this agenda. It is a really nice feeling to have everybody so positive about things that we all agree with, so thank you for that.

I am not going to touch on everybody’s individual speeches because there was quite a few but I just want to say thank you to Councillor Ragan for her maiden speech and explaining the nature of Time to Shine, which is a Lottery funded project and specifically working with hard to reach groups in the community, which is excellent as Councillor Garthwaite was also describing.

First I will just touch on safeguarding where at Executive Board we heard about some of the achievements of the Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board in the year. I take on board the comments that have been made by all Members and I think Councillor Macniven touched on the key aspects of potential of tackling issues within the city by garnering the multi-agency support and working collaboratively to achieve the outcomes of the city as a whole and how we will benefit from that.

I can assure Members that the vision set out by the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board for Leeds to be a safe place for everyone is one we in Adult Social Care fully support and in the Council, obviously. This is an issue which will remain really top of our agenda in the Council and in particular across Adults and I am sure Children's Services as well.

At Exec Board there was a point raised about transition between children and adult services and we were assured by the Adults Chair, Richard Jones, who highlighted the key communication channels between the two Chairs and the ambition to bring together the work between the two Boards and with the Safer Leeds Board to tackle issues in the round.

My colleagues emphasised really well the depth of the problem. At a national level there are over 1.2 million people who are chronically lonely. More than half of those aged 75 or over live alone and half a million people over 60 usually spend every day alone and a further half a million go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all, as we have heard.

To better understand the seriousness of the issue I echo the words of Councillor Izzi Seccombe, who is Chair of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board and a Conservative Councillor, which should serve as a wake-up call for all of us, "Loneliness can be more harmful than smoking 15 cigarettes a day."

In Leeds the number of those suffering from social isolation and loneliness is around 37,000. This is obviously 37,000 too many and as Councillor Grahame said there are people behind these figures. There is every single individual there. We must do everything we can to support them and I am really, really pleased that I am going to go down to London to the launch of the Jo Cox Commission on loneliness. She was a friend of mine and I am really proud to be part of that whole agenda and I hope that Council will support being part of that whole commission as well. I am sure we have a lot we can share with others and they can share with us.

Our commitment to make Leeds the best city in the UK to grow old in as well as an age friendly city - and by the way we have badges - are clear signs that we are really listening. We understand and we want to change the outcomes of older people in our communities. Our Refreshed Age Friendly Charter reiterates that the whole city, be it health charities, businesses, the Council or health providers like the NHS has a voice and bears responsibility in supporting older people.

Loneliness ought to be neither a way of life nor a symptom of old age, as it was previously mentioned, and this is the right moment to take sustained action to combat this growing issue. Leeds faces the prospect of an ageing population where in just four years' time more than a quarter of our citizens will be aged 50 plus and that is why the work of charities and organisations such as AGE UK Leeds, Leeds Community Foundation, Health for All and many, many others collaborating in joint endeavours like Time to Shine is essential in enabling us to reach our ambitions.

As one of the 14 Ageing Better areas chosen from the original 100, Leeds's reputation as an inclusive, welcoming city which takes into account and places at its core the needs of everybody living here irrespective of their age, is strengthened by programmes such as Time to Shine. Our plans are aligned and the objectives are clear for both us and for our partners, without whose contribution it would be very difficult to deliver on this agenda and it is a key example of how we need to deliver through partnerships for our people in this difficult time of austerity.

I would like to reiterate what was said at Executive Board in thanking our partners such as the Leeds Older People's Forum who lead this and manage so well the Time to Shine programme. Their engagement, energy, passion was really evident and obvious at Executive Board and it is replicated around the city. As the Exec Member I see this on a regular basis and I am very proud of it.

Councillor Taylor touched on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which places older people right at the centre of it and the success of our city and the success of this agenda depends on the inclusion of our elderly. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Rebecca. I believe the clock has ticked around to 4.10 so can I ask the Leader to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Chair. I thought we might have squeezed at least one more speech in before that, but actually I think, Stewart, you have had quite a good contribution in the minutes today! I was looking forward to more of the positive.

Actually, I do sincerely want to say this in terms of your comments at the beginning about the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is not a straightforward easy agenda and actually in the past you have been able to put quite a lot of challenge into the process and so actually your words today I think are even more valuable and I am delighted to hear that Councillor Mulherin is carrying on the good tradition and keeping on the "and children", "and children", "don't forget children". Absolutely. I am afraid a lot of the health agenda is very much skewed towards the Adult agenda, for good reason of course, but we must make sure that our young people get a good source of resource coming in to do the work.

I just want to emphasise the point that Councillor Charlwood made about The Green and the paper on The Green will be coming to the February Exec Board, as we discussed and has been programmed, to look at the developments in that area.

Coming on to the other minutes that we have heard today, actually I think both Councillor Rafique and Councillor Charlwood have summed up very well indeed on the extraordinary depth of work that is reflected in the papers that have come to our attention today, and I think there can be no more important piece of work than how we actually in our ambition to be the best city and to develop the economy so that we can afford to look after the most vulnerable people in our city, it is absolutely crucial that we work now to make sure that we have got the workforce that we need going forward.

It is really important that we continue to attract businesses to come to the area but also to make sure that the businesses that we have here already actually stay. I think the impact of the EU referendum, the real concern in some areas that we do not have enough skills at the moment and the potential loss of skills if people feel they do not want to come to this country any more is something that we have to take incredibly seriously.

I am really struck by all the comments about nursing. I am not actually sure what we can actually do in this area ourselves because one of the real difficulties I think we have had in the health community is the fact that to enable hospitals to bring their budgets into balance they have cut back significantly on nursing training. If you look at the thousands and thousands (if not tens) of money that has been spent on hospitals like the Teaching Hospital in Leeds trawling around Europe, finding nurses who have trained abroad to come and work in our hospital – Portugal is a particular case – then it just goes to show how short-sighted some of the cuts to our services actually have

been. One of the most significant changes that has just come in is that the Government has removed bursaries for nurses. You have to have a degree to do nursing now and before you could get a bursary which enabled more mature students to come who often had additional needs, childcare etc, and that has been cut and that has already reflected in such a drop of applications into our nursing pool. Again, just another element of the real challenges that we are facing.

Going back to the State of the City meeting and all of the focus on innovation and just how important it is in a city like Leeds to keep on the forefront, make sure that we are really moving forward and enabling what they call new work, which is particularly around SMEs and creative digital and professional. These are the areas that we really have to focus on and if you remember, Leeds scored very highly on being a re-inventor and that means we have been able to quite deftly change from reliance on traditional industry bringing forward the new skills area. It was good to hear from Jane about the technical need, the needs in technical education. If I could add my congratulations on your nomination for Lord Mayor and I know that as Lord Mayor Councillor Dowson will pick up all of the issues that she has been so passionate about over the last few years around the needs of young people.

Salma, Councillor Arif, picking up on the stats around apprenticeships, the work that we have actually done but, you know, we know that if we had more resource and more powers devolved to us as a Local Authority within the Leeds City Region then we could do so much more and, despite all of the attention on this, our programmes are still way out-performing the programmes that come from the centre. There are so many different people out there working on this agenda, we need the opportunity to grip it and pull it all together so that everyone is working together.

The success rate that Councillor Iqbal mentioned, that we have one of the highest levels of knowledge of where young people are in this city and to get the “not known” figure down to under 2% as opposed to over 6% nationally is a major achievement.

We know how important all of these interventions are and I am really pleased that we had the opportunity to highlight so many of them today.

Can I also congratulate Denise, it is not an easy task doing your maiden speech. I thought the way you delivered it was just spot on, relating all of the work as you did to things that are happening in your own local community. We need to do that more and more, to get those stories about the impact, that what we decide in here in this building actually has out in our communities. It is really heartening to hear this.

Stewart, to come back to you, just a little bit of history. I think you were suggesting – you will correct me afterwards if I am wrong but you seemed to be suggesting – that the Neighbourhood Networks had been set up outside of the Council. Actually it was the Council that set up Neighbourhood Networks and we know, the Middleton Park Councillors know because the first Neighbourhood Network was Belle Isle Winter Aid back in the 1990s, set up actually...

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL; 1986.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Sorry, before my time, 1986, and actually by Bill Rollinson who is now the Chair of the Older People’s Forum who came and gave a presentation to Exec Board, and the whole philosophy of Neighbourhood Networks was to set up arm’s length organisations so that they could draw down Lottery funding, additional funding and what a success that has been. I know we are going to hear more about it

later but that again, real innovation coming from Local Government and, of course, coming from Leeds.

There is so much to talk about the loneliness project. One of the things that I am very conscious of, we have got a bad weather warning, snow, ice – think of those people who are on their own in their home who will be terrified to go out and might not even have more than a can of beans in their cupboard. This is where we have all got to pull together to do so much more work.

All the way through this we know if we had the powers, the resource, the opportunity we could do so much more and how short-sighted that we have lost so much money from our early intervention programmes from public health. Just think of the problems that are caused by domestic violence which is actually caused by alcoholism, drug abuse, often sometimes mental illness. Let us make sure that we come together to get the resource that we need so we can deliver early intervention, prevention, so that we can keep moving on as one of the most innovative cities in this country. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Judith. Can I now call for the vote to receive the Minutes. *(A vote was taken)* One abstention. CARRIED.

This now brings us to the scheduled break. Can I suggest that we are back in the Chamber for 4.45, please, 25 minutes from now. Thank you.

(Short break)

ITEM 12 - REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: I hope you all had a good tea and are relaxed now, if we can do the final stint. We are on Item 12, Report on Devolved Matters. We have a period of up to 30 minutes to discuss this. Can I open the debate by inviting Councillor Blake, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Chair. I hope you have all had the opportunity to look at the paper. I think the broader reach of the Combined Authority and the LEP coming together, working more closely together, is quite evident in the papers and they cover a range of issues on the Transport Fund, Flood Review, jobs in particular, inclusive growth and referencing the More Jobs, Better Jobs work of Joseph Rowntree. Of course, importantly the Leeds City Region responds to Brexit and the impact on the local economy, the Transport Strategy and other things, so quite a lot of detail to go into in the papers.

I think the conversation that we now have to have and we really have to get behind and start moving on is what is going to happen to devolution in our area. It is now absolutely urgent that we progress the discussions on devolution. We were informed by Government before Christmas those areas that have already got the deals signed would be their top priority, but now we need to move on and assert our interest in the whole area of devolution. Indeed, Andrew Percy, the Conservative Minister who is one of our Yorkshire MPs, came over and met with the Leaders of West Yorkshire to have a discussion on how we could move it forward.

As you will all know, we put in some 18 months ago, as requested, the basis of our deal for Leeds City Region. We have never had an adequate response from Government about Leeds City Region. We believe it is the functioning economic

footprint, we are doing very well indeed, we have got the largest growth deal in the country already that we are delivering on so it is really frustrating to be held back, especially when you think that nine out of ten decisions that are taken about Leeds are taken outside of the city. We live in the most centralised country in Europe and this is simply unsustainable.

Whitehall decides on between £16bn and £18bn of revenue spending in West Yorkshire per annum. We need more control over that money and how it is spent. On top of this, gross unfairness in the funding that comes out across the country. Just look at transport alone where now the spending per head in London is seven-and-a-half times that of the spend per head in Yorkshire.

We want devolution, importantly, to unlock our economy, to invest in infrastructure, transport skills and I am afraid that our ambition locally has been thwarted by the George Osborne one size fits all legislation that clearly has fallen apart in successive places around the country. We have just had the latest set-back in Sheffield.

Moving on, we are now prepared to consider looking at a Yorkshire Mayoral geography, helping to enable us to unlock the Leeds City Region area. When I say Yorkshire wide I mean the whole of Yorkshire, including South Yorkshire which, for obvious reasons, has not been at the table until now.

In the next few weeks I hope we will see widespread consultation of a model that will help us to deliver a strong, workable economic partnership for Leeds and that will be popular along with the Yorkshire brand going forward.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Judith. Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Chair. I second and reserve the right to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Stewart Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Chair. It is good to hear Councillor Blake taking control on the devolution issue. She is right in that the agenda has always been dominated by, once the Coalition was left behind, the Osborne mantra of Mayoral accountability.

We can now actually benefit – one of the benefits of Brexit, I assume, is the fact that Mr Osborne is not quite so influential in those devolved areas and therefore there might be some openness to seeking different models of Mayoral accountability.

I note that you have referred to proposals coming forward. The Yorkshire Post has actually already seen some detail of potential proposals brought forward by the Combined Authority. As a sub on the Combined Authority, at representing the Liberal Democrats in the sub-region, it would be nice if there would be some kind of consultation in terms of what that might look like. Ironically enough the bare bones that we have already been told about in the Yorkshire Post actually do resemble something more like what the Liberal Democrats were after in the first place. The fact that Central Government only wants to talk to what they want to talk to and they saw the City Regions as the economic travel to work model and that is what they would devolve their decision making down towards and that it had to have certain amounts of business people and whatever. As far as the people of Yorkshire are concerned, they have no allegiance whatsoever to the City Region, and in fact a lot might actually revolt against it.

Having some kind of Yorkshire-wide accountability model, however, I think would be something that the people of Yorkshire could get behind. You do not know whether or not the person who is going to be leading that role, if it comes about, would actually do a very good job but at least the people themselves would be able to focus on a Yorkshire-wide debate in terms of us punching above our weight. We are bigger than Scotland, we have more economic impact than they have. When we look at things like tourism support, for instance, Visit Scotland I think gets more than the whole of Visit England and we as Yorkshire, especially with the products that we do provide, both culturally and physically in the industries in the service sector, we can actually achieve far more than them.

I wish you luck and hopefully through that consultation that we talked about a little bit earlier we will be able to back you to the hilt in getting a solution for Yorkshire which enables that Leeds City Region model to actually do something. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Councillor Leadley, please.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: Mr Chairman, devolution presents wide-ranging opportunities for comment. Firstly, to paragraph 3.4, the Leeds City Region Flood Review. In Ardsley, which is towards the drier end of the Leeds Metropolitan District, our wettest months are usually November and December and in 2016 they were both unusually dry, so I can feel a hosepipe ban coming on already. *(laughter)*

The serious point here is that Whitehall and Westminster begin to cut and pause expenditure on flood defence if we have a couple of dry years and they must not be allowed to get away with that again, so I hope that Judith can really push for that.

Secondly, paragraph 3.7, Brexit. This could prove to be a poisoned chalice with which Theresa May might find some very great difficulty with coping, and sympathy may need to go further than not criticising her trousers. She seems to have realised at last that the European Union is unlikely to give an outside nation full access to the single market without it allowing freedom of movement for European citizens. Mr Corbyn has lots of ideas about Brexit – so many that he changed them several times yesterday. *(laughter)* So far the main effects of the Farageists have been to devalue the pound against other currencies – a bit odd as UKIP uses the pound sign as part of its logo. Perhaps Honest Nigel will tell the punters at Kempton that this will not devalue the pound in your pocket, as Harold Wilson did in 1967 after devaluing it by 14%.

Thirdly, paragraph 3.8, the post NGT Leeds Transport Strategy. Together with the transport conversation this looks promising and it is a sudden burst of progress after 26 locust years eaten by trams and trolleybuses. Plagues of locusts would have cost less than £50m. They will make do with cheap fodder so long as there is plenty of it.

The transport conversation seems to be going well. It is far more open and constructive than the discussions of fantasy projects cocooned by paranoid news management which have bedevilled public transport in Leeds for the best part of 30 years. Metro and Leeds Executive Board do seem to be listening. Good ideas have been allowed to come forward after many years' delay, such as new railway stations at White Rose and Thorpe Park.

One of the drawbacks of cutting smoking is the shortage of fag packets on which to sketch ideas. *(laughter)* A new railway station at Cookridge will need a new road across green belt to connect it to Leeds Bradford International Airport. This seems to lack worthwhile supporting information or reasoning and will be best set aside to give

time for a proper solution to be found to the problem of the airport's isolation from suitable service transport.

We need to get on with those sensible schemes which will give quick and positive return on investment, so I have to echo what Councillor Richard Lewis said earlier on. Thank you, Mr Chairman. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Tom. Councillor Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you, Chair. Just alluding to the report that came to the Combined Authority on Brexit and the effects of Brexit, I described it as having been written by people who had spent the last six months in a darkened room with a blanket over their head still recovering from a nervous breakdown because they could not believe the majority of people in this country actually voted for Brexit. It was such a depressing document, needlessly depressing because for every statistic relating to the currency that Councillor Leadley can quote, we can quote statistics about the growth forecasts which have had to be revised again not downwards but upwards because the ONS got it wrong. We can talk about the Stock Exchange, we can talk about job numbers but every statistic you can throw one way you can throw the other.

What you can guarantee is, of course, that the Liberal Democrats still want us to join the Euro *(laughter)* and if they were only honest about that and told the truth, actually what they want is us to become a regional Government ourselves as part of Europe with the Euro and the sooner they are perfectly honest about that and tell all the electorate, the better.

As regards devolution, I am absolutely committed to devolution on the basis of the Leeds City Region, the economic footprint which reflects how the economy in this part of Yorkshire works. I am extremely concerned, and like Councillor Golton I do not like discussing private conversations and I am not going to do except to say that Councillor Blake did make me aware of the view of the Labour Leaders in West Yorkshire about this wider Yorkshire concept, so I am not going to be as critical as you, Councillor Golton. Apparently she told you too! Nothing changes there then does it with the Liberal Democrats! *(laughter)* They never learn – they never learn!

Anyway, Councillor Blake did inform and I made it very clear to her that my view was not that that was the best way forward. I have outlined what I think the best way forward is.

I would just say to Members this. It smacks of Yorkshire Forward and what most of us around here used to refer to as the South Yorkshire slush fund. It also smacks of a back door to regional Government on a much wider scale which I do not think would benefit the people of this city in the same way as devolution based on the Leeds City Region. However, I accept the Government needs to start to be much more direct about what it is they actually want, say what they want, what they are prepared to see us deliver and support us in having and less of the wavering and quavering and sitting back and saying “We want you all to agree amongst yourselves and then we will go along with it.” I am afraid that is not really part of the real world.

I will say as regards all Yorkshire devolution, be very careful that you are not trying to dress a turkey up as a bird of paradise because you will find that you might be able to get the turkey off the ground but you will not be able to make it fly. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Andrew. Councillor Campbell, please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chair. As Andrew was talking I was looking through this paper and he did seem to refer to the Liberal Democrats quite a lot but I can't actually find any reference to it in the paper. Maybe it is just him smarting from a little incident that happened in Richmond – not the important Richmond, the other Richmond further south.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: What about Lincolnshire? 11%.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Let us just go back to the paper. Leeds City Council Flood Relief Review. I will echo what Tom was saying. It is nice to know that we have not forgotten this. It has been a relatively dry winter. Fortunately we have not had the issues that we had last year. Let us touch wood and hope we do not get them. I think it is important we still maintain that pressure both on Central Government and locally to ensure that the terrible situation that happened last year does not happen again and we need to spend money looking at ways to make ourselves more resilient.

If I just then briefly touch on Andrew's favourite topic, which seems to be Brexit, and the City Region's response to. Actually when I read this I thought well, that is quite positive because it is nice to know that at least somebody is thinking about a response to Brexit, because Theresa May, God bless her, does not appear to have any response whatsoever to it. In fact, her policy seems to oscillate between trying to be positive and then being negative, and when the pound drops trying to be positive again.

I thought well, that is a positive sign so at least West Yorkshire is thinking about this and then unfortunately we had a speech yesterday from Jeremy Corbyn which added clarity in only the way that Jeremy Corbyn adds clarity to a debate on Labour's position.

I think we have to face facts, don't we? At the moment we are in a limbo situation. Brexit will affect us and I think we have to live with it, face facts, it is going to happen, we are going to have to live with it so it is reasonable, I think, that we make efforts to try and plan to mitigate any negative effects and improve any positive effects.

Finally can I just touch briefly on post NGT funded Leeds Transport Strategy. Again, I think actually the discussion about transport strategy has been more positive recently than many of the other conversations we have had but I would just flag up my concerns in relation to what appears to be a substantial part of this policy associated with a particular bus company. That particular bus company, if the X84 and the 33A (and I see nodded heads round there so there must be more routes) are anything to go by do not have a very good record in providing and producing and actually meeting their commitments.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can you finish, Colin, please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: I think we need to ensure that whatever deal we do needs to have some fairly strong – I am trying to think of the word now, you have put me off there, Chair – fairly strong guarantees to ensure that actually they deliver their part of the bargain if we deliver ours. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Colin. I can assure you that the X84 was a fine service when Richard Lewis and myself used to drive those buses. It has clearly deteriorated since that time! Can I call on Councillor Downes, please.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Chair. Sadly the X84 is not the service it used to be. It is down to 20 minutes an hour during the day, hourly at late and the last bus is not anywhere near a late bus. Actually what I am wanting to talk about here is actually going into the transport conversation post NGT, so that is a perfect segue.

Recently a bus back from Skipton, the last bus, missed and it left a young student penniless because he had bought his ticket and he could not get back. This is not an isolated story, I am getting regular daily problems with the X84, the 33A, First Bus services in general. I think that if we are looking towards our transport funding we need to ensure that the existing network is improved upon, especially if we are looking to become the City of Culture in 2023. I have had words with officers about that. We have a very diverse cultural offer in this city and it is enhanced by my ward as, I am sure, everybody else's ward, but the access to that by public transport is appalling. If you want to come out and experience our beer festival and you want to get back to Leeds afterwards, you will have to leave early. It really is a joke, the public transport system, and that is something I wish we could address within this transport fund to try and actually get something that is working because I get so many complaints about it. We need more buses, we need to go back to quarter-hourly buses out to Otley and back. If one misses then the next one is too full for everyone to go on and this is regular coming out of the city centre who want to work but cannot get out after work.

That is my input to this. I can see Councillor Wakefield is nodding his head, it is something that he is clearly aware of and it is something we need to address. We do not have a 21st [century] transport system in Leeds and that is what we really must do with this funding. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ryk. Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you. I understand that there is still people at the Otley Beer Festival waiting for Councillor Downes to get his round in! *(laughter)* I think obviously when it comes to the devolution debate and the media speculation, who is going where, who is doing what, what the jobs are going to be, who might get which job – I think it really is important to actually focus on, as speakers have recognised through this debate, what we want to achieve through devolution, not just isn't it fun, we are having a process, it is going to happen and let's have some speculation about how it might end up. I think on the issue about whether we have the powers to run a proper bus service in this city is a big part of it.

Personally it would be my preference that it does not matter what Government structure you have got, we can see that the most successful and award winning bus companies in this country are ones in Nottingham and Reading that are run by the local Councils. We can see that local control of bus services works and we should be able to do that by right, not to have to go through a complex negotiation of devolution.

Unfortunately the Conservative Government do not see it that way and hopefully we can get into a position where we can actually start delivering some of the outcomes.

I think what is also quite interesting is, having been involved in a few transport schemes myself, actually that the benefit of a transport conversation is that if there are schemes that we have been talking about, we are not getting to the point where we

have a useful, interesting conversation with people about what we want to do, then it takes us six years or more of jumping through hoops to get three different departments in Whitehall to approve the funding and permission to deliver some relatively small schemes. I always think of the Quality Bus Corridor on Kirkstall Road, a scheme that delivers real benefits, real improvements for bus passengers, really important for that bit of Leeds – fantastic, we should be doing lots more schemes like that. That was a scheme we had to get three different Government departments to approve, and had we not moved a few shovelfuls of earth before the July 2010 Spending Review it would have probably been knocked on the head and disappeared for ever.

It is right we talk about the process and getting that right but we also need to focus on what we can deliver. This report looks at what we are actually getting on and delivering, what projects we can deliver on the ground. It is great we can have some proper conversations with people about what we can achieve and without, like I say, the constant process of having to go backwards and forwards about seeking approval. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, James. Councillor Blake, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Chair. Just picking up on a couple of issues. The flood debate, yes, absolutely, we are keeping the pressure on and cross-party all MPs, myself and Tom are going to see the Minister. We have just got to keep that going and obviously we will be submitting our business case for Phase 2 going up through Kirkstall and we have got to make sure that Liz Truss, when she was in that position, what she said about Leeds getting the funding that it needs and deserves is actually honoured by this new administration, particularly when you look at the figures of how much of the flooding money across the country is actually spent in London and the South-East, it just is something we cannot allow to happen.

Transport, a lot of discussion about transport this afternoon and clearly we have been through the conversation, we have come up with proposals for the £173.5m but this is just the beginning of the journey and I would like to say that we actually have a Special Council Meeting just to talk about transport and how we actually move forward to working with our partners to lobby to get the many, many, many millions of pounds that we actually need into this city to deliver a modern transport system that we all aspire to.

Andrew has actually gone but he talked about Leeds City Region in terms of devolution but the real problem that he is failing to face is that the Leeds City Region includes three districts from North Yorkshire and York and that is where the problem is. I hope that the conversation about Yorkshire gains interest. I think Andrew Percy said the most important thing post-Brexit is that we actually listen to what people are telling us and people like the brand of Yorkshire. If we can work it so that we keep the bureaucracy of the Leeds City Region together and do not unpick all of that and keep it bureaucratically light, then I think we could be on to a real win-win solution.

As I said before, Yorkshire is a global brand, and more and more we are going to have to look across the world. We cannot rely on our old markets any more and we have to have the wherewithal to get out. All that we are saying at the moment is that this is a proposal, it is worthy of consideration, let's see if there is an appetite for it and then we will bring it back here and have a really robust debate about what it could mean to us going forward, but James is absolutely right, we cannot continue with a situation where for every small thing just like many of the things we have talked about today, just permission to get a new roundabout, that we have to go down to Whitehall to get permission. This cannot continue and I think we have got the makings across

Yorkshire of going forward and achieving something very special that we can help deliver for our communities. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Judith. Can we now have the vote on this issue. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

WHITE PAPERS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: We now move to the final part of the meeting, White Papers. We have three White Papers this evening for debate. Each debate will last for no more than 45 minutes and will conclude with votes on the motion and any amendments.

ITEM 13 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: The first White Paper, 13, in the name of Caroline Anderson. Caroline, please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. Can I say at the outset that I support the Lib Dem amendment to my White Paper.

In bringing this White Paper I am keen to ensure that cross party we can all agree that Neighbourhood Networks are a beacon in Leeds's portfolio of services for older people and deserve to have their funding not only maintained but increased.

The Neighbourhood Networks Strategic Advisory Group met on 20th October. This has been set up as one component of the overall review process for recommissioning the Neighbourhood Networks which will begin their contracts in October 2018. Part of the review will be to decide if future funding will be by way of a grant or through a procurement route. We also need to ensure security for the funding for at least five years to enable the Networks to plan and to attract other funding by way of grants and from outside bodies and Lottery funding. This is vital if they are to develop and not just to rely on the funding that comes from the Council.

We are very lucky that we have 35 independent organisations covering 37 areas across the city. Let me just highlight some of the work that they do. Let me start with OPAL, Older People's Action in the Locality – I mentioned earlier, based in the Leeds 16 postcode area. They have 700 older people as members, some with dementia, some in wheelchairs, some with walkers. They have people with incontinence, memory problems, personal care issues and all of this has increased tremendously over the years.

From 2014 to this year there has been an increase of 73% of referrals to OPAL and a decrease of 45% of referrals out of OPAL to other agencies, which shows just how much the need has shifted to the Neighbourhood Networks. Such is the vast range of skills needed by the volunteers at OPAL they are at some point going to have to say no to people due to the complexity of their needs.

They rely on volunteers and they currently have 100, but you also need a co-ordinator to check that these volunteers are trained and they have the right skills, they are covered by insurance, things like that. To ensure people are able to get to the events that they put on they spend a lot of time making phone calls to individuals to ensure

that they can attend the trips that they put on and to remind them that these are taking place.

I have also recently spent the day at Richmond Hill Elderly Action, where I took part as a volunteer through something called Community 10,000, and I helped at their Christmas lunch in December setting up tables, putting up decorations, serving mountains of tea and coffee - or oceans of tea and coffee – doing the dishes, serving lunch and joining in the activities. I even managed to realise an ambition – they let me call the bingo! This is a marvellous organisation whose members have a wide range of activities and a very active lunch club. Again, it relies heavily on volunteers but I can honestly say it did not feel like work. I thoroughly enjoyed my day. I also met Councillor Khan and Councillor Ragan on the day, they came to support the event and they were very welcoming when they saw me there.

I would also like to mention the Cross Gates Good Neighbours, which has been going on for a long time and championed for many years by former Lord Mayor and former Leeds City Councillor Bill Hyde, who still gives a lot of support to them and I know that Councillor Grahame also does a lot of hard work with the Cross Gates Good Neighbours.

I have not time to mention them all individually but this gives you a flavour and I am sure other contributors to this debate will have their own examples. All Neighbourhood Networks have grown, statutory services are shrinking and they are having to fill the gap. Cutting Neighbourhood Network funding will affect staffing levels, affect the commitment they can give staff and the service they can provide. The fact that the Council are still investing in Neighbourhood Networks shows how valuable they are to the communities. There are 21,000 older people in Leeds supported by the Neighbourhood Networks. How on earth would we fill this gap if they were not there?

I am pleased that funding has been secured for 2017. However, I would like to be assured that the Funding Formula Review will be fair and equitable and will not let down areas which have worked hard not to have to rely on the Council funding and have the rug pulled from them. Neighbourhood Networks have to run as a business. The five year funding, if not longer, is very necessary as they cannot plan with only twelve month contracts.

Neighbourhood Networks also play a huge part in social prescribing and this is a concept that will grow and grow. There is also a good reason to try and secure some additional funding from the CCGs. The Neighbourhood Networks last in 2015 reported 2,685 instances of helping older people to avoid hospitals.

Please support this White Paper in my name and send a clear message across all parties that we want to see an increase in funding so that the good work can carry on for our older people and they can have a good quality of life. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Caroline. Councillor Buckley, please.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, Chairman. I am seconding this motion and have the greatest pleasure in seconding Councillor Anderson, everything that she said there. Just to confirm one or two points which she also made.

The great majority of us in this Chamber – all of us, actually, support all these works of the Neighbourhood Networks and, as she has described, we really have the utmost admiration for the local groups overseen in main by the Leeds Older People’s Forum.

In my case, because we all tend to look at our local situation, in Moor Allerton MAE Care provides many excellent services for the elderly and the disadvantaged and, of course, most of the volunteers who do these things are actually older people themselves. A lot of them are 65, 70, 75 and so on, so in many respects this is a win-win situation. They gain as well as the people themselves. We all agree that this way of working is effective and that the funding should be, as Councillor Anderson said, maintained at least at present levels.

Mr Chairman, I did notice that in the initial Budget proposals there is a line in there which says, and I quote, “Reduction in funding to other Directorates for joint commissioning including HIV social care, advice services, luncheon clubs, home adaptations and Neighbourhood Networks.”

I would like some clarity, please, when applicable. Does this mean that the £100,000 listed as a saving is a cut to the budget or not? If I could just be told about that, please.

I would also urge, as has previously been said, the new advisory group, just be careful about adopting a new system because something which might appear to be helping deprived wards and deprivation in general just might have unforeseen consequences because taking Alwoodley, for example, I mentioned Moor Allerton and there are pockets of deprivation – quite big pockets actually in some areas – in even relatively better off wards. Those people could then lose out with a change.

There are just two areas I wanted to home in on very briefly – loneliness and the issue of hospital transfer delays. Loneliness, as we have heard, it affects all wards, it is right across the city and referrals due to deteriorating mental health do cause ongoing problems, major issues. Neighbourhood Networks are so effective at dealing with these things because they are local. Incidentally, do not overlook things like Parish Councils because Alwoodley Parish Council is just now conducting a joint enterprise, if you like, with MAE Care in order to fund a project to take isolated pensioners to Sainsbury’s, Aldi and down to Waitrose. These things can be expanded in slightly unexpected ways.

Just talking briefly, as I said, about hospital transfer delays which again affect all wards, what we used to call bed blocking, it really is a massive issue at the moment and it is really important that these organisations can be supported to ensure that when somebody goes home the house is warm, the heating works, they have tea and coffee and food and so on, or that a neighbour can call in, particularly when, as so often happens now, families might have left home, moved away, could be hundreds of miles away.

Just one final sentence if I can, Chairman. As a result of these things millions can be saved particularly when it is extrapolated nationally. I would just echo what Councillor Anderson said in maintaining the funding and do not exclude these pockets of deprivation. I second the motion, Chairman. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Neil. Councillor Charlwood to move an amendment, please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Chair. Yes, moving an amendment to this paper. I thank you again for the support for Neighbourhood Networks that

Members are showing. There are 37 Neighbourhood Networks and they have a pivotal role in the city tackling social isolation, as has been said, and improving the health and wellbeing of older people. It is really clear to say they are very valued and very effective, they support over 21,000 people per year.

The first one I am led to believe was commissioned in 1985 and then they were commissioned more broadly across the city in October 2010 and I am absolutely delighted that they were set up by a Labour administration and they add significant value for the low levels of investment put in.

Let us sing our own praises for a minute. Neighbourhood Networks are recognised nationally with visits from numerous other cities and have appeared as examples of good practice in a number of national reports. Great. We have even hosted visits from Holland last month, people coming to see us and what we do and how we do it, and we are hosting the Eurocities Urban Ageing Group later this month where the Networks will be discussed.

The work of the programme is clearly being recognised here and elsewhere. Somebody once said there is no such thing as society but we have shown that we can build communities and resilience through Labour policies like the Neighbourhood Networks and I am really glad the Conservative Group recognise this.

We want to expand the role that Neighbourhood Networks do and better integrate them into health and social care services. There is no suggestion that they will be rolled back, limited or any of that. We know what they do and we absolutely have them as one of our flagship policies, so we are absolutely delighted that you appreciate all of that.

The subject of prevention has been at the centre of widespread discussions nationally over the last few years and questions have been raised about the Government's commitment to investing in these types of services.

I need to lay out the funding situation that we are in. The significant cuts to Public Health over the last few years it is important to raise, because too often we get used to seeing things as separate or independent from other issues, but when it comes to prevention there is a significant impact on social care and public health more directly when funding and support is reduced to the extent that it has been.

Local Authorities nationally will receive £84m less from Government for public health in one year alone, 2017/18. This follows a £77m reduction in 2016/17 and a £200m in year cut in 2015/16. In Leeds this means our Public Health grant allocation is expected to reduce in cash terms by just over £7m by 2020 and this also means £25m less will be spent on public health in the city over this period. We continue to provide these wonderful services for the Neighbourhood Networks. I think we are doing really rather well in the circumstances.

They are staggering figures and they point to a wider issue of the lack of investment in preventative services at a national level. Taking this money away, which can be used to prevent illness and the need for treatment at later stages in life and delay entry into more expensive care, is so counter-productive, which is why we must also prioritise this in our development of our Sustainability and Transformation Fund.

This view is not just expressed by those in Local Government, the Parliamentary Health Select Committee has also previously warned about the consequences of these cuts, labelling them as false economy which risks widening health inequalities, so the

Tories can ask for certainty over funding but it is actually a bit rich given the funding environment that we are in.

Because of this tension Council spent 4% less in 2016 on prevention than the previous year. Grant cuts have meant that the contribution of public health to our Networks will reduce in 2017/18 but Adult Social Care will put that money in instead, so that is the answer to the question.

I will leave it there. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Rebecca. Can I call upon Councillor Nagle now to second.

COUNCILLOR NAGLE: Thank you, Chair. I am speaking in support of Councillor Charlwood's amendment. We all know through our experience of Councillors the vital work that Neighbourhood Networks do and continue to do. We must recognise their importance, the importance of prevention and the wider impact this has on the local health and care system.

This Council is committed to supporting older and vulnerable people and this is demonstrated by the significant investment in Neighbourhood Networks which in 2010 was around £1.8m and is currently about £2.4m.

As we have come together cross party with the future recommissioning of Neighbourhood Networks, we must also recognise and call as one united voice the importance of investment and preventive services both for people in the city and reducing pressure on local health and care systems.

It is important that we come together and review and consider key aspects of our Neighbourhood Networks. Challenges for Local Authorities remain and it is crucial we ensure key services can meet these challenges. Neighbourhood Networks reach approximately 21,000 older people per year. In 2015 2,685 people were helped to avoid hospital admission because of the Neighbourhood Networks. They provide vital work and we must continue to support them. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, David. Councillor Downes to move a second amendment, please.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Chair. In moving the second amendment I am happy that Councillor Anderson has recognised that the second amendment was beneficial and helpful to the White Paper and the comments that she made in introducing the White Paper I fully support and actually reduces the need for me to say everything that I was going to.

I am an advisor to AVSEP, Aireborough Voluntary Services for Elderly People in Yeadon Park, my ward, and over the years that I have been involved with them the services that they offer have grown exponentially. The number of people they support has grown and it is a similar story around the city. More and more they are asking to cover more specialist services and take on more of the health and wellbeing agenda for the older people within our city, and it is something that they will do. They are prepared to do it, they are happy to do but obviously that requires funding.

I am not really concerned too much about the argument of the Government are cutting, we can't, or we are going to support. I just want to see that money there so that we can enable our Neighbourhood Networks to continue to function and to continue to grow

to provide more services because the services, without them it will cost us far more elsewhere. We will have to buy in those services, re-provide them elsewhere. I have got statistics that show that it has reduced the impact of hospital admissions by the care and support that is offered and so that is something we really must continue to promote and secure. It is one of the key parts of the thing that the Council can do for older people and we are seeing a number of older people in society grow as people live longer. I am a testament to that; I should have died last year, as you know. Thankfully I did not and so I hope to get to old age to be able to need those services, but it is because of increases in the NHS's provision for supporting people, better medication, better support, that people are living longer and I think that is fantastic. We need to support people in their older age. That is what the White Paper is seeking to tie down and that is something that I just think rather than just keep funding as we are, we are seeing more and more services required, we need to fund those services, we need to find that money from somewhere. That is the assurance we are seeking. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ryk. Councillor Campbell to second, please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chair. I do not know how many of us were sitting round this Chamber when we first started to talk about Neighbourhood Networks and at the time – and I put my hands up to this – I was somewhat concerned, many of us were concerned that if you remove care for the elderly from professionals, as they called themselves in those days, it would produce a worse service. I have to say the service that they received 15 years ago was not that good.

I have been totally converted to the principle of Neighbourhood Networks. They have been the ultimate success story, I think, in this Council's ability to assist older people within the city and that is partly, I think, because in the end when the decision is made we parked dogma in that we in effect said we do not want to maintain the current status quo with the systems we are running, we need to be opening up and allow people to take better control.

As I say, Neighbourhood Networks have been fantastically successful and the demands on them have increased and the demands on the City Council have increased. I notice from the Budget Briefing we had a couple of weeks ago that we are looking now to be spending something like 40% of our expenditure on older people and that is a figure that has been rising quite significantly over the last few years. I think we are almost coming to a position where we are going to be spending about half of our budget in effect in maintaining services for older people.

I think that creates an issue for us all and that creates an issue on two sides. I think we have to face facts that as a nation we are just not spending enough money on this. I know politicians dislike the idea of raising taxes or whatever it might be but when you are faced with I suppose the, I will not say impending disaster because it is not because we manage it, but that issue in relation to older people continues to get worse and continues to mean that we need to spend more money and really Norman Lamb, you may like him or you may not like him, has made a suggestion that there is a cross-party consensus brought together within Parliament to get a cross-party view about how we support elderly people. I think that is a great idea and I think in some ways Neighbourhood Networks now and this debate is about the consensus around this room.

The issue, and I am thankful to Councillor Charlwood for actually committing herself to keep continuing funding because we were certainly slightly concerned about your

amendment in that there is nothing in there that we disagree with, we support most of the comments but our concern was that there is no reference to maintaining the funding. I think whatever else we do within the city we have to give that Council-wide commitment from all of us to continue and if possible improve that funding. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Colin. Councillor Wilford, please.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Chair. The lack of money from Government is alarming and the funding gap of £2.6m illustrates a formidable crisis in the delivery of social care predicted by 2020. With a lack of adequate funding for Local Authority care services it is to be encouraged that we look for cost effective means of providing and delivering services without dropping the standards.

We are faced with developing an effective alternative to established methods of care, for example, the closures of some Local Authority care homes and day centres, so it is crucial that we are innovative in what replaces these care homes and day centres. We need to be mindful that we are not reacting to circumstance and to consider that what we put in place addresses the needs of individuals living in communities and provides those individuals with inclusion in determining the services they access and receive.

Essentially it is decentralising of services replaced with a local community based vision for the future of care within the city of Leeds. Change is difficult for individuals, perhaps more so for those with dementia and mental health issues. We need community based staff teams and volunteers who, along with partnerships, can support individuals seamlessly into and through this new version of care.

People need continuity of care and variations in individual care packages can upset the status quo, so Neighbourhood Networks are intrinsic in shaping and informing best practice to improve inequalities in health and wellbeing. Although it is regrettable the Council is faced with the closure of facilities and changes have to be made, I sit on the all-party Neighbourhood Network Advisory Group and I agree with Councillor Carter that Neighbourhood Networks can become a cornerstone for the delivery of social care in the city of Leeds and an example for other Local Authorities facing the same predicament in care funding. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Terry. Councillor Barry Anderson, please.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. Most of my remarks are going to be around the pride I have in serving on OPAL. It is a fantastic organisation but if I can just address one or two issues first of all. Fine, yes, I will definitely be supporting the White Paper – at least that is what my wife tells me I have got to do so I had better do as I am told like a good man!

I just want to make some comment about the Labour amendment. We thought when we were bringing this White Paper forward that we were going to try and get the cross-party consensus so that everybody in the Chamber can vote on something that we can agree with...

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Did you ask? No.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: ...but as soon as you start putting in things about cuts and that you then break the political consensus.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Careful.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: There is nothing wrong (*interruption*) with you standing up and criticising the Government's spending priorities. There is nothing wrong with you doing that. If you had not included that in your amendment you might have got a greater consensus. You can still stand up and say it, you can still lay it on the line, you can still point out what the problems are but the point is how can we vote for something that we do not agree with? You are the ones that are breaking the political consensus. You did exactly the same thing with the planning last time. You tried to play politics instead of trying to look outward to the residents out there who are looking for leadership, which is sadly lacking, unfortunately, at that side of the Chamber. (*hear, hear*)

What makes Neighbourhood Networks a success?

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Not you.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: I would say it is the governance arrangement, that we are able to all sit down of no party and some party working together, experienced professionals, retired people, younger people all working on governance arrangements together which is vitally important because we are greater than the sum of our knowledge that we bring there and that is one of the reasons why Neighbourhood Networks are a success.

They are also very good at leveraging in additional money. Yes, the CCGs – well, the Health Service anyway – and the Council give grants but certainly in OPAL we are excellent at leveraging in additional money and we have got some people who spend a lot of time searching round trying to get grants. Again, another success as to why OPAL is a success.

The residents and the Members welcome what they do because we ask what the community wants, we listen to what the community wants and we deliver it. Maybe that is a message the Council should do as well, that if residents ask for something you actually try and deliver it and not have pre-conceived ideas as to what people want. These are the things that make the Neighbourhood Networks a success because you are delivering for what your residents want, you are delivering it locally, you are amending it locally.

There has also been a number of range of activities that we introduce that make life better for people. We have tried in OPAL, we were working very successfully with Otley Action for Older People to try and come up with a commissioning body that would enable people with personal budgets to be able to do something. That was based on pilots in Armley and Garforth as well. That fell flat on its face. Why has that failed? What more can we do to reinvigorate the Neighbourhood Networks in respect of that?

There is no doubt that the Neighbourhood Networks do deliver value for money. OPAL has been recognised for doing so. OPAL has also been given a number of awards both locally and at a national level as well and that is to be welcomed in terms of what we are doing.

Just to conclude, let us give them the commitment today that we appreciate what they are doing and that we will all work together to improve them further. Thank you, Chair. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Barry. Councillor Flynn, please.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you, Chair. I am speaking in support of Caroline Anderson's White Paper. I was going to start off by saying that we are, for a change, all singing from the same song sheet – I think we are, aren't we? Certainly so far as the current review into the function and future of the Neighbourhood Networks is concerned, and I am on that review team, we have already recognised the added value that Networks actually provide. Barry has spoken with some pride, as has Caroline, of his own experience of OPAL. It is in my ward obviously as well. OPAL has somewhere in the region of 100 volunteers. They provide between 600 and 700 hours a month in voluntary work and even calculated at minimum wage standards, it is a contribution to Adult Social Care of tens of thousands of pounds a year, which really cannot be sniffed at.

On to funding, which has got to be one of the fundamental parts of what the view is looking at. During the current five year contract that the Neighbourhood Networks have, in OPAL, for instance, there has been a huge increase in the amount of referrals. Caroline referred to it earlier on. Breaking it down into individual components, physical health the referrals have increased by between 30% and 40%; dementia, mental health problems, similarly increased by 30% to 40%; frail and older people with mobility problems between 20% and 30%. If you look a little bit further on, I do not think anyone has actually mentioned yet the five year forward view, the Sustainability and Transformation Plan, which aims for new integrated models of healthcare and social care. That can only bring more work to the Neighbourhood Networks.

I have mentioned funding, if we can just move on to that again. It is very important that the review ensures that the funding formula we design recognises the unique features and characteristics of each of the Networks. It is only right that part of this should be an element for deprivation. I do not think anyone would argue with that particular aspect. There are also other elements which should be taken into account and factored into the formula. Geographical size of the area served - some of the wards are huge areas. It means it is very expensive in terms of transport and volunteer time. The numbers of older people living in the catchment area, I think Neil Buckley touched on that earlier on, and the numbers of older people actually given direct support in various parts of the city.

It might also be worthwhile to look at researching how many of the older people supported suffer from more complex conditions, because they are much more expensive to look after than other sort of areas.

So basically I am confident that the review, certainly from my experience of it so far, is going to consider the future of Neighbourhood Networks in the way in which it should. I am confident that the funding of it will continue but I would like to put a marker down that, given the increase in referrals that we have already seen and are likely to see in the future, we should be constantly looking at the funding of Neighbourhood Networks. Thank you very much indeed, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Billy. Councillor Varley, please.

COUNCILLOR VARLEY: Thank you, Chair. We have heard this afternoon much about our Neighbourhood Networks. We heard about something being the jewel in Leeds's crown when we were talking about the church in Roundhay Park, or near Roundhay Park, but this Neighbourhood Network that we have in Leeds may be not

the jewel in the crown but it does shine the brightest. It is a bit like Venus in the night sky.

We have heard a lot about the good work that they do. They have sustained their good work for many, many people over the years and I really believe that the funding should be maintained or even increased so that they can have this sustainment of working together again.

Just before I close, I am always quite brief because we have heard so much about it today but it is a small reflection, really. We have not over mentioned today the volunteers. I know in our own Neighbourhood Networks in Morley we have at least 40 volunteers and, of course, most of them are middle-aged people, early retirement, but these volunteers whoever they may be, wherever they may be in the city, give their most precious commodity and that is their time. We only have the minutes that we have now, we cannot extend them, sometimes they are cut short, but these people are the stalwarts of our Neighbourhood Networks. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Councillor Varley. Councillor Gruen, please, Peter.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: I suppose part of me wants to play nice like everybody else has done all afternoon but actually the major part of me wants to say that I am actually not going to play the game of who loves the Neighbourhood Networks the most because we clearly do! *(laughter)* I am offended that in a week when we are told that Leeds Teaching Hospitals cannot do elective surgery, in a week when the Secretary of State busts A&E targets, in a week when the Foreign Secretary, who we all know now thanks to the Jewish Embassy is a total idiot (but we knew that anyway) he goes off sucking up to the new American President who actually makes fun of disabled people, in that kind of world that we really live in we should be talking about the real issues that you do not want to confront.

Get out of la-la-land and think about the reality of the crisis in funding in the NHS, in the Health Service and in the public sector in general, because there is a crisis. Your colleagues have spoken eloquently and who do you proud in the Health Scrutiny Board know every time we meet it is about how the financial cuts are being dealt with, how prevention can no longer be tackled because the funding is not there.

When we talk about our love for the Neighbourhood Networks, many of you were not with us in 2010 but some were. I am looking particularly at Councillor Wakefield and Councillor Yeadon. The good people in Leeds elected sufficient of us to form a Labour administration in May 2010 - that is worth some applause, I think. *(Applause)* Apart from that, when we came in what did we find? We found the Tory Lib Dem administration had gone 95% towards new contracting arrangements that would have sold the Neighbourhood Networks down the bloody river. There would not have been a Cross Gates Neighbourhood Network, there would not have been a Swarcliffe Neighbourhood Network, there would not have been a Richmond Hill Neighbourhood Network. They were all going to be decimated and, I will be honest with you, it was Councillor Wakefield and Councillor Yeadon in the lead but we had a bare knuckle fight with officers, some of whom are not here any more now and there is a lesson! *(laughter)*

We had a bare knuckle fight and we stood by the Neighbourhood Networks. We ensured that there was a proper contractual arrangement that they could not just survive but they could thrive and if we had listened to your forebearers then there would not be those Networks now, so we need no lessons about 37 thriving, great

public sector Networks working with the Third Sector with an annual funding of just £2.4m.

Those Networks will always be safe with us because not only do we value what they do but we get our hands dirty and work with them and appreciate all that they do and that they will continue to do, so yes, we support the Neighbourhood Networks but I am looking forward to the next debate to see how you are going to react to the crisis in our NHS. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Peter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Leadership speech.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: At this stage, Councillor Cohen wants to make a point of correction. He can explain it.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you, Chair. It is a factual correction on a point of order. Members may have heard Councillor Gruen refer to the Jewish Embassy. Last time I checked there was no such institution. There is, indeed, an Israeli Embassy that represents the many faiths and cultures that make up the state of Israel, but there is certainly no Jewish Embassy and I am thankful for the opportunity to correct that. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thanks, Dan, I think that is well accepted by all.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I accept that, thank you, but he is still an idiot. *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR COHEN: That is true!

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Caroline Anderson to sum up, please. Caroline.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you everybody for your contributions to the debate. That is much appreciated. I am disappointed that the Labour Party do not feel that they can support the White Paper as it stood. I was pleased to hear from Councillor Buckley about what is going on in Moor Allerton with the MAE Care and also to enhance what we have said already about loneliness, which does deserve as much air time as we can give it. Also, the bed blocking issue which I will touch upon in White Paper 3.

I think we need to give thanks for our Neighbourhood Networks as Councillor Charlwood has cited the visits that we have had from other places across Europe and also in this country and from Northern Ireland, and I know that Mick Ward and his team spend a lot of time showing people how we have built these Networks up. This has not just happened overnight, it has actually taken more than 20 years to get to where we are now.

Councillor Nagle, I totally agree with the focus on prevention. Referring someone to Neighbourhood Networks can stop loneliness, increase their activity, provide friendship and open doors to many other quality of life events and actually extend somebody's life.

Councillor Downes, I also think it is important we recognise how we can all work together to make the most of the funding that we do get and that may mean looking at how we might shift that funding from one pot to another, and let us get our evidence out to the CCGs and NHS England and try and get a bit more out of them.

Councillor Campbell, I think we are all agreed to get cross-party support and that we work together on this. Councillor Anderson, I agree that it is disappointing the Party ruling this Council cannot support a White Paper without putting an amendment in about Government cuts. Councillor Flynn, thank you for enhancing the work of the OPAL volunteers and the amount of money those volunteers actually save the Adult Social Care budget. Councillor Varley, you are absolutely right, a bright, shining star in our galaxy of Leeds. Councillor Gruen, you really did not have to come and spoil the debate the way you did... (*interruption*)

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Oh yes he did!

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: ...but I suppose these days we do not actually get to hear much from you in Council so you have had your chance now. Thank you, Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Caroline. We now move to the vote. First up we have the amendment in the name of Councillor Charlwood. (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

The second amendment in the name of Councillor Downes, please. (*A vote was taken*) It is the same split, thank you, that is LOST.

Can we now go to the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Charlwood, please. (*A vote was taken*) Three abstentions. CARRIED.

ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION - BROWN BIN COLLECTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you for that. Moving on, can we move now to White Paper Motion 15, in the name of Rebecca Charlwood. Councillor Charlwood, please.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is 14, Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: We have recycled it!

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: I was doing so well! White Paper 14 in the name of Stewart Golton. Councillor Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Chair. I thought you had been doing some editing there of your own, since you were sick of my voice today! Unfortunately there are others a bit more honest.

Back to a good old Council favourite, the bins. Yay! The reason why the Liberal Democrat Group have brought this White Paper, Chair, is because we believe in a fairer society and one of the things that you want to have when you are a provider of services is that you have an agreed compact with your customer so that they think they are getting a good deal and there is a transactional element to it which says you give us your money, we give you a guaranteed level of service.

This is something which has been accepted as a principle from Local Authorities for a long time and as well as this transactional element, which basically says we will empty your bins if you give us your Council Tax, to paraphrase, also the Council tends to want to add value to that relationship sometimes. Of recent years recycling has become a really important subject as people appreciate their wider impact on the

environment they want to be able to do what they can do as easily as they can and the Council has traditionally taken on that responsibility by saying “Do you know what, if you fancy recycling because you know that by recycling products we help to save the planet, we will actually be the people or the organisation that will enable you to do that.”

This White Paper has been brought forward because I assumed the Council wanted to offer that contract, or that compact, with all of the citizens in the city and then I had an example of a new estate which had been built in my ward. Like Brexit we had fought long and hard against this housing development having been built but, of course, once it is there you have got to accept the results and therefore you turn around and you want to make sure you are offering as good a service as possible to the people that live there.

It is at that point when a customer asked for me to arrange for him to get his brown bin, because he had had one where he had previously lived in Leeds but did not have one in this new property, that I discovered that the Council has a policy that they will not extend their brown bin collections to new estates. I thought well, I cannot see the logic behind that because at the end of the day the house which is 20 yards away which has been there a little bit longer does have the luxury of a brown bin collection and it enables that citizen to achieve their recycling ambitions. It also enables the Council to be progressive and actually fulfil its own recycling targets, but unfortunately that is not the case.

Then I challenged this with the Council and pointed out that for each new household that the Council gets they not only get more Council Tax and that Council Tax is supposed to pay for a fair share of Council services, but they also get something called a New Homes Bonus, so actually they get a double whammy in terms of income coming into the Council, so surely the argument which is given which is, “Oh, we cannot afford to extend that bin round because it is at full capacity and it would cost too much to make it longer or to incorporate those citizens”, is that really a good enough argument to go back to that customer again, who is still paying – in fact they are probably paying more Council Tax than they were in their old property if they have upsized, and they know the Council has actually benefitted from an extra payment from Central Government because a new house has been delivered in that Local Authority area. It is not good practice.

The amendment that is in the name of Councillor Lucinda Yeadon talks about how the Council is very proud of covering 62% of the city with their brown bin collection but by their very own admission, if they do not actually give it to any more new households, with their huge housing target they will only actually in the future be delivering to about 51% of our households. This is another example of the Council’s recycling ambitions being downgraded by this administration. This is in the context of an incinerator having been built which enables this administration to benefit from a £7m windfall each year from not having to put that into landfill.

Is that fair on these new residents in these new housing estates? Is that fair to the general population of Leeds that because an incinerator has been built, and even though it brings you in extra income and even though these new residents bring you in extra income, you failed in your ambition on their behalf and on behalf of the wider city. That is why this White Paper is here. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Councillor Downes to second, please.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Mr Chairman. In seconding this White Paper Councillor Golton has put it very eloquently that you are actually getting the money to collect these bins and you are doing these people, the new residents potentially coming into Leeds, some may have moved from Leeds but new people into Leeds, you are actually doing them a disservice. You are actually offering them a second class service when you have the money from them to actually provide the same service.

I just want to add on, though, that we do very much have a postcode lottery for brown bin collections. For many years the centre of Otley has not had a brown bin collection. We have tried and tried to get it and there are people there who wish to recycle their garden waste and are unable to, so the service is not up to scratch now without the new houses coming along, and so I encourage you to support the White Paper and see that everybody, all residents of Leeds, are treated fairly and equitably. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ryk. Councillor Yeadon to move an amendment, please.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you very much, Chair. It seems a bit strange that we are in the middle of winter and we are all bracing ourselves for thunder snow, apparently, and we are having a debate about brown bins, but it is a debate that we welcome because this administration has a real commitment towards the environment, sustainability and recycling. Whether that is to deal effectively with the city's waste, increasing recycling rates, to cut carbon or to improve air quality we want to put our commitment down in this White Paper.

Recycling is something that we take very seriously and we always want to see it improving. We are engaging with communities, with residents and with environmental champions and we are working with local organisations, partners, businesses to help progress this Green agenda. Of course, we would like to expand our garden waste collections to all properties across the city, but we need to find a sustainable way of doing this with the reality of a decreasing budget. I am sorry that I have to bring us back to that reality but in the administration that is a reality that we have to live in.

Since 2010 there has already been a 47% reduction in the funding that this Council gets from Government to run local services. That is over £240m less than in 2010 and over the next three years we face a further £53m reduction. That increasing demand on our budget means that we have to save £110m by 2019/20.

Councillor Golton, you talked about what is fair. Is that fair? No, it is not fair but it is a reality that are we living in and the refuse collection is not immune from this. We are already having to plan to make greater savings for the next financial year.

One of the reasons I mention this is because the Lib Dem White Paper mentions a £7m saving but in this financial context that is just a drop in the savings ocean. The £7m has already been allocated to protect front line services across the Council, protecting services for the vulnerable, older people and children and preventing £7m from having to be found elsewhere in 2017/18.

Your proposal, Councillor Golton, is estimated to cost the Council £600,000 a year to expand the service and this realistically at this time is just not possible. However, having said that, we do have this commitment and we are trying to find efficiencies where we can. Despite the ongoing cuts in 2014 a review of the service has meant that

we were able to expand the service to another 15,000 more properties at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Now, just picking up the amendment that we will hear from the Conservatives in a moment, it is very interesting to look at how do we work with developers to try and sustain this. I know that we are already charging developers for black and green bins and this is something that we can explore with brown bins, but that is OK for five years; then what happens? What happens after that five years? We need to find a sustainable solution so that we know the system is one we can continue to do.

We have a firm commitment not only to improve recycling but to protect the free service provided to residents. Garden waste collection is not a service that the Council has to provide, yet it is something that we believe we should and Leeds has maintained and protected its free brown bin service for 62% of properties. I am proud of that; when other Local Authorities have had to introduce a charge we have been able to maintain it as free. I am not aware of any other Authority that has been able to expand or introduce new recycling collection services in recent years.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can you finish, Lucinda, please?

COUNCILLOR YEADON: I will. I do not want to end on a negative tone and I am committed to look at all opportunities to expand our brown bin collection throughout the city and we are already working with officers to look at routes and see how we can expand this for years to come. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Lucinda. Councillor Sobel, please, to second.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: Thank you, Chair. I would like to second Councillor Yeadon's amendment to the White Paper on brown bin collections and really just reinforce some of the points that Councillor Yeadon made.

We all recognise that for Leeds to be the best city we must consider the environment and everything we do. Our commitment to delivering high quality, value for money public service is paramount to delivering improvements to our environmental performance.

We do already do that and are taking steps to improve our performance against what we all know is a terrible Government settlement for Local Government especially in the cities, and I will come back to that later. However, we have protected our garden waste services. 212,000 out of 340,000 properties in the city receive a free brown bin collection. It is also worth remembering that not all these properties are suitable for a brown bin collection so we cannot operate a universal service on all the routes.

We need to look elsewhere what is happening. Look at Councils such as Gloucester City Council who are raising their garden waste collection from £36 (they are already charging £36) to £42 a year for this year and then increase it to £44 in 2018. I think this reaffirms our commitment to protect services for residents and our ability to both remain committed to the environment and keep services free at the point of use, which other areas – many, many other areas – charge for.

Other comparator Authorities such as Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle, Bristol, Bradford all charge and I could go on and on, including many other Authorities. I would just like to highlight of the seven Liberal Democrat-led Authorities in the country, Cheltenham charge £38 a year, Eastleigh charge £36 a year and Sutton charge

an eye-watering £61.50 a year for garden waste collection while we charge nothing. We charge nothing.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Lib Dem democracy.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: This highlights the reality of Government cuts to Council budgets and I am not blaming those Authorities for charging, they are put in a position where they have to charge.

This is more than just about the issue of garden waste collections when waste services are in competition for our reducing budget against Adult Social Care which we have heard about in the previous White Paper, education, social services and the rest of the Council budget.

On top of that, and I would like to say this, as this is my first meeting as the Deputy Exec Member for Sustainability and Climate Change. We have had a worrying three months for environmental policy in this country. First we had the abolition of the Department for Energy and Climate Change when the new Prime Minister came in. It was a major setback for the UK's climate change efforts. This move in itself is shocking, seeming to all that the Prime Minister's downgrade action to tackle climate change undermines efforts to secure a clean safe energy future, a commitment which we are ramping up in this city, not ramping down.

Not only this but the UK's recycling rates have dropped. According to DEFRA's own statistics (this is the Government's own statistics) they have dropped from 44.9% to 44.3% in a year. It is clear despite the best efforts of Local Authorities the financial constraints and cuts are having a detrimental impact on our efforts to combat climate change and improve recycling.

We have fallen back to the recycling levels that we had last seen in 2012, so we have lost four years' progress and admitted although it was the Government at the election, so not this Government but David Cameron's Government, promised that the Government would leave the environment better than they found it and clearly they are failing on every measure in this regard.

As we know, recycling is a primary responsibility of Local Authorities but how can we meet the 50% EU target - maybe people do not think we need to, now that Brexit has happened – without new funding. We are committed, as Councillor Yeadon said, to improve garden waste collection and we are looking at 15,000 additional properties. This is something we are completely committed to in this agenda, although our amendment clearly states it in a more sustainable and feasible way. Thank you.
(Applause)

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: To help me, Chair, there is a discrepancy as I see it between Councillor Yeadon's amendment and the motion. I am trying to get clarification, Chair, to help me make up my mind when I come to vote.

In the amendment there is an amendment reference to £7m from a RERF. Is that the same £7m that Councillor Golton refers to as East Leeds Incinerator? Is a RERF an incinerator?

COUNCILLORS: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: They are saying "Yes". It will come out in the debate, I am sure, Brian.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: I think it is important.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: You can come back on it if you are still unclear. Can I thank Alex for his seconding and congratulations on your appointment.

Councillor Barry Anderson to move a second amendment.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. Brian, yes.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: I think you can explain it, perhaps.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: No. Actually, a quick explanation on that was we wanted to introduce the RERF, the Labour Party did not want it and now they have got a £7m saving. That is good, isn't it? That is forward thinking by us in terms of what we did. *(Applause)* That was really good, I thought, to be quite frank.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: We want the £200m back, Barry. We want the £200m back.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: In terms of the essence of the White Paper put forward by Councillor Golton, we support it. Yes we have amended it but the essence of what he is trying to bring forward we do fully support. We have just tweaked it slightly and hopefully he can see that we are not trying to destroy what you have put forward, we just have an alternative way of looking at things.

Residents want an improved brown bin service. Residents want the brown bin service to take place over a longer period of time. Residents who are moving on to a new estate want to be treated the same as all the other citizens in Leeds as well. We are not currently doing that at the moment.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Members, can we please have some quiet.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Councillor Amanda Carter will expand upon the planning obligations and what is behind that. One other thing that has been said, and just to make it very clear, if you do increase your brown bin collection it does add to your recycling rates, so it will benefit you in terms of what you are doing. We are actually trying to help you reach one of your targets. We are not trying to cause any problems with it, we are actually trying to help you reach one of your targets.

As a member of the Equality Champions' Group I wonder what would happen if this policy was every put before us as to what sort of debate, because I can assure you that cross-party when we get officers before us we really do lay into them when they start looking at going against any part of the city, irrespective. We do genuinely believe in equality for all.

I thought the Labour Party believed in equality for all – obviously you do not. You obviously do believe that certain people should get things, not others. Back to the politics of envy again, the postcode lottery and various other things. All the things you say you do not like – well, you are obviously introducing it here.

Is this a false saving? We are talking about 9% of the £7m. 9% - that, if I heard Councillor Yeadon correctly, is going to cost £600,000. The Director has done an excellent job in getting this £7m saving from it. Where is the incentive for another senior officer to come up with a way of saving money to incentivise to invest to save?

Some of that money should be put back into the service that takes the time to come up with it, that they have got the innovative staff that have the ideas how we can improve things.

How are you going to incentivise? If this was a private sector organisation you would be saying to your senior managers, "Come up with ideas. Staff, come up with ideas and you can benefit from some of the savings that are being made." It would help that budget if we could do something like this.

What I am saying is, work with us all. Yes, Councillor Yeadon has made an excellent start in working with the Members Champions. It has been a great change, we are regularly informed, we do have debates and if we raise issues officers are asked to follow up and take things forward. Let us see if we can do something in this way in terms of what we are doing.

A precedent has been set. A lot of the standard black and green bin collections, you do operate a flexible policy for that. Not every area gets the same level of service.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can you finish, Barry, please.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Not every area gets the same level of service. Why can you not do it here so we can try and get some equality in this system? Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Barry. Councillor Amanda Carter, please, to second.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you, Chair. In seconding this amendment I would like to draw your attention to something that happened to me this morning. I was actually at a Public Inquiry this morning with a number of my constituents and the lady next to me said, "Oh, you must lead a very exciting life, Councillor Carter." I said, "Actually no, I do not. This afternoon I am actually speaking on brown bins." She said, "Well actually that is very important, Councillor Carter. My brown bin is really important to me because I cannot lift sacks into the car any more, I have got a bad back, but I do enjoy gardening. I love to go in the garden, it de-stresses me, it helps my mental wellbeing." I said, "In that case I do do a very important and exciting job, don't I?"

Only yesterday I was passing one of the new developments in Farsley and I observed some fly tipping from one of the new developments, unfortunately on a piece of land that we are trying to make into an attractive community area. I am afraid this is what is going to happen in the new developments, we will be encouraging fly tipping.

We are not allowing people the opportunity to recycle and I think that is very sad. I do recognise the will of Councillor Yeadon. She is willing to look to the way forward.

There is a way forward. We could ask at the Planning Department to get developers to contribute. They could buy the brown bins and they could contribute for at least five years. That would at least be a start. It should not be beyond the wit of man or woman, but then it may be beyond the wit of the Planning Department to do this.

The Council preaches, the senior management team and the Chief Executive preaches one Council, but not all departments buy into that agenda, particularly the Planning Department. Anyone here who thinks that they do is living in la-la-land. I am just waiting for Councillor Gruen to pick up on that but he has not picked up on it. La-la-land.

COUNCILLOR: It won a lot of awards!

COUNCILLOR: I wouldn't bother, he's not listening.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Let us forget can't do and let's try some can do. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Amanda. Councillor Garthwaite, please.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: Chair, I am supporting the Labour amendment to the White Paper on brown bins. Councillor Yeadon has highlighted our commitment to the Green agenda. We constantly aim to find new ways to protect the environment. The Council wants to introduce more kerbside recycling where we can afford it and where it is appropriate but are year-round brown bin collections really appropriate? Many people do not generate garden waste over the winter. Also, we all know money is really limited and it is becoming more so. It is proposed that £1.6m needs to be taken from Refuse Collection Services. Is it really a good use of resources for wagons to drive all over Leeds, up and down icy roads, to collect perhaps one or two bins per street? I do not think so.

What we do need to do is liaise directly with residents, social enterprises, business and organisations to make the most of and enhance existing services. Now, recently I have been working with graphic design students and their tutor from Leeds Beckett University. They are creating ideas for a campaign to promote recycling to students. Many students unfortunately do not currently recycle. Their ideas are imaginative, eye-catching and exciting and supported by senior officers. Importantly, this campaign should cost the City Council very little because the university can tap into financial and in-kind support and we also plan to work with local residents' groups to implement some of the plans.

That is just one example of something we can do. Over the last few years recycling in Leeds has made leaps forward. Ten years ago rates were around 22% but by 2015 they were up 43%. This saw Leeds become the highest recycling Core City. We have slipped slightly but we aim for 50% by 2020. The Recycling and Energy Re-use Facility – the RERF – will ultimately deliver 10% of recycling and is now delivering real environment benefits, including zero waste to landfill and electricity generation.

Pilots of opt-in recycling have been introduced to 10,000 properties in Headingley – my ward – and Harehills and this is improving the quality of recycling and the local environment and, again, it is saving money on the misuse of green bins which was what was happening before.

There is a popular re-use shop at the East Leeds Household Waste site and another at Kirkstall is re-opening in March. These are really exciting developments. We are piloting incentive schemes in Morley and in tower blocks in the city centre to increase recycling even more.

Given the challenging Government cuts, our administration remains committed to sustaining the environment agenda as much as we possibly can and this is why I support the amendment. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Al. Councillor Robinson, please.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, my Lord Chair. *(laughter)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Not yet!

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: For many years in the Harewood ward I have been asked about bin collections by my residents. Can we have extra bin collections later in the year in November, even into December, and can they start earlier? Councillor Sobel quite rightly stated that there is climate change going on. Our climate is changing and it is right we look at brown bin services being extended because the climate is changing, because we are having longer warm spells, we are having longer wet spells, we are having longer cold spells and we do not know what will be around the corner.

I thought that what was being said by Councillor Golton was absolutely excellent, that the numbers that are stated in the Labour amendment, 62%, suggest that is 62% of properties. It does not suggest what sort of properties, if that is all properties in Leeds, if that is properties with brown bins, what sort of properties they are (flats, any others), so we need a lot more clarity on that before we could vote for that amendment but it fails to anticipate the 70,000 houses being built.

We heard from the Save Parlington group earlier. If the Labour Party in Leeds are suggesting that they are no longer in favour of the 70,000 housing target I fully welcome that and I encourage them to make those comments to the officers as well, because when we have 70,000 more houses coming to Leeds, who is going to be the person telling somebody buying their new home that they do not get a brown bin? Who is going to be the person that says to them, "By the way, what you thought you were signing up to is not quite the deal that is on the table."

I wonder what the alternatives are to not looking at 100% of properties that are wanting brown bins to have access to brown bins. The issue will force people to either look to fill their black bins, you will force people to either look to be taking their refuse to the tips themselves or to the recycle facilities themselves and, as we heard from Councillor Amanda Carter, many people just are not able to do that. Those sites are not adequately prepared to do that either.

The other option is fly tipping. I know from residents in my own ward who have been turned away from Council refuse facilities where brown bins have been overflowing that they actually were turned away by officers and turned away by the staff to be told "Sorry, you are a commercial provider, nobody else could produce that amount of brown bin waste, sorry, not today thanks."

We are not anticipating the detail that is coming forward and I think that actually what was said about a second-class service risks being right. We risk having one service for one group and one service for another in Leeds – a two tier Leeds that is on the agenda. We hear so much about one city, we hear so much across all departments about one city and actually it is not fair, it is not equitable and it is not right.

I heard Councillor Garthwaite saying about a possibility of a selective service where perhaps wards were opting in, but not all wards needed an extension. I will be the first here and now to express my desire to see a selective service extended into the Harewood ward. I am sure other Councillors want to stand up and say if they want a selective service. If Headingley does not that is fine, I have not got an issue with that. We have a referendum in Clifford that is coming up on the Neighbourhood Development Plan – perhaps we can attach something to have a referendum on brown

bins to see if those sites that are newly built in their area would like brown bins. I am offering lots of suggestions for you. *(interruption)*

Do you know what, you so enjoy talking about national issues and I have heard it said already today that these would be free. Actually people are paying Council Tax, they are paying for this service, Councillor Sobel, and they deserve a service. This is not about national issues; this is about what you deliver locally in charge of this Council. Stop blaming national issues, start taking account of the things that you are in charge of. Thank you, my Lord Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Chair. Matthew. I am going to allow Councillor Cleasby to make a one sentence comment. Can I just say, I will not allow you to go beyond that because the Whips do spend a lot of time ordering the agenda and this is outside the agenda. The floor is yours, Brian.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Chair. Council, we do fight but I do think praise goes to those who organise the app called Leeds Bins. It is brilliant. We should all use it, we should be encouraging our residents to use it and the changes that came into place at Christmas, Lord Mayor, they were there. Forgive me, Chair, and thank you very much. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Golton to sum up, please. There have been withdrawals, I am afraid. You are on next!

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for all those additions. Right, we start off, Councillor Downes. He introduced the term “postcode lottery”. This is a universal service. It is a very good point. People should not want to consider moving from one side of the city to another part of the city and have to take into account whether or not they are going to get the same level of service as they had in their previous property.

We do not want to have a two tier Leeds, as was mentioned by Councillor Robinson. He made a very good point there that actually this is not a national issue – yes, funding is being reduced desperately by Central Government. Is it fair? No, it is not. Do we want to transfer that injustice to our own voters and our own citizens? No, we should not. It is not really an excuse to say our money is coming in less from the Government when actually the income that is coming in from these particular residents is actually increasing. That is not an argument that will work.

There was a lot of talking about what engagement was happening from Councillor Garthwaite and Councillor Yeadon – “Oh, we are talking to so-and-so, we are engaging with so-and-so, they have got some really interesting ideas. It is unfortunately all talk. You need to do something, you need to implement. I have to feel sorry, I have to say at some point, not just for Councillor Yeadon but for her predecessor in that too often this service is treated as a Cinderella service and is not put in quite the same category for the Council’s strategic priorities as maybe Adults and Children’s is and unfortunately sometimes the income which is produced from this department tends to get used as a cash cow and spent elsewhere, which is where, of course, Councillor Anderson’s argument comes in about you invest for your future. The only reason why you have that £7m windfall in the incinerator is because the previous administration thought about the future and invested in it.

There are too many examples about how the Council is too keen, for a party that talks about being universal and making sure that everyone has free access and whatever and

the common man, you are quite good at actually differentiating between our own citizens here in the city.

Street lighting. You decided that for some people they did not need the street lights quite as much as their neighbour down the road. That was done at the same time as you had a £6m windfall from the lighting operator that does the PFI. Did you spend any of that £6m putting in LED lighting to save the same amount of money as you are getting from turning the things off? No, because you did not have that level of creativity. Unfortunately the same thing is happening with our recycling. You have £7m coming in each year, you are not putting any part of that aside to invest in the future and you end up simply just cutting services for the odd citizen here and there and then saying, "Oh, it is not our fault." You are in charge, you are the administration.

I have to say, food waste, this was another element where my new resident did not benefit and he had food waste in another part of the ward that he was in – moves into this bit, doesn't get it any more. I appreciate, Chair, that that is a service that not the rest of the city actually has. Not our fault. We were going to roll it out city wide. If we had done that perhaps we might have been able to produce the gas which is now being bought from this transport solution which is being organised with First Bus, they are going to have all these lovely new buses, a huge fleet and they are going to be much more environmentally friendly because they are going to be running on gas. That gas will be produced by the anaerobic digester that Yorkshire Water is building. We could have built that. We could have been producing that gas, we could have actually enjoyed that extra recycling performance from recycling our food waste, we could have been creating an income for ourselves. We could have, if we had imagination. Unfortunately, that administration over there does not have any as far as recycling is concerned and that is why we are going backwards, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Can we now proceed to the vote. The first vote is the amendment in the name of Councillor Yeadon. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

The second amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Anderson. *(A vote was taken)* That is LOST.

Can we move to the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Yeadon, then. *(A vote was taken)* Quite a few abstentions. That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 15 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – ADULT SOCIAL CARE FUNDING

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Can we go to the final White Paper of the evening, White Paper 15. Rebecca, can you move it?

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Chair. I am moving this White Paper to highlight the crisis that our social care and NHS system is in at the moment and how the Government is in chaos about these issues. We have heard already that the hospital, our hospital, is struggling to deal with the high number of people coming in the front door possibly, probably, as a result of six years of austerity and difficult service changes and benefit changes that people have had and they are struggling to discharge people to appropriate places, mainly elderly people and people with mental health issues.

Anecdotally we are hearing an increasing complexity of need at the front door and a lack of ability to manage conditions which otherwise would not escalate in the community.

Today I just want to highlight some things that Simon Stevens has said and it almost highlights the chaos going on in Government. Simon Stevens is the Chief Executive of NHS England who runs the STP, push that process. He said, "In 2018/19 in real terms NHS spending is going to go down, ten years after Lehman Brothers and austerity began." That was his entire quote. Should we be in this position all those years after the economic crisis has happened if austerity was necessary at all? He also said, "We cannot change ageing Britain. We are quite different from the criminal justice system." Clearly a swipe at Theresa May and her time in the Home Office.

He said, "NHS trails the rest of the EU for medics, beds and scanners." We all know and I think we all accept that we are in a crisis situation at the moment. The King's Fund, the Nuffield Trust and the Health Foundation have previously called on the Government to address the funding crisis, warning the social care system faces a £1.9bn gap in funding this year. In the Autumn Statement and in the Local Government settlement the Government did not announce any new money. We were waiting with bated breath. No mention of social care. Instead, they chose to increase the Adult Social Care Precept by an additional 1% in 2017/18 and the same for the year after that.

The reality is that these are measures which are already in place and the amount remains the same over the Spending Review period, providing little more than a sticking plaster over what is a really tricky and difficult issue.

These are really insulting measures that the Council is having to take. We have seen our grants reduce significantly but are also set to only raise £200m for social care obligations - £200m for a £1bn crisis.

The STP was an opportunity to broaden out funding across health and social care systems. It looks increasingly undermined by the NHS black holes. Funding needs to be taken through into controlled totals. It is fundamentally wrong, it is really wrong that the richest corporations in the country are given a huge tax cut by this Government and yet the burden of addressing the crisis is passed on to local residents in our city, and some of the most deprived areas of the country, and people who do not even pay Income Tax having to pay an increase in Council Tax is absolutely regressive and it is really wrong.

In Leeds, in spite of these cuts to local Government we have worked hard to invest in older people's services in the city. With the share of our budget increasing significantly since 2010 from just over £183m to £201m in 2016/17, our share has gone up to 41% of the Council budget.

In the initial budget proposals we have gone a step further and committed to increase the Council spend on Children's Services and Adult Social Care to 67% in 2017/18, which reflects our priorities around supporting the most vulnerable people in our city.

Chair, this is not only what older people in society need and deserve but this is also what future generations of older people need too. We know that we need to properly fund our system to cater for the increased demand we are going to see in the coming years, demand in more complex conditions and demand in simply numbers of people coming through.

This is a bigger issue than any one of us in this Chamber, bigger than any party or any Government and, Chair, we must find a solution together to this crisis. I move my White Paper. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Rebecca. Councillor Dawson, please.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Thank you, Chair. I would like to second the paper by Councillor Charlwood. The current crisis of funding for Adult Social Care is not a new issue, it is one that has been building for a long time. We live in a society where people are living longer and probably people are living ten years longer than they did 40 years ago.

Back in 2009 Andy Burnham, when he was Secretary of State for Health, recognised that this was an issue that would not go away. We had a White Paper then called Building a National Care Service. Cross-party talks were taking place and we are looking at an enduring solution that may have been a commitment to increased taxation and to pay individuals, people to pay a contribution towards care which would be then free at the point of use.

My view is that these cross-party talks were scuttled by Cameron-Osborne prior to the 2010 election. Again, it was David Cameron, tactics ahead of strategy. In 2010 the Coalition Government set up the Dilnot Commission, a comprehensive review which sought cross-party agreement on the funding of adult social care. Although we may have our own view on the outcome of Dilnot, it did ask the Government for an extra £1.7bn in funding. The Cameron-led Government response was initially to delay and then, in 2015 in their manifesto they promised to something from 2016, April 2016. That was abandoned two months after the election. The watered-down Dilnot proposals were abandoned and most people do not expect these ever to see the light of day.

The current Government response, as Councillor Charlwood said, is lamentable. The solution they put forward to the addressing of funding of adult social care is to put the burden on Council Taxpayers with possibly rises at about four times the rate of inflation.

Now let us look back at what the Conservative manifesto said in 2015. They had a section that was headed, "We will keep your Council Taxes low." In it it says, "We will help Local Authorities keep Council Tax low for hardworking taxpayers." Is this really helping to keep Council Tax low? Contrast this with their approach to Corporation Tax. There was no mention in the Conservative Party manifesto of any cut in Corporation Tax. When the Tories came to power in 2010 Corporation Tax stood at 28%. It is now down to 20% with talk of reducing it down to 17% by 2020. It will mean the marginal rate of tax for care workers and most people will actually be 3% more than Corporation Tax for large and small businesses.

Our resolution, unlike the various amendments, sets out directly a proposal to fund Adult Social Care. The other amendments just skirt around this, even though it is a tough issue. Abandoning the proposal to reduce Corporation Tax would save around £7.5bn over the next five years. It would fill that gap in adult care funding. Instead, this Government prefers to do nothing and any support for adult care is now haphazard and ends in a postcode lottery.

We are told by commentators that Theresa May is a more interventionist Prime Minister and that she believes the State should have a role in society. The actions to

date on adult care indicate to me that she has washed her hands of any involvement. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Neil. Councillor Golton to move an amendment, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Chair. Councillor Dawson was obviously brought on to talk about how marvellously the Labour Party has delivered on this issue compared to everybody else. I will just give you a little bit of a history lesson. There was something called the Blair Government and it came in in 1997. It set up a commitment to do a Royal Commission to conduct an inquiry into the growing care costs. It was called the Sutherland Commission. It reported its recommendations in 1999 and included the recommendation that the costs of caring for older people should be split between living costs, housing costs and personal care. Personal care should be free in all settings and paid for through general taxation.

Unfortunately during that rather long administration the Labour Party failed to implement the recommendations as they thought it would be too expensive. Sound familiar?

Then there was a Green Paper in 2005, the Wanless Report in 2006 and then, of course, there was that paper that you were talking about that Andy Burnham did in 2009. Unfortunately when he was talking about integrating health and care he was, I think, the Minister for Health at the time, wasn't he, and he proposed actually to take care away from Local Authorities, and actually centralise it within the NHS so that he would have more control over it. Not really the most progressive response to tackling costs in the health and care system and actually the concentration of integration between the two on a local setting is far more progressive and is one of the legacies of the Coalition Government.

To get back to the debate today, we have put an amendment in primarily because we wanted you to actually accept your own responsibility. It is not just about how much money is coming in, it is also about how you use that money. Undoubtedly it is a huge gap in the funding that is there and you are right to call on that. Whether or not it is right to talk about Corporation Tax is another matter.

The precept is a drop in the ocean and it is not even a sticking plaster. It does not even allow it to scab over. We will dismiss that one as well.

If we are going to tackle the funding gap it does need to be a multi-party consensus. It will need to be something which is separate, we will probably need to find some kind of independent funding mechanism. That is something that will happen in Westminster and it is good that we can send a message to Westminster to say this is what we want. It would be nice, actually, if we could get a consensus amongst our own MPs if they do turn up to Team Leeds, which the Leader convenes for benefit and sometimes they do not appreciate. Yes, we would like that kind of consensus from our own MPs.

Unfortunately more money is only a part of the solution to the problem which faces us. There was a King's Fund report recently – I actually read it, I have done my homework for once – and more funding was simply one of the priorities that it set there in terms of us tackling that care and health agenda. There were several others. One of them is about improving productivity and delivering better value. Traditionally we have done that by going to the private sector and saying, "Can you please provide more for the same amount of money as we are paying to our own services?" and

previously in the past the private sector has said, “Yes, OK”, and they have managed to do it. Unfortunately we have the law of diminishing returns. The living wage means that the private sector, especially since it is palming off dividends to its shareholders, is not able to deliver in the way that it did in the past and the Council is in a hole because it has relied on the private sector to provide the extra care housing that they are hoping will be the alternative to their withdrawal from the social care market. The private sector is not coming forward and that is why in a recent paper to the Executive Board we are selling off land that had been identified as appropriate for the private sector to provide that extra care housing.

It has failed. What is your solution for the future?

If we are talking about home care market, are we really showing leadership in shaping our own care environment in the city if we are relying on five multi-national or national organisations to deliver our home care market when the future talks about it being individually set and locally organised care? We need to have a look at this again. This White Paper adds nothing to achieving that. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Stewart. Councillor Campbell to second, please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: I second and reserve my right to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Colin. Councillor Finnigan to move a second amendment.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you, Chairman. The first thing you have got to do they always say is admit that you have a problem and sustainable Adult Social Care finance has been a problem for years and years, and all political parties have been in a state of denial about these particular challenges that we face.

We are in a situation where there has been a lack of political leadership and a lack of political courage. The Labour Party had 13 years to do something about that and chose not to. The Tories and the Liberals in their Coalition had five years to do something about it and chose not to. The present Government has had two years to do something about it and, to give them a bit of a pat on the back, the Social Care Levy is at least an attempt, a blunt instrument I accept but an attempt, to try and resolve the problems of creating a long-term sustainable solution to social care funding.

We have to look seriously at what options are open to us. The left will always say cut Corporation Tax and that will resolve everything and there are not any problems. There are many on the right who will say cut foreign aid and use that to try and do that, stop financing Ethiopian girl bands. The fact of the matter is ultimately, if we are going to get more money into the system, we have to increase the level of taxation. There, I have said it. I am a heretic. That is the honest discussion we are going to have to have with the British people and say you will have to pay more if you want an adequately funded social care scheme.

I suggest that we have that honest discussion with them and say this is a hypothecated tax. We will put 1% on your Income Tax, that will generate £5.5m and we are in a position that we will use that money entirely and utterly to support a sustainable Adult Social Care provision. That seems to me to be the honest and open way forward. I think that we need to have that discussion and we need to have that strong leadership and that needs cross-party support. Thank you, Mr Chairman. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Robert. Councillor Varley, please.

COUNCILLOR VARLEY: Thank you, Chair. I support Councillor Finnigan's amendment and I second it.

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Councillor Varley. Caroline Anderson to move a third amendment. Caroline, please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. In bringing this White Paper amendment I am seeking to get cross-party agreement where all parties can take part in constructive debate and that we can agree a way forward for the funding of Adult Social Care in this city. You will also note in my last paragraph I am calling on the Government to initiate cross-party talks to develop an agreed national long-term solution on social care funding.

The LGA has backed calls for the Prime Minister to urgently reach a cross-party agreement on health and social care funding and, interestingly, they feel the ongoing separation of health and social care funding is creating difficulties for individuals and avoidable barriers and inefficiencies and that any review should cover both systems.

I am not shying away from accepting that something needs to be done to find a solution in the shortfall of funding. It is frightening to think how much funding is required and will continue to be required as the population in this city ages and, if all our Council plans are put in place, ages well. However, the number of residents over 80 is going to grow and grow. We also have adults with learning disabilities and other special needs whose parents have been lifelong carers and they can no longer do that caring.

It is disappointing that the ruling administration here can only ever call for the Government to do more and fund more and use words like "unforgiveable" and "dismayed". They need to look at innovative solutions, finding more ways to make our funding go further. You are the party running this city. We are more than happy to work with you to find solutions but damning the Government time after time is not going to help anybody's situation.

The Government is putting more money into social care through the Better Care Fund and due to known immediate pressures in some areas, they are giving Local Authorities additional funding and flexibility and those areas will have £7.6bn in total dedicated to social care funding over four years.

As I have already said, money alone will not fix the problem. We need further reform. Delayed discharges from hospitals is a huge problem which obviously impacts on the NHS as well as our Adult Social Care service. Half of all delayed discharges from hospitals come from just 24 Local Authorities. Government is allowing flexibility by giving Councils access to increase the social care precept and can choose to raise it by 3% this year and next year, instead of 2% for the next three years. Whether you agree with that or not it is one option. Government has committed to the continuation of the Better Care Fund which received £5.3bn in 2015/16. That is not an insignificant amount. New funding is also being unlocked through the reform of the New Homes Bonus.

Can I remind Councillor Charlwood that in 2010 Labour were planning cuts to Local Authority budgets with plans to have cuts of £52bn by 2014/15 and Local Government was an unprotected department under Labour's plans. I would urge you to put aside party politics and confirm that you will work across all parties in this Chamber to find

a sustainable long-term solution for making the best possible use of the social care budget from funding awarded by Government and raised locally. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Caroline. Councillor Stephenson, please. Can we have a bit more order? There has been a lot of chattering going on over there while Caroline was speaking and it is not right, it is not fair. Please, for the next ten minutes, Councillor Stephenson, please.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Chair. Congratulations to Councillor Anderson on her new position on these Benches and also for taking what was a highly partisan White Paper by the administration and turning it into something more sensible and balanced on an issue that is deeply important and sensitive at the same time.

There is agreement that there is need for further reform and a solution to the funding pressures. The problem is not one single cause, however, and neither will there be one single solution. We have a rising elderly population, a 37% rise in those over 85 since 1997. There is a financial pressure, £2.9m to implement the National Living Wage within this directorate.

Councillor Dawson noted quite rightly that this is not a new issue. Funding has lagged behind in Adult Social Care and that equivalent in the NHS for a number of years, including every year of the last Labour Government as well. It is a pressure that has been slowly building and it is right that we have attention on this today. I do not think anybody would argue against that point.

However, I am sure it is no coincidence that this White Paper today is almost identical to an Opposition day debate happening from the Labour Party in Parliament. One cannot help but feel a bit sorry for the Executive Member. Imagine the scene if you will, fresh from embarrassment over the handling of the Green fiasco, no doubt eager to curry favour amongst her colleagues, you might have taken a phone call from Labour HQ telling you that you must come forward and argue for a rise in Corporation Tax. I do not know if the Executive Member was present in her economic classes at school, I suspect not, but if she was then she would have known at this point that to realise this suggestion goes against every single model in capitalist economic systems.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: We are not capitalists.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Economies demonstrate over and over that beyond a certain point people and businesses respond to higher taxes by working less, producing less or even employing less. Learned Members of this Chamber will know this is personified in supply-side economics as the Laffer curve. It is something Members opposite might want to go away and have a look at. I managed to find my old university lecture papers, I can tell you exactly. Tax rate reductions will always result in a smaller loss in revenues than one would have expected when relying on the static estimates of the previous tax base. Basically, to make it easier for you, lower Corporation Tax rates attract fewer businesses to the UK, create fewer jobs, they do not increase productivity and, crucially, they generate less tax revenue.

At least investors in this country today will know what they will get from a future Labour Government, punitive tax rate rises and income cap. Yes, senior officers in this Council, their eyes will be watering at the thought of an income cap. They are the fat cats no less, the one per cent. The Shadow Business Secretary today said, "Public good, private bad. That is what we think in Labour." The problem is, the public sector services do not pay tax, they are paid for by taxation.

We do need a sensible conversation about how we fund Adult Social Care in this country. Bringing forward frankly lunacy in economic theory will not help that situation. Let us look at tax avoidance – let us look at tax avoidance closer to home. Of the 418 Local Authorities across the UK it is estimated a total of £1bn in uncollected Council Tax and business rates. I am sure every Member of this Council would agree, everybody in the city should pay their Council Tax. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Truswell, please.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Thank you, Chair. This Government has turned the long-standing problem of social care into what the Red Cross now calls, rightly, a humanitarian crisis. The Tory amendment is the equivalent of keeping social care on a trolley in A&E while it bleeds to death. We need money now, we need action now; talk can come later.

The Lib Dems might enjoy a bit more credibility on issues like social care and brown bins if they had not spent twelve years brown nosing the Tories, first at local level and then nationally, and the Morley Borough Independents, or Torypendents as we might have them, having helped to deliver a Tory Government majority, now bemoan the entirely predictable consequences of their folly.

The LGA estimates Adult Social Care faces a £2.6bn funding gap. That is £1.3bn needed immediately to stabilise service and another £1.3bn by 2020 to address the additional pressures of an ageing population, inflation and paying for the national living wage.

I will leave this bit out, it has already been covered by everybody else. What is this Government's response? That is the difference between us. It is to say "Crisis? What crisis?" and to perform cynical conjuring tricks with funding streams. The Government's decision to bring forward an increase in Council Tax precept for two years, though welcome, as Becky said, is a mere sticking plaster. That increase, of course, varies throughout the county and is totally unrelated to need.

This duplicitous Government, Chair, has trumpeted its wheeze of diverting £241m of New Homes Bonus into social care. Let's look at it. Leeds will receive £3.3m of this so-called Adult Social Care support grant but will lose £3.1m in New Homes Bonus, a net gain of £200,000. Peanuts, Chair, peanuts.

It is not the only piece of Tory sleight of hand from which we are suffering. Caroline, do your homework. Look at the Better Care Fund. It is not real money, it is taking money from one pot of the NHS and simply moving into cost to Local Authorities and double counting it at the same time.

In the face of the massive Government grant cuts that we face in this Authority and up and down the country, we have been using, as again Becky said, public health funding to shore up our Neighbourhood Networks which Labour started, Labour developed and, as Peter quite rightly said, you face with the threat of cuts during your incumbency as a motley coalition. *(laughter)*

This Government transferred public health from the relative protection, the so-called protection of the NHS budget to Local Authorities. Now in a despicable act of cynicism they have slashed that funding as part of their continuing vendetta against Local Government.

Social care is about a much broader debate. Let us never forget that GPs are an absolutely vital cornerstone of social care, yet one in three GP surgeries are reporting long-term vacancies, yet the Government is expecting them to open for longer hours and to treat more patients currently attending A&E, and to treat more patients in their homes or in nursing or residential homes. It literally is a sick joke.

Meanwhile, we have the secretive Sustainability and Transformation Plans. They are based on cuts that will remove a £2.4bn NHS deficit within two years. Eye watering. They are based on achieving impossible efficiency savings of £20bn and totally fantasy regarding what GP care and public health which, remember, you are cutting, can achieve in future.

COUNCILLOR: Red light.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: If you must display your bleeding hearts on this subject, go and bleed in Downing Street, Westminster and Whitehall where it might possibly do some good, though I doubt it. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Councillor Campbell, do you wish to speak? You do not have to. It is Councillor Blackburn first and then you have that choice.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: I thought you had gone wrong there, Chair! Thank you. I am speaking because my husband is ill at the moment so I am speaking instead of him but his name was down there.

Anyway, the thing is that yes, there are bits of Councillor Charlwood's White Paper I like, there is quite a lot of the Lib Dem amendment that I like. Before I start I would say that harking back to Neighbourhood Networks and the fact that, as you know, I wanted to keep my local home for Alzheimer's people and the day centre open in Armley but also all the others as well. Funnily enough a senior officer said to me at the time, "Well, do you want to keep them open or do you want to lose some money from Neighbourhood Networks?" Funny, isn't it, but now it seems as if we are going to lose both.

Anyway, the thing is I like the bit of Councillor Charlwood's White Paper that said that we should initiate cross-party talks. I can only think good things can come out of cross-party talks on this or anything else but I do like Councillor Golton's amendment where he says, "Council believes that the care funding crisis and instability of the private care sector mean that the current Council policy to transfer all Leeds residential care provision to the private sector is misguided and puts residents at risk."

Hurray to that! I totally agree with him so really, if I had my way, I would like to see that added to Councillor Charlwood's White Paper and also the bit at the end, the second paragraph after that.

That is where we will be going on these and I can assure you whenever I get any opportunity to shout out what a fantastic job The Green and all the others are doing, even now when you have decided to close them, I will be doing. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Ann. Councillor Campbell please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chair. Encouraged by your apparent enthusiasm I will say a few words. Can I first of all say thank you to Councillor

Stephenson because it is always nice to allow the Council Chamber to have a nice dogmatic political knock-about regarding taxation. I was saying to my colleague here, it takes me back to the good old days of Mrs Thatcher when this was a sort of regular feature of Council meetings and the various sides would get up and expound their political points of view and taxation would be raised, or lack of taxation, or raising income tax or lowering income tax and we had a pleasant afternoon of debate and, as this afternoon actually, it alleviates the problem of actually having to discuss what is on the White Paper resolution.

I could extend that thanks to Councillor Truswell because that was the sort of speech, his reference to what we should be doing at Westminster. Well, some of us remember when Councillor Truswell was in Westminster and used to make speeches very like that in Westminster and was about as effective in Westminster as he is here.
(laughter)

Let's just pull it back. I think the problem is that Councillor Charlwood, in the end within her I suppose pressure to knock the Government there is a grain of truth, a grain of concern that we all have and that, as I have said earlier this afternoon...

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Only a grain? Is that all you agree with, only a grain?

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: The point is that some of us want to try and do something about it, unlike you who just wants to shout at me.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: That is a poor reflection, Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: That is not unusual in your case, as we all know. There is a grain of truth in what she wants to say in that we want to deal with this particular issue.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: You are walking on thin ice, Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: It is always nice to be heckled by somebody who does not know much about what they are talking about! We can all do it!

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Takes one to know one.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: As I have said earlier, we really do need to face the fact that Adult Social Care is the time bomb ticking away, we do need to get this combined view. We have not got that this afternoon because, quite frankly, Councillor Charlwood, though you have got some good ideas and you are doing your best, I do not doubt that for a moment, we have to have an attack on the Government, you have to defend the Government, Stewart has to have a go at both of you, I have to have a go at both of you, it is as simple as that.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: No you don't, Colin.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: The bottom line is that it does absolutely nothing to help social care and therefore I think it is fair to say that Councillor Golton's amendment, which actually is quite specific about a policy that you have got in relation to Adult Social Care, and actually is a policy that we think is detrimental to Adult Social Care and so actually I think you really should be addressing the points he was making because that is affecting old people, not this knock about. Thank you, Chair. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Colin. Councillor Charlwood to sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Chair. A very interesting debate, thank you for everyone's input and contribution, very passionate from many areas.

I can tell you I think one thing that we know for certain is what the people of this city do not need is a Coalition Government or a Tory Government but even a Coalition Government, because over that period of time I am just going to let you know what happened to social care funding.

Spending on Adult Social Care dropped 8% in real terms under the Coalition Government. Research by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services found that £4.6bn worth of social care funding, a gap opened up between 2010 and 2015. A total of £17.2bn was spent on Adult Social Care in 2014/15 the Health and Social Care Information Centre data shows, which marks a reduction of 1% in real terms from the previous year and an 8% drop from 2009 to 2010, the year before the Coalition entered Government. There is no record on that side of the Chamber to say anything, really, about what either we are doing or what the previous Labour Government did because it is clear you plundered not only Local Government but social care funding as well.

I do welcome Councillor Golton's comments in many ways and he mentioned home care. One thing we have got control over is what we commission. We commissioned home care. All of the commission providers on the Home Care Framework contract have to be good, have to be rated as "Good" by CQC and we are really proud of that. We also signed the Ethical Care Charter so that the people who work in home care get paid a decent wage, get paid travel time, over £8 an hour, get their travel time in their conditions, annual leave, their uniforms and all of those sorts of things. That is the kind of thing this Labour administration does, even in difficult times.

We can still criticise the Government for the funding environment that we are in, especially when they are in such chaos as they are at the moment.

Councillor Anderson, I agree with you, cross-party agreement is needed but top civil servants and Government falling out in spades, you do not want to look at your national Government. You say don't talk about national Government, why don't you just talk about what you are doing. It is a huge part of our funding framework, our policy framework is what happens in national Government and it is a mess. You have to admit that, you have to say look, nobody has said "I am really proud of my Government and what they are doing", have you? I think you have to really own up to that.

We are not simply blaming the Government. We have actually really creatively reshaped and said we want to reshape our services for the future to be sustainable and to provide beds for people in hospital. You have opposed that. We are trying to say let's have community intermediate care beds on this side of the Chamber and you have opposed what we are trying to do saying we should not be closing these are homes and reshaping them for what we want to do, and that is outrageous as well because that is the situation we are finding ourselves in.

You talk about cuts from the Labour Government. Well, I know that if we were still in Government there would have been a lot more growth than we have had over the last six years of austerity. (*interruption*) You can say that but you have had a flat line economy at which the people at the top have earned a lot more and people at the bottom have seen no rise whatsoever. That is the truth.

COUNCILLOR: Now who's in la-la-land.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Councillor Stephenson, you say about economics. Actually I did a Masters in economics and I got a First in macroeconomics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, so thanks for the lesson on that. *(laughter)* What it taught me was that austerity does not work, it was discredited in the 1980s when the IMF tried to use it in African countries that were struggling with their balance of payments. Austerity does not work, absolutely not, because it costs more to the system in the long run. I know that for certain and it is exactly why we are in the situation we are in.

You talk about punitive taxes. How much more punitive is an increase in Council Tax to the poorest people in this city? Absolute disgrace. I move the White Paper, thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Thank you, Rebecca. Can we now move to the vote, please. First of all the amendment in the name of Councillor Golton. *(A vote was taken)* That is LOST.

The second amendment in the name of Councillor Finnigan. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly LOST too.

The third amendment in the name of Councillor Caroline Anderson. A recorded vote.

*(A recorded vote was held on the amendment in the name of
Councillor C Anderson)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: There are 85 Members present and voting, 26 "Yes", no abstentions and 59 "No", so that amendment is LOST.

Can we go to the motion? Another recorded vote.

*(A recorded vote was held on the substantive motion in the name of
Councillor Charlwood)*

THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL: We have a result. We have 83 voting, two Members have decided not to vote. It is 60 "Yes", 6 abstentions and 16 "No", which means the motion is CARRIED. *(Applause)*

It is my delightful duty to inform you that that concludes the meeting. Safe journey home, folks.

(The meeting closed at 7.22pm)