

**COUNCIL VERBATIM**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

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**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC HALL,  
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR  
(COUNCILLOR G LATTY)

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Auto-transcribed from Webcast

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon. Right, obviously it is not a good afternoon. So welcome to Council and I have to remind you as always that the meeting is webcast and I suppose that's important today because we've not got somebody here writing down every word. I'm not sure what happens but anyway ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: So announcements what have we got. I am able to tell you that Councillor Eileen Taylor has been confirmed as the Lord Mayor elect for 2019 to 2020. Eileen will be the 126th Lord Mayor when she takes office at the Annual Meeting on the 23rd of May, so let's congratulate her. (Applause). Right, then we've got people who've been honoured in the New Year's Honours list and we have Richard West who has been awarded the Companion of Honour of the Order of Bath for public service and CBE's have been awarded to Robert Heslett for services to access to justice for litigants in person. That's a mouthful and Duncan Jacques for services to Education. Professor Simon Kay has been awarded an OBE for services to complex reconstructive hand surgery including hand transplantation. Actually some of you might remember me appearing once with a construction on my hand a few years ago it was he who sorted that out and the Deputy Director of Children and Families, Saleem Tariq, he's been awarded an OBE for services to Children's Services in Leeds and unfortunately he's not here but let's give him a cheer. (Applause). And finally we've got MBE's who have been awarded to Rifhat Malik for services to muslim women and to charity, Kim Moloney for services to gypsies and travellers, Clare O'Hara for services to canoeing and Stefanie Stead for services to architecture and the construction industry. And then we have the downside, rather sad to announce that Honorary Alderman Peter Sparling MBE passed away last week. Peter was a Conservative councillor from 68 to 87 and during that time he was Leader of the Council between 79 and 80 and I think all members would want to express their support and sympathy for Peter's family and perhaps you'd like to stand for a minute in silent memory.

*(Silent tribute)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

THE LORD MAYOR: So Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I'd like to move that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of November be approved.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we please have a vote. (A vote was taken). In that case it's carried.

## ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Right does any members have a disclosable pecuniary interests. If you have speak now or forever hold your peace.

## ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Right Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I got no communications Lord Mayor.

## ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now we come to deputations. There is one deputation from the Leeds Parks and Green Space Forum. Sorry Chief Executive, Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: To move that the deputations be received.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen. I just got told off for not standing up properly last time. (Laughter). I second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. So let the deputation be heard.

So good afternoon and welcome to today's Council. Please when you make your speech, which must be no more than 5 minutes, would you begin by introducing yourself and your colleagues please.

MS KITCHING: Thank you. Good afternoon Lord Mayor and members of Council. I'm Linda Kitching Chair of Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum, here with me, colleagues Vivian Bates, Frances Jones and Debbie Whittaker representing volunteer groups from across Leeds. In five minutes I'd like to tell you about the forum and our hopes for green space in Leeds. The forum was set up in 2012 as an outcome of the 2009 Leeds Parks and Green Spaces strategy. It's an independent umbrella group currently with 90 members consisting of friends of and in bloom groups, residents' associations, parish councils, environmental charities and two of our universities representing over 5,000 volunteer residents. We care about our sites, work to have them looking good and safe, encourage people to visit. We research their history and wildlife, lead walks, fundraise, host events and generally speak up for them. Membership is growing we welcome new members and it's free. If there's a park, woodland or cemetery in your ward with no friends group and you can identify a few people who are interested in the site we can help them to set up as a friends group. This in turn offers community cohesion around a common cause and helps to support Parks and Countryside Service. We are happy to come along to provide advice and support. I've left some leaflets on the desk outside. This is what they look like. Four times a year we come together as the forum to learn from each other hear from Senior Parks Officers and listen to speakers on topics of mutual interest. We affiliate with the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces and with Leeds Civic Trust. Over recent years you'll be aware there's been growing concern nationally

about the state of parks and whether they would exist into the future. In 2016 the University of Leeds conducted widespread research and produced the future prospects of urban public parks. This fed into the national debate resulting in the All Party Parliamentary Group for Parks subsequent white paper and resulting actions although falling short of recommending statutory funding. We appreciate that council budgets are tight and there are examples nationally of Parks been sold off, playgrounds closed and locked, flowerbeds grassed or concreted over. We believe there's something about working smarter not harder and we are appreciative that in Leeds Councillors voted to invest in the park service supporting various initiatives including the Arium and Plant Nursery, Leeds North West Country Park, Go Ape, the City Park, the revamp of the Bird Garden at Lotherton Hall and the recent application to the future parks accelerator fund with its heritage theme. The Leeds Parks fund is another major investment an innovative example set up to complement the work of the Council by encouraging charitable giving and along with Leeds Community Foundation the forum is a main partner in promoting that. So what's important about green space, well there's much evidence telling us it's good for our health and wellbeing and it's a topic the forum has been working with from the beginning. Leeds Director of Public Health, Dr Ian Cameron, has spoken to us about how his team is working across Council departments and with businesses in the city. You'll be aware of his award winning Annual Report 2014/15 planning for a healthy city and his team's work with GPs to consider issuing green prescriptions much in the news during Mental Health Awareness week last October. One journalist wrote that week that parks are our natural health service researched by the University of Exeter on behalf of DEFRA published in July 18 models the use of parks and green spaces and reveals for Leeds a headline figure of overall welfare benefit of £91m a year. The model is endorsed by the Treasury, so the link with health and green space is on the national agenda especially around young people and social isolation and the issues are not going to go away but in order for those green prescriptions to be effective we need attractive and safe green spaces and green corridors. Councillors if we want a healthy city to live, play and grow old in whichever portfolio you have green space will come into the equation be it culture, tourism, development ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you just cut to the end please.

MS KITCHING: Yes. With our schools, colleges and universities if they have healthy students leading to companies including the Council having a healthy workforce it's ultimately good for our city's economy. The Forum volunteers will continue to do their bit please include green space whenever you can and keep investing. There's so much more to say on this and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further. Thank you for listening.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I'd like to move that the matter referred to the Director of Communities and Environment for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right in that case we'll now vote on this. (A vote was taken). Right well that's carried Linda, thank you very much for coming today officers from the department that deals with these matters will be in contact with you as soon as is possible. Thank you for coming. Cheerio.

(Applause)

#### ITEM 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – SHORT NOTICE DECISIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor can I move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. I just want to comment briefly on the recommendations from General Purposes Committee and members will recall that a decision was taken last year at short notice and which I had to be involved in as Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board which has resulted in some changes to the constitution. I think the first thing to highlight after Children's Services Scrutiny Board looked at this and the Audit Committee's looked at this. It is actually some quite welcome reassurances for us all that while it was very clear a mistake was made the first reassurances it was exactly that, it was a mistake, it was a cock up not a conspiracy and the actions that happened following that from both politicians and officers actually I think show this Council in a good light that once a big mistake of that scale had been made nobody tried to cover it up nobody tried to hide what they'd done they just tried to get the right outcome as quick as possible in this case for some of the most vulnerable children in the region and people were open then to being challenged to questions being asked and to see what lessons could be learned and you think there are many organisations and I suspect some councils where efforts would have been made to sweep it under the carpet and I think it's to all of our credits that in this case that didn't happen so I'd like to thank the politicians in the administration, the officers who came before our Scrutiny Board and also came before the General Purposes Committee and the Audit Committee and the appropriate changes that have been made to the constitution as a result I think as I say it shows us in a good light. One slight issue I'd just like to highlight because I think what this shows is while across this Chamber we may have many issues with policy and procedure and process I think, certainly from my side, and I suspect from most there's no issues about anyone's integrity here and I'm quite satisfied in the administration and across all parties that people come here to do the best that they can and behave in the best possible manner but when you look around the world and certain people have been elected in certain places and the chaos and confusion that reigns in Westminster who knows what sort of people might be elected here in future. We have a duty, we have a duty Lord Mayor, mentioning no names but we have a duty Lord Mayor to make sure that our constitution is future-proofed and I suspect we need a few of us to come together across party and there are one or two things I didn't come here to look at constitutions and and things like that but there are

potential opportunities that someone who was so minded to could abuse our constitution to make decisions in a way that, I don't suspect anyone here would, but we need to make sure we protect that in the future. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm not sure if Councillor Lamb has got something he would like to inform us of after the meeting. Can I just respond to his comments and I would like to put on record as well my thanks to the members of the Scrutiny Committee, the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Audit, Councillor Ritchie and all of your members on your committee I think you've put a great deal of effort into the detailed considerations of the options that were highlighted and from the event that occurred last summer. I have to say we changed our constitution dramatically of course as a result of modernisation in 2000 and this is the only incident that has happened in all that time in 18 years so perhaps for a discussion elsewhere but having a constitution can be useful, perhaps others might learn but I do want to say that were not complacent I do want to repeat Councillor Mulherin's assurance that throughout this no children were put at risk at all from what was actually an administrative error but you know we are very proud of our reputation as being open and transparent we continue to be a learning organisation and I believe the way we've handled this reflected well on us as an organisation as a whole. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll take a vote, now. (A vote was taken). That's carried.

#### ITEM 6 – REPORT ON THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES TAX BASES FOR 2019/20

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis, Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor I move in terms of the notice.

. THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson, Dowson. Sorry.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you. Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll take a vote on that please. (A vote was taken). That is carried.

#### ITEM 7 – QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move into questions, we have 30 minutes for questions. Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. When the Government's High Streets Minister is suggesting that parking in towns should be free to attract shoppers into their high streets can the Executive Board Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning tell me why Leeds City Council is planning to

introduce parking charges in 3 district centres, one of which is in my ward.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis please.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you for the question, I hope your colleague is soon back in full health, as he should be asking it.

Governments High Street Minister suggested that town centres should offer an hour's free parking. He's also cited the best example is offering two hours' free parking. In Leeds the overwhelming majority of our district centres offer free parking which far exceeds what the High Streets Minister would consider as best practice. Regrettably as a consequence of significant budget reductions from Government, authorities have to balance their budgets and find new ways of saving money or increasing income. The changes proposed to add to those district car parks in Leeds where charges are already in place are being carefully considered taking into account the number of spaces available in a particular town, the demand for parking in the area, any challenges regarding displacement and importantly the availability of other free council parking alternatives nearby. The changes proposed are minimal and still result in those towns affected having free Local Authority car parking which far exceeds the minister's suggestions.

The Minister's comments in July 2018 came before the autumn budget but unfortunately the announcement did not include specific additional funding to cover the suggestion. No further action or support has been forthcoming. The Portas review commissioned by the Government in 2011 does call for free parking but as with almost all suggestions in that report they were ignored by Government.

The Timpson report the most recent report commissioned by Government did not actually call for free parking but instead recognises the importance of customer turnover and the flow of cars on short term parking spots to support its accessibility to local businesses encouraging footfall and attracting customers to town centres and high streets.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Yes please Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member please reassure us that should the evidence and the result of the consultation that will take place shows no support for the proposed parking charges that you would then be prepared to reverse the recommendation.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: My colleague, particularly my namesake will have a budget to prepare and it is our budget and the fact that there is no low hanging fruit to be plucked at this stage nine years into austerity that dictates what will be done in the budget. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Exec Member for Health Wellbeing and Adults inform Council what she is doing to improve the standard of

care for residents of the 28 care homes in Leeds deemed to require improvement by CQC.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. Actually thank you Councillor Lay for the question. We are really proud of the work we've done, we spoke about this yesterday at Scrutiny Board. Over the last two years and I've been in post, you know, for just over that amount of time we've taken some really focused work on our care homes in the city and actually we've seen huge improvements of the number that are good and outstanding and we're really celebrating that. There are currently 32 homes rated as requires improvement 25 of these are older people's care homes and the remaining 7 meet the needs of working age adults in the city. This is around about 20% of the services in the city which requires improvement. 3 homes now rated as requires improvement were previously rated as inadequate which is an improvement, obviously and good. Of the 25 older people's care homes rated as requires improvement 12 have had ratings of good in 3 or more of the 5 inspection domains which are safe effective caring responsive and well led and therefore it's possible for them to obtain a good rating at their next inspection, we raised this yesterday that the banding of required improvement is actually very broad and if there are domains within it which have good as part of them you can see some are good caring institutions that have failing management for example that require improvement but they're actually OK homes so that is good. Only 3 homes have a required improvement rating across all 5 inspection domains. All providers in the city that require improvement are independent sector providers and therefore have got the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the quality of their services is maintained but we do an awful lot with them to help them to get up to good and as I said at the beginning we've raised the quality of care in the city and independent sector a huge amount in the last couple years. We've put a huge amount of investment into this which includes the development of a care quality team whose remit is to assist care homes private in the private sector to improve and maintain the quality of services provided to residents. This acts as a critical friend to home managers offering advice and guidance to enable those managers to provide high quality services to residents.

It isn't just inspection and contract management it is going in and working alongside managers and staff to help them to embed good practice. This Council voted through the funding for that to happen in the last couple of years and it has seen huge results. The Adults and Health Organisational Development Team have developed an Adult Social Care Centre of Excellence with a particular focus on the leadership and management skills of registered managers because we know that when a registered manager of an institution leaves, that is a risk factor if that was a good manager for a new manager to come in and they need support and guidance and peer support and organisational development to help them to be good as well so that has been funded by this Council too. Adults and Health also offer a quality premium fee to those providers whose old people's care homes who can demonstrate that they are able to provide high quality services to their residents through initiatives which may include community engagement, engagement in development of managers and staff and the use of innovative technologies and adaptive equipment. We also as a department, as a large department there's a huge amount of work going on we risk assess which homes are a priority to work with. Contract monitoring staff regularly undertake visits at all homes and monitor progress against the homes improvement plan. All the care homes which are currently rated requires

improvement are on the Adults and Health routine monitoring schedule and additionally the care quality team is actively working with 12 of these homes with 6 of them having intensive involvement by the team. We know that approach has yielded benefits and has a positive impact. We've seen over the past year the number of all CQC registered providers are rated good or above moving from 64 percent to 78 percent and also Leeds has 2 care homes now Pennington Court and Dolphin Lane rated as outstanding and we've worked with the sector to help drive up that improvement so we want a culture of excellence not just dealing with the poorer practice at the bottom end but raising the outstanding level in the city to help all providers. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Supplementary Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you for that very thorough response. Can I ask, further ask, does she now regret her predecessor's decision to close Council care homes and place the Council's faith in the private sector and will she now commit to keeping open the remaining council homes. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you. Well we did wonder where you were going to go with the supplementary question I did wonder whether you might raise those issues and that's fair enough. I think we have a good story to tell on the journey we've been on over the last few years. We have had to, because of national Government funding cuts and uncertainty with our funding and we also we need to modernise our practice. We have had to close some in-house care homes and change the way we work but I think also we need to recognise that exceptional services that have become deliverable as a result of those closures and they need the recovery hubs. We've changed the way we work to be more strength based and he knows this very well that we support people to remain at home for as long as possible and we need therefore to fund and invest in our recovery services so that the estate that we had, needed to be repurposed into recovery hubs and also to invest in our home care and our reablement services at home and we found that 60 percent of people who go into our recovery hubs which are older and in house residential care services now turned into, namely The Green and others that are about to become an extra care service as well are a modern service that allows people to have independence and to retain their health and their wellbeing in a more able way than living in a residential care home which perhaps doesn't see as much rehab going on and as much you know recovery happen. So I think we're very very proud of that work in fact given the financial restraints we've had of the last few years were extremely proud of that it's a real achievement. Councillor Golton has asked me if we can give some certainty about the remaining in house care homes and what I've said to him both verbally and on the record and in writing which I responded to him the other day about was that we have no plans to change any more of our internal care homes. The problem we have at giving any long term certainty over that is that we are subject to national Government funding and we cannot therefore say "no matter what we will not change our in house services" but we have no plans to change them and indeed we are really proud of the of the breadth of in house services that we have and that includes our residential care services.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce

Councillor BRUCE: Could the Executive Board Member update on progress made following recommendations made by the Outer South Community Committee, which I chair, about its Sugar Hill Close and Wordsworth Drive community which is under threat of demolition of their homes.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Bruce for asking this question and also thank you for inviting me out to the estate itself to meet with local residents on a number of occasions. It was a delight to meet your local residents and speak with them about the position they find themselves in. So I am concerned with the position that residents of Sugar Hill find themselves in and Councillor Lewis and I are engaged with them to help get the best outcome. When I last met with residents recently in their homes we agreed that we would meet again following the planning decision when we would be clear about permission for the development. It remains my understanding that the company intends to proceed to planning and it would be wrong to prejudge the outcome of that process here. I understand that the Planning Committee is likely to hear the application in February. We have however been working with the owner to ensure that in the event of permission being agreed that interests of the long term residents are best protected. The Council has encouraged the owners to work with Housing Associations, a number of which have now expressed interest. It has been established that the secure tenants will be allocated homes on the site if development proceeds and that a further 11 homes as a minimum will be provided as affordable homes with preference given to those who currently live on the estate. It is to be hoped therefore that the vast majority of those who have lived for a long time on the estate will be accommodated there. The company is also coming forward with a plan which develops the site on an incremental basis which should assist with any unnecessary moves. The Council will also offer advice to those who are unable to remain on site if redevelopment proceeds. I'd like to make the point that we have been there from the start with the residents to support them. There is nothing to prevent the company disposing to whom it wishes and it can be assumed that the company will want market value and a compulsory purchase order is the absolute last resort that would be considered.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Just to say thank you to Councillor Coupar you know for coming out and listening to residents, the ongoing communication we've had, the ongoing meetings about this and I'm sure it will continue ...

THE LORD MAYOR: This is not a question Councillor Bruce.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Yes.

THE LORD MAYOR: It's a speech.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Can you give a guarantee that those meetings will continue whatever the outcome of the planning.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce shut up.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Thanks.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

(inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: That wasn't a question.

(inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: I must have missed the very end of it. Then in that case Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor and I would like to reassure Councillor Bruce and the other members, Ward members of Rothwell that I will of course continue to support the local residents of the Sugar Hill Estate and work together with all 3 members to ensure that we work together to get the best result we can for the residents on that estate and please be reassured that I'll continue to do that

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Will the Exec Member for Communities commit to working cross party with both local and other concerned members to consider a CPO or an offer to acquire 70 properties in Oulton from Pemberstone's, commonly known as the Coal Board Estate, with a view to allowing the existing residents to remain in residency in their homes as council tenants.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: I think the supplementary that I just answered gave the assurance that I am prepared to work with local ward Members on this issue who represent that area and I also think that there's been somewhat of a crossover of questions and I've already answered your question under Councillor Bruce's question number 3 so I refer you to that answer Councillor Dobson.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Yes thank you. Would the Exec Members agree with me that many of us are being lobbied on this every day and I think there is probably strength in number in looking at this as a Council we are all ward Members who look after our areas but clearly there's several people in imminent danger of being displaced from their homes so first question would she agree that there is a role for maybe some cross party communication and secondly in terms of the CPO I understand, I had the hellish job once trying to put one through Parks and Countryside. The horrible long winded process but we're not actually ruling that out at

that stage.

(Inaudible)

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Bear with me there is a question. Thank you everybody. We're not actually ruling that out at this stage and for any confusion over there that finishes with a question mark.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you again Lord Mayor for that so Councillor Dobson just to clarify our position once the company knows its position on planning it will evaluate the value of the site. The council is highly unlikely to have grounds to take over those properties as I'm sure Councillor Dobson just alluded to.

I do not propose to set up a working group which is suggested. The future living arrangements of people are at stake and it serves no purpose to offer unrealistic solutions to them. As previously mentioned, one of these been the Compulsory Purchase Order, to tell our residents that this is even a consideration is unfair. Secure tenants will be allocated homes on site if development proceeds and a further 11 homes as a minimum will be provided as affordable homes. As a Council we should await the outcome of the planning process and in the light of that outcome continue to work with the developer to achieve the best possible results for those tenants affected. I'd also like to say to encourage the belief that the Council has grounds to CPO the properties is to provide false hope to those affected and its playing politics with the lives of these residents.

Any decision to intervene by the Council would then be in the context of offering a price to purchase which would be equivalent to the value to be available for the sale of the land to developers who will build mainly for sale plus the cost of refurbishing the properties. It's highly unlikely that the Council would consider this to represent good value even with the reforms to the HRA. Beyond the issue of value the council asked to consider the adequacy of the refurbished properties and the life of the properties given some of the defects in design. The answer to all these questions is likely to be negative but of course as I have already stated I will continue to work closely with the Members representing that area and together with the residents to ensure the best outcome for those residents. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Children and Families please update Council on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection.

(Cheers and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Venner. I'm sure Members around the Chamber are well aware that the Council was subjected to a full unannounced inspection of Children's Services across the city in the Autumn. Since the city's inadequate rating in 2009/10 Leeds has been on a very

significant improvement journey for our Children's Services and I'm delighted to inform the Council that this has resulted in Leeds being found to be outstanding for Children and Family services. (Applause). The inspection was conducted under the new ILAX framework. It's got a closer focus and stronger emphasis on the social work practice in the city and on outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children. To date only 3 other Councils nationally have been judged outstanding under this new framework they are East Sussex, Bexley and North Yorkshire and as you'll note from that list this means that Leeds is the first and so far only major city to achieve outstanding, an outstanding Ofsted rating which is in stark contrast to the ongoing challenges that core cities and other Council's across this region are facing in terms of delivering those services with less and less resources in which to do so. This is an exceptional outcome and demonstrates the recognition of the continued improvements that we've seen in our Children's Services that we held our faith in investing in Children's Services despite our budgets shrinking year on year and our ambition to continue improving those services and outcomes for children in the city continuing to be held forward.

We've been on a remarkable improvement journey and I'm incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication of Elected Members across this Chamber, of the staff who deliver those services by the Senior Leadership Team to the Children's Services front line staff who are working with families day in day out in the city to improve their lives and of all of the partners across this city who have come together with us to join with us in our Child Friendly Leeds ambition to ensure that we do deliver a city that is the best city in which children and young people can grow up in. We work incredibly hard with our partners to improve the lives of children and people and this result is a very important milestone in our ambition to ensure that we meet that ambitions to be the city that is the best to which, in which to grow up in. I want to say however that we are not complacent we know we still have a lot more to do and we are already taking that plan further forward working together to tackle child poverty in Leeds not least as part of our next steps in the Children and Young People's Plan that we revised last year. And I want to just again say thank you to all of you, thank you to our Senior Officers for leading the work in the city and thank you to my predecessor's Councillor Blake and Councillor Yeadon for taking us forward on that journey as well and we will use this judgment as an opportunity to build on the progress that we've seen over the last 8 years as we strive to ensure that every child in this city has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner do you have any supplementary.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: Lord Mayor that was such a delightful and comprehensive response that no I don't have a supplementary question.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Does the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles agree with comments made by some Landlords in the Harehills area and backed by at least 1 of the local Councillors that there has been a significant increase in fly tipping at properties in the area since the Council introduced the charge for the removal of household bulky

waste

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor Harehills is an area which presents particular environmental challenges which are connected to the density and the transient population within the ward coupled with the area's particular layout and the use of its residential street and ginnels. As Harehills is a priority Ward it remains a priority location for the Cleansing and Environmental Enforcement Service and accordingly the Council currently invests a high level of resources working within the area. The charge was seen as a necessary contribution to the general climate of austerity and the financial cuts for local authorities imposed upon us by the current Government. To date the charges deliver the expected additional income which goes some way to cover the cost of continuing the service for our residents and ensure we protect our front line services.

Also by delivering significant time savings operational crews have been able to carry out more cleansing works and removing litter and fly tipping material. Therefore we can say that the introduction of the charge has achieved what it was set out to do Lord Mayor. It's worth noting as well that the bulky waste charge of £20 is heavily subsidised and our residents pay considerably less than most other local authorities across the country many who actually implemented a charge well before we did here in Leeds. Having said this we recognise fly tipping as a national issue and it has been for many years now and we have experienced a steady year on year increase all across the country. To combat this national trend I've recently asked that the service generate further ideas to renew our efforts across the city including Harehills. One example I'm pleased to announce today is the introduction of fixed penalty notices from the 1st of April Lord Mayor which will be enforced where households don't pass on bulky waste, bulky items of waste to a bonafide company often resulting in it simply being fly tipped. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Does the Executive Member accept that putting on a tax of this type is having a detrimental effect throughout the city and in particular hitting the poorest disproportionately and that in this respect concern is being expressed by local businesses that Harehills is not an area where people can sometimes feel safe to go around which has been contributed by the fly tipping occurring here.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor. I mean I'm not really sure you know, given your Government's record on austerity. Your Government's record on austerity, the bedroom tax and universal credit. They can talk about taxing the poor I'm not really sure how you have the audacity to Councillor Anderson to tell us and teach us, to give us a lecture on austerity on actually taxing the poor. (Applause).

Can I also say that that the uptake of the bulky waste collection service was not particularly high in Harehills prior to the charge and therefore the reduction in collections here has also not been as marked as elsewhere and that actually to an

extent applies to a lot of the Inner City areas where I think people still feel that if we put a piece of sofa or our fridge outside it gets taken away, we don't leave it when we see it. People still think it's actually a free for all service and I think that's where we need to do some more work and that's something I've instructed our services to do  
Councillor Anderson. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. How confident is the current administration that they are in a good position to deliver on Government's plans to achieve universal weekly food waste collection nationally.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor the Council is currently undertaking a review of the city's waste strategy and an update on this will be provided to the Executive Board later in the year. A cross party working group has been meeting to consider issues that the strategy will need to cover. A key element of the review is to consider how household waste is best collected in Leeds with a particular focus on how residents can recycle more. Clearly whatever we do must be affordable, deliverable and the best use of resources available. The Government's long awaited resources waste strategy for England was announced last month this strategy commits to a consultation on weekly separate food waste collections subject to which Government will legislate to ensure that these are in place from 2023.

There's a long consultation to that point. More generally in terms of funding the strategy makes a commitment that local authorities will receive additional resource to meet new net costs arising from the policy set out in the strategy wants implemented. This includes both net up front, transition costs and net ongoing operational costs. As we are aware that the Government was reviewing its own resources and waste strategy we have been working very closely with RAP and DEFRA funded and the DEFRA funded was a Waste Advisory Organisation. Over the last year or so to provide reassurance that we have been developing complementary strategies. RAP which is a national organisation, which actually looks at the ways of actually how we recycle and dispose of our rubbish, are currently undertaking feasibility work for us on delivery models to help inform our cities with strategy with inevitable crossover with our route and service review work. These have also been operating a kerbside food collection service as an extended trial, a pilot in your ward Councillor Golton within the city.

So to sum up this puts Leeds in an excellent position to respond to both the conclusions of the Government's consultation or the national strategy and ambitions to be set out in the local Leeds strategy. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Oh Lord Mayor. How to frame a supplementary out of that. Does the Executive Member agree with me that food waste is a key part of the recycling process and recycling our food waste is the key to getting to higher levels of recycling. This has been proven by a pilot that this Council partook in a

decade ago. It's been going for 10 years. Do we not think that that is quite enough research to actually get to the point where you make a decision to expand it to the rest of the city and can the Executive Member commit to resolving the route rationalisation dispute which has stopped his Department saving a million pounds for 3 years on the trot which would go some way to funding food waste expansion in the city which would not have any impact in terms of cuts elsewhere. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Councillor Golton it goes without saying and that one of the reasons why we set up a cross party Advisory Board, and I said already that will take a report to the Executive Board later this year, is to look at how we actually increase our recycling rates and that will include a weekly food waste collections. But the problem is the biggest issue is, like I said before, and which is not for us in Leeds but everybody across the country is actually resource. If we had the money, if the Government gives us the money and they said they were going to take another 4 years to actually do another consultation a long consultation before they actually put the resource in and then you know we will be in that position to do it. But we are in terms of actually putting us in a pole position I think we are doing all that work but finding the work, you said 10 years, if we have actually gone through, I will repeat what I said early on all those austerity cuts and measures which we've been trying our best for frontline services then we would be, actually you never know we could well be actually looking at a service with your requesting across the city but at this moment in time I think given the resource we will need to wait and like Michael Gove has said, like the Government said they will actually put some resources available and we welcome that and await that. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: That is the end of questions.

#### ITEM 8 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Item 8, the Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Executive Board. Councillor Blake.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second, Lord Mayor.

#### Health and Wellbeing Board

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Right we will now consider the comments on the Health and Wellbeing Board for up to a period of 20 minutes. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Health and Wellbeing Board we had a really, unfortunately I was only there for part of it, but we had a very interesting meeting and it pointed out how this Council is really rich in information that it can harvest and the issue I wanted to raise today is we are very good at knowing what the

problem is but we're not very good at actually deciding what the solution to it is that we can deliver ourselves and the only thing I'm going to say on this issue is there was a lot of information at that meeting and it was very good at pointing out at which parts of the city were more deprived than others. It was very good at pointing out which parts of the city suffered from which particular conditions than others. It also pointed out how the city's demographics were differentiated in terms of how many young people some wards might have, how many old people they might have and I have to say Councillor Charlwood has made a significant commitment and we really appreciated it as Rothwell ward Members to have our own Ward based discussion on those areas. However what I will say is as Ward members our ability to impact and to actually innovate in our own areas to deliver solutions which are place based and associated with our own populations is going to be constricted if all of the distribution criteria that this Council introduces are always associated with deprivation indexes because it does mean that sometimes communities on the outskirts of the city which thankfully are not quite so blighted by poverty as some of the others actually don't have enough start up investment to create sustainable models that work for them because most resources are going elsewhere. So I would like to ask that the work which is going on will actually think about the diversity of our communities and offer different apparatus for different wards in the city to access and that this can be achieved if the Local Care Partnerships actually do involve all Elected Members from the very beginning and that it isn't just an Elected Member on their board and they think that covers elected accountability that is actually ongoing, and structured engagement.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR M GIBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The joint strategic assessment can inform not just the Health and Wellbeing Board but our work as a Council. I'm glad we can take the opportunity to reflect on the positive and negative trends it describes and use it to inform policy and commissioning. The trend that stood out to me and I'm sorry to say was the growth of in work poverty. We've been very successful in Leeds in attracting jobs and high quality jobs at that to our city. We should be proud of our success in outperforming the national and the regional averages in our employment rates and being in the top 5 cities nationally for private sector employment but it's incredibly frustrating that our efforts as a Council to attract good jobs to Leeds hasn't been enough to reduce poverty in the city. Leeds is not alone in this respect Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found that half a million working adults across the UK have become impoverished in the past 5 years. 8 million people live in poverty in families where at least 1 person is in work. Lord Mayor this is a national crisis and it requires a national solution, a national solution that quite simply is not being provided by our distracted and chaotic Government. In fact the Government is contributing to this shocking rise in poverty with its freeze on child benefit and it's erosion of tax credits. Poverty has a greater longer impact than a simple lack of disposable income. The paper sets it out in stark terms and I quote "childhood poverty has lifelong implications for health and wellbeing". The Child Poverty Action Group notes that around two thirds of children in poverty in the UK have at least 1 parent in paid work. Children in disadvantaged families are more likely to die suddenly in infancy to suffer acute infections and to experience mental ill health. Conversely the London School of Economics found that when low income families have more money they spend it on fruit and vegetables and clothing. They spend less on alcohol and tobacco and the mental health of mothers improves. Leeds' success in attracting employers and high quality jobs should be taking working adults and their children out of poverty instead this growth in in work poverty will have

a huge and long term impact on their health and on public services. It's about time that the Government started doing more to make work pay again. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Anderson please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on minute 44 and 45 at the Adults and Health Scrutiny yesterday we had a very interesting report which ties in with the presentation at the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to various health measures and statistics for the city. I was also happy to have a meeting with Councillor Charlwood recently to look at the health statistics for our ward which was very useful. One of the key messages at the Health and Wellbeing Board was Local Government healthy weight declaration. Going back to Scrutiny yesterday I asked a question about childhood obesity because the report to Scrutiny on the Best Council Plan Quarter 2 to refresh states that 34 percent of children at year 6, that's age 11 are overweight and 19.1% of those are considered obese that's 1 in 5. It's really important that children are encouraged to eat healthily and get plenty of exercise and I think that the majority of them do. Schools have the healthy schools awards and various other initiatives and this involves a whole host of measures they have to meet to secure these awards. School lunches have to meet healthy standards and that includes packed lunches that the children bring themselves. Most children take part in numerous activities during and after school. They play sport at weekends or even just family outings walking the dog. So where is this all going wrong because children are actually pretty good advocates of doing the right thing and they will badger their parents into making sure that they follow up on what they are told at school. If we don't nip this in the bud these will be the future diabetics and the future high blood pressure cases as well as mental health problems because of image worries and cyber bullying which we all know is rife. This is a massive worry for carers, parents and families and of course cyber bullying is not restricted to weight issues and is to be abhorred at any level. It is most welcome that the Health and Wellbeing Board is looking at and encouraging young people at an early age to embed the importance of being physically active and mentally healthy. There are so many things for children to do in Leeds that not doing anything shouldn't be an option. However I don't think when I look around that 1 in 5 children are actually obese. So are the measures correct, I'm not making excuses but this could discredit findings and actually cause further problems by being ignored. Parents are receiving letters telling them that their children are overweight or on the obese measure. Some will react with horror and do something if they are supported and encouraged but some will not do anything they'll just ignore it because they don't think it's true. So I would like reassurance that the Health and Wellbeing Board will take this forward and not lose sight of what needs to be done to halt this worrying trend. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Firth

COUNCILLOR FIRTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to speak also on minute 44 and 49 of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes just in relation to the recent announcement on the charges been implemented for the newly titled

'community based short break service'. Now I can speak from personal experience as I know that some of you may know already that I support my mum as a carer and that she used that service over a number of years but at the same time it is potentially something that if you don't access already that you may not know too much about it in the first place. Now we certainly welcome on this side and all councils can welcome the extra investment that is coming, the £170,000 has been announced per year into the contract value when it comes to the care that is available and that's a roundabout 217 hours a week which is fantastic in terms of support work being announced as an additional to the current amount and also the £8,845 additional carer support was given to the teaching hospitals in relation to the winter period which certainly as we all know is the most difficult time of the year for those who are cared for and those who are caring. So certainly really welcome on that side and I do also appreciate the time that Councillor Charlwood took with us as Harewood Ward Members in terms of discussing the particulars when it came to the Harewood ward and we were the first meeting which was certainly delightful and really appreciated. Now in terms of the community based short break service. We can appreciate why there is a need and there was a consultation for the charges that were going to be brought in especially for those in particular with regards to when they can afford it or that have ventured more disposable income to be able to contribute towards that although I appreciate it is subsidised. The concern is potentially around those who may be a newly being charged or that are potentially going to be significantly charged higher than what they were charged before and that given that the access to it can be potentially at times problematic or difficult or that potentially people don't, who are in those positions, want to or have the time to be able to get out and inquire about the service that extra effort is made to ensure that we are doing what we can to support those in particular especially those who have never been charged before and especially as well when about 45% of those who currently use the service were consulted and at that point only 45% of the 174 people actually came back and reported on it and as a result even when you look even bigger, 45%, sorry just under 45% of those consulted over all who responded actually said they didn't support the changes but we appreciate that it is tough times and needs to be brought in for those who can afford it and that there from there hopefully we can support them even more when it comes to those people who potentially are newly charged or haven't had as higher charge as they are going to have. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on minute 45 priority 8 a stronger focus on prevention. I welcome this paper and the initiatives I think with it been the New Year as well a lot of us will have a lot of good intentions at the moment as far as healthy weight and physical activities concerned. Let's hope it lasts. But it's great to see healthy weight, physical activity and mental health discussed together. We know that regularly engaging in physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight can have a very beneficial impact on mental health. It's clear that we're taking a whole systems approach in Leeds which is right considering more than one way to tackle poor health and health inequalities and working together with our partners to improve health and wellbeing. Investing in prevention is crucial if, as we say, we want Leeds to be the best city for health and wellbeing. There are so many details throughout the

paper of how these prevention initiatives will benefit Leeds and the people of Leeds. I'll quote paragraph 2.7 as an example "there's strong evidence that investment in the protection and promotion of mental wellbeing including early intervention and prevention improves quality of life, life expectancy, educational achievement, productivity and economic outcomes and reduces violence, antisocial behaviour and crime". Given all of these outcomes we can't afford not to invest in prevention not only will it lead to improve in the physical and mental health of the people of Leeds particularly within our most deprived communities but it will reduce the burden on our overstretched NHS as a paper states undernourished people require twice as many GP appointments, 3 times as many hospital admissions and twice as many bed days in hospitals. Leeds is showing leadership here by recognising investment in public health leads to savings in the long run were doing this against a background of short sighted national Government cuts to councils and public health. That does nothing to support people to become active and it does nothing to reduce health inequalities and it increases pressures on doctors and hospitals indeed some of the Conservative Government policies are actively making local people sick with worry such as the universal credit. Meanwhile Leeds has become the first Council in Yorkshire and the Humber to adopt the healthy weight declaration. We're engaging with people to ask them how we can make it easy for them to be active and I understand that our plan is to tackle suicide locally and seen as good practice nationally. I'm glad to see that Leeds is leading the way on health prevention when our Government can't and won't. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Maqsood.

COUNCILLOR MAQSOOD: thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on minute 64 the Health Protection Board Annual Report. I really welcome this paper and the opportunity to speak about it at a Council meeting. It's clear that the Health Protection Board does some great work which could fly under the radar nonetheless the issues the board has to deal with antibiotic resistant, air quality, infectious disease outbreaks are hugely important. Getting this work right is a matter of life and death for some people in Leeds and that's not something we can always say at a Council meeting. I think this is a particularly suitable time to talk about health protection while we're still in the middle of winter. It's great to see the progress detailed in the paper about increasing flu vaccinations, tackling seasonal deaths and reducing the impact of cold weather on vulnerable people. I'm sure we all hope that we continue to make good progress in Leeds when protecting our most vulnerable throughout winter. One particular area I want to discuss is the board's work on outbreak planning management. From what I understand there is no national guidance in this area so we've had to develop our own local guidance which has attracted regional and national attention from other areas keen to replicate our success. Lord Mayor while it's a great success for Leeds to be recognised as a national leader in preparing for and dealing with outbreaks it's yet another example of Leeds City Council stepping in because the Government just isn't doing enough. I'm not surprised by the Government's carelessness on health but I am disappointed that we must deliver on health protection while public health budgets for local authorities are being cut yet again. The Local Government Association has said that the Council's public health funding, sorry public health grant funding has been cut by 531 million between 2015 and 2016 and 2019 2020 including 85 million in the next financial

year. The British Medical Association has said that only by reversing these cuts can the Government meet its health prevention ambition. I don't know how anyone could read these minutes, see just how far our public health grants goes to protect the public and defend these cuts. While I welcome this report and would like to thank everyone involved in the work for Leeds Health Protection Board I hope that the Government reverses these dangerous cuts and finally gives public health the funding it deserves. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well I think that that the contributions that have been made just demonstrate the absolutely enormous remit and you know all encompassing agenda that the Health and Wellbeing Board can cover and I think that was picked up in a couple of the first contributions as well about the JSNA so which used to be called the JSNA, we're calling it the JSA and I think Councillor Golton's point about we're good at looking at the data and not so good at doing I think that's slightly, well it's very unfair. Slightly unfair very unfair and the reason is because the JSA has in its own title an assessment of need its assessment of the current situation. It isn't about what are we going to do it's about a basis of saying this is the situation of the city. How so we then provide services and commission things as a Health and Wellbeing Board going forward so that's the point it's meant to be about this is what the state of the city is and we've purposely taken a poverty reduction approach and the city is looking at the wellbeing strategy and inclusive growth strategy 2 main pillars of the work that we're doing and poverty creates poor health Michael Marmot said it, we've said it and I think pretty much everyone in this Chamber would agree with it and we've agreed on this before. So we need to look at poor educational attainment, we need to look at poor housing, need to look at deprivation and one of the main drivers of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to improve the health of the poorest the fastest and we have agreed and its broad agreement that funding should follow that and I know Councillor Golton's point about individual wards needing services. I don't think anybody's suggesting that Rothwell shouldn't get any services in fact Rothwell gets quite a lot of services and so it should but we pay extra attention to boosting the health the poorest fastest when we know where it exists. So the comments around the Chamber, thank you for them about the ward meetings and the data involved in that we're looking again at those wider determinants of health that create poor health and how we can tackle them and I think certain areas have certain difficulties than other areas have certain difficulties each area has its own strength. So in some wards we may have lots of older people who may suffer from isolation and have long distances between each other and that might be needed to be commissioned locally something around the third sector from the local care partnerships that Councillor Golton mentioned about elected member engagement yes. In other areas it might be about homelessness in might be about drug and alcohol issues in other areas it might be in work poverty you know where everybody is working on a low wage and difficulties around that and that's why we need to take a strategic city view and then come down to local areas and to local care partnerships and collaboration with our primary care local elected members council services to really tackle what you really need to tackle locally though not saying, I don't think anybody's saying that Rothwell or anywhere else shouldn't get any money I think we're saying where the need is

greatest the funding should follow that. Councillor Gibson gave a really passionate speech which I really welcome about the in work poverty and the issues around that and how you know run away high pay in the country and the gap between rich and poor creates more inequality and more mental health problems and difficulties and I really agree with that. I can't go through every single person so I'll just come to Councillor Firth and your point about the community base respite. Interesting place to pick it up it sounds like an Exec Board minute discussion but anyway. We are increasing by 217 hours because he said this service we are investing in it heavily because we know more people need caring breaks, putting more money into the dementia cafes as well as into the service itself. It's about recognising that we want people to be able to stay at home they need that support, carers need that support to stay at home and the more deprived people who may not be getting a service needs to get that service and the people who can afford to pay should pay a nominal amount and it is only a nominal amount plus we're helping people to get attendance allowance. And to just quick, no I'll finish there.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Charlwood.

(Applause)

### **Executive Board**

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we now come to Executive Board minutes. You've got the best part of 2 hours which must be unheard of in recent council meetings.  
Councillor Buckley.

(i) Learning, Skills & Employment

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. The great jobs agenda this is minute 99 page 105.

The main thrust of this report entitled 'The Great Jobs Agenda' is to ensure that all the people, Leeds people as far as we're concerned have the greatest opportunity of accessing the best jobs that their capable of at the best pay with the most modern working conditions and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. We all agree with these aims and aspirations and as far as we're concerned here in the city of Leeds alongside this report we also have the Best Council Plan, the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the work carried out by the LEP and the BID. So all working for similar aims and the Best Council Plan quarter 2 which we just heard about in Scrutiny the other day tells us some important facts about this process and what the private sector has been achieving for the city of Leeds and if I can just read out 2 or 3 items on this, private sector employment has gone up in the city from 363,000 to 377,000 the year before last and up by 22% in 7 years which is 67,000 extra jobs provided by the private sector. It is second only to Birmingham outside the City of London and Leeds has the highest percentage of private sector jobs in all the core cities and there has been substantial growth in several sectors including engineering, manufacturing, accommodation, finance, insurance, legal, technical, digital and I could go on and a further 7% increase in gross value added is expected by 2025. 4,000 startups every year have been established since 2008. Now all this is done by the private sector, free enterprise, not the public sector. It works for everyone.

This is the system that works. Now some Councillors opposite get this, they understand it and I understand that they do but others do not and I'm not looking at anyone in particular but I would just say this there's recently been a trend in lots of policy by the administration to bring services in house, to have it done by direct labour organisation type things.

(Cheering)

Now they're all cheering Lord Mayor I can tell them that those organisations are notoriously inefficient. I should know because I used to sell to them and we got the highest prices from them. So do not retreat into that, harness the private sector and make it work for the city of Leeds

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Buckley.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will be speaking to minute 99 and minute 129.

Calm down I know you've been treated to Councillor Buckley's I have to confess Lord Mayor having heard Councillor Buckley's comments on minute 99 I don't think I can add to those. They were words as we would expect, common sense and integrity and we would do well to learn and listen to them. I will turn therefore to minute 129 tackling period poverty in Leeds and we welcome this report. Speaking as a father of 3 daughters it is outrageous that in 21st century Britain that there is a stigma around an entirely natural monthly event. It is wrong I don't care, politics has nothing to do with this it is wrong on every level that young ladies that girls feel they can't go to school because they're on their period. It is just unacceptable in modern Britain. In fact it's not acceptable anywhere, modern Britain or anywhere frankly.

It is ridiculous that the European Union take the bizarre position that sanitary ware, that sanitary products are a luxury item. Certainly not in our house. It's just the bizarrest situation and we absolutely welcome the Government funding where the tampon tax is being redirected for better spend. It is though, it is though quite right that the approach the administration is taking of scoping out how to deal with this issue rather than as some would suggest going charging in and we know the right approach and regained as some have suggested. The administration and our view is dealing with this correctly. Working in a small focused area looking at what work and then hopefully and the bit that we do hope we will see rolling out across the city. Something that can work, can educate both boys and girls because it is something that everybody has to be aware of and accept it is just something that happens and that we can then tackle as a city as a community perhaps we can be the role models of how to deal with this ridiculous issue. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Angela Wenham and I remind members this is a maiden speech. So courtesy please.

COUNCILLOR WENHAM: Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors I am commenting on

page 105, minutes 99. As an employer Leeds City Council is already focusing on the 6 standards contained within the report. The Great Jobs Agenda is perfect fit with our Inclusive Growth Strategy, Best Council Plan and our Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We have always believed in being the best employer we can be for our staff and are proud to have a good relationship with the Trade Unions. We also have a fantastic range of staff networks which promote inclusivity and gave our staff a real voice. There are 7 networks covering LGBT plus, black and ethnic minority, women's voice, mental health carers, disability and young carers. Networks such as these benefit not just the employees but the employer. They are seen as good to work for and with an inclusive culture. Staff networks, we can directly engaged with the responses with the representative section of our staff. In particular we have a channel of communication with groups who have been traditionally underrepresented or who have had historical experience on fair treatment by involving external community groups in these fab networks we can help spread the inclusive agenda across the city. Sometimes some things as responsible employers we should be encouraging.

Leeds City Council increased the minimum pay rate of Living Wage Foundation rates of £8.75 an hour from April last year and from this April, from April this year we will be increasing the rate to £9.18 an hour.

(Applause)

Which will be above the The Living Wage Foundation living ways. Something that I am very proud to support and something that the council is truly leading way in.

Another of the standards is outset out with the agenda is career progression, available for everyone and that studying is encouraged. I am delighted that Council encourages training opportunities and continued learning for all its staff. As part of this we have a target of 350 apprenticeships within the Authority and currently over 400 apprentices on programme all of whom perform a vital role in helping us while at the same time developing the skills and knowledge that would help them secure a long term employment. I hope you can all see that adopting the great job agenda that brings benefits not just to our staff but to the city as a whole.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Wenham.

COUNCILLOR WENHAM: Worked towards the (inaudible). OK

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Now Councillor Jacob Goddard and this is another maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR GODDARD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Comrades Leeds is doing well. We're a growing economy and an attractive city in which to live and work. We have the largest city concentration of financial and professional services and digital jobs outside of London. Businesses, individuals and families want to be here but we need to do more to cement our place as an innovative and leading city ensuring that this growth and wealth is shared as equally as possible so I welcome the Council signing up to the TUC's Great Jobs Agenda and underlining our commitment to being a compassionate city with a strong economy because we understand that the two needs to go hand in hand for the whole city to prosper. It's no secret that poverty is increasing under this Government with its failed austerity agenda and its attack on workers' rights so it falls to this Council to do all we can to stave off the worst of this

ideological assault. As the biggest employer in Leeds we have a responsibility to lead the way when it comes to how we pay and treat our staff. This would mean that along with paying all of our in-house staff the real living wage that we do all we can to ensure that this is also extended to those who are outsourced. With our leadership role also comes a responsibility to work other employers and organisations in the city on other necessities such as lifelong learning. As technology advances and creates further demand for digital skills and as automation changes the nature of the labour market. Many of the current jobs in the city will become obsolete. While some employers are leading the way in terms of staff development apprenticeships, creating opportunities for school leavers, career changes and people returning to the workforce others really must do more to ensure that nobody is left behind in this changing world. A lack of action on this issue could hold back our economic performance with a great cost to the public sector, affect productivity and mean that we are not drawing on the full talents and potential of everybody in this city. It is also right that we do not accept the rhetoric of the Tory Party opposite, unemployment may be down but the argument that this is a sign of a well performing economy is completely disingenuous when research shows more than half of the households in poverty containing adults in work it's clear that we need to focus on the quality of our jobs not just the quantity. As this Conservative Government apparently lacks the compassion and commitment to make the changes necessary to tackle rise in poverty and rising in-work poverty then it's up to this Labour Council to ensure that Leeds gets a better deal than is present.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Kayleigh Brooks please.

COUNCILLOR BROOKS: Lord Mayor I'm commenting on the Great Jobs Agenda minute 99 and in particular the shocking rise in in-work poverty. As someone who struggled through various low paid jobs the mental health difficulties you experience every time you can't pay a bill, rifling through the reduced sections in supermarkets every day for your meals and sitting in a freezing cold house because you can't put afford to put gas on your card. I think I know what I'm talking about better than them opposite. I'm not ashamed to stand here and say so either. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation last month released its UK poverty 2018 report and it made for damning reading. It turns out under the Tories there has been, and I'm quoting here, a relentless rise in the number of working families struggling to make ends meet over the last 5 years. The Government has been so busy messing up Brexit that they're ignoring the rise of in-work poverty. Do you want to talk about common sense Councillor Buckley. What's common sense about dismissing the UN special rapporteur, Philip Howston, who said in his report British compassion for those who are suffering has been replaced by a punitive mean spirited and often callous approach apparently designed to install discipline where it is least useful. To impose a rigid order on the lives of those least capable of coping with today's world and elevating the goal of enforcing blind compliance over a genuine concern to improve the wellbeing of those at the lowest levels of British society. In the UK 1 in 5 people living in poverty that's 14.3 million people. Of those 8 million families live, 8 million live in families where there is at least 1 person in work that's more than half. Its startling fact that in-work poverty is rising faster than employment with nearly all of the increase among working parents with around 4 million workers in poverty. What we're seeing is a cycle of deprivation with people trapped in low skilled low paid jobs that offer no way out of poverty and nothing in the way of job satisfaction. One ????? is quoted as saying "the minimum wage needs to be more like the living wage" and

make sure work is the route to a decent quality of life. This is exactly what Leeds City Council believes and Councillor Wenham earlier outlined our own minimum pay rates already at the Living Wage Foundation rate and rising again in April. The Great Jobs Agenda seeks to eradicate the low paid insecure jobs that people so often find themselves in and that leads them to living in poverty barely able to get by and suffering from mental health problems. If we are serious about being a compassionate city then we absolutely have to lead the way on this agenda we have a duty to all of our citizens to do all we can to help them live the best life they can. If by signing up to this agenda and using our influence and our partners and business contacts within the city we can help to improve the lives of Leeds families ..

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR BROOKS: Then we absolutely have to do that.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Christine Knight please.

COUNCILLOR KNIGHT: Thank you Lord Mayor and other colleagues. I very much welcome this paper and the aims of the Great Jobs Agenda as we really do need to fully support anything that's designed to help pull people out of poverty. It's a sad fact that child poverty has risen by 500,000 in the last 5 years which is much faster than would be expected by population growth alone. The total number of children has risen by 3% while the number of children in poverty has risen by 15%.

Coupled with the increase in poverty among working households that Councillor Brooks has just outlined the answer must be that simply having a job is not enough to keep you out of poverty. What I find most disturbing is that the rise in in-work poverty of the last 5 years has been driven almost entirely by the increase in the poverty rate of working parents. In Leeds alone 70% of families in receipt of tax credits are in work. For the first time in 20 years there has been an increase in poverty rates for every single type of working family be that 1 parent or 2, full time or part time working, 1 adult or more than 1 adult in work. Every single classification of working family has seen a rise in poverty rates. Lone parents are twice as likely to be locked in what's termed to be persistent poverty than any other group this is partly due to the fact that lone parents are more likely to work in areas of low pay. The pay gap between lone parents and the main earner in a couple has risen from £3.50 an hour in 2002 to £5.86 an hour today. Another worrying contributory factor to child poverty is the cost of childcare for parents wishing to remain in full time employment and the reluctance of many employers in certain professions to grant flexible working to employees in positions of management or leadership. In many cases parents are forced to accept, not only lower incomes in part time working but additional cuts to their income to be forced to accept lower paid positions. This affects mostly, although not exclusively women. This reduced income impacts on their children, families and contributes not only to the gender pay gap but also to child poverty. In some areas of work there are zero hours contracts prevent families from receiving a regular guaranteed income. This along with many employees being paid less than the Living Wage Foundation's living wage forces many families into poverty leaving them not only reliant on tax credits but the humiliating experience of visiting food banks. The effects of growing up in poverty on children is well documented from poorer educational outcomes to poorer health to poorer employment prospects. An entire generation are being written off before they have even started. This I'm sad to say is the shameful legacy of the Conservative Government.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Peter Carlill please.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: Lord Mayor I don't know whether your one among those who avidly follow my every move on social media but those of you who are will know that one of the difficulties I regularly face when wandering around the ward is running out of positive adjectives to use when describing how great it is to meet the fantastic people who do such fabulous work in our communities, to give you 3 there for starters but that I'm afraid there are a few areas where not even my optimistic nature can come up with anything positive to say. One example is when dealing directly with our local bus operators but the worst is when I'm visiting or collecting for our local food bank and the saddest thing about the food bank is the amount of people who visit who are in work. This Government has always promised to make work pay but report through scrutiny last week showed that over 20% of working Leeds residents don't earn a real living wage, the amount they need just to get by. But a real living wage does more than just help lift people out of poverty, it's about treating them fairly and with respect. We need to be a city where people want to be in work and where they feel valued. Running a small business myself I know that poor employee wellbeing can lead to lower productivity and increased staff turnover. As well as been the morally right thing to do. Employers become more attractive to potential employees find it easier to recruit and retain staff and experienced better productivity levels. If people are happy in their work and if that work pays fairly then not only will that family have a better quality of life but the next generation will see that work does pay. We can break that cycle of deprivation as children are brought up in families where adults are in work but also aren't struggling or stuck in insecure jobs where they have no control. With the benefit system in absolute chaos and an acknowledgement that universal credit isn't working by the roll out being delayed yet again we must look to see what we as a city can do to improve people's quality of life. The Joseph Rowntree paper UK poverty 2018 states that even with the UK strong employment record in-work poverty is increasing faster than employment as people find themselves stuck in low paid jobs with little scope for progression facing raising costs of living. This is exactly what the Great Jobs Agenda is looking to do. Our inclusive growth strategy shows how we will work with employees of all sectors across the city to encourage them to follow our lead and pay a real living wage and we are working with the local Enterprise Partnership to see how we can further encourage economic inclusion right across the city. Lord Mayor families in Leeds deserve to be paid a proper living wage it really isn't asking too much and is the first step towards reducing poverty levels within the city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood please.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Lord Mayor, comrades speaking on minute 99. Yay. So comrades what have the trade unions ever done for us, I'll tell you. They gave us the weekend they gave us maternity pay, the 35 hour working week, the minimum wage, part timers pensions, the 1970 equal Pay Act and the right as women not to be sacked should we choose to get married or have a family, god forbid we should want equal rights with men. (Applause). So trade unions have been fighting for the rights of working people for over 2 centuries so why do we need the Great Jobs Agenda, what will it deliver well Councillor Buckley we may have a 67,000, what

was it, 67,000 growth in jobs in the private sector but you can guarantee most of those are on exploitative zero hour contracts where people have no guarantee of the hours they are going to work and no guarantee of the money they're going to earn and can people live like that. So the Great Jobs Agenda it will seek to give people guaranteed hours of work, access to learning and progression opportunities and for staff to be treated with respect in a safe and healthy working environment. But why are we still having to fight for these basic employment rights comrades I'll tell you because this Tory Government have eroded most of the rights we built up over years and years and years. (Applause). Unfair dismissal we now have to wait 2 years before we can claim unfair dismissal. If a company is going to make a 100 plus redundancies they now only have to consult for 45 days down from the 90 we had for years and years and never mind Brexit comrades the 29th March can come and go as far as I'm concerned I want to stay in because if we come out we're going to lose all the protective we've got from European directives as well, let me quote those for you. (Applause). Equal pay directive, the equal treatment directive, the collective redundancy directive, the working time directive, ooh what's that parental leave, part time work need I go on you can have a look at the law books if you really want to, there you go. It's my job to know this because I teach it. So, (laughter) don't argue with me. So the TUC Great Jobs Agenda also pledges to campaign for all workers to be paid the real living wage something that Leeds City Council and we've already heard from my comrades on this side we've already pledged to do but again why should we still need to campaign on this we've already heard from Councillor Gibson, Councillor Brooks, Councillor Knight and Councillor Carlill all on this side of the Chamber on the Government's agenda that we still have in-work poverty in this country people in work using food banks are unable to afford their basic needs. I am so pleased that the next agenda item is Leeds City Council pledging to end period poverty in Leeds, pledging that all young people and adults who cannot afford sanitary protection due to in-work poverty benefit sanctions or girls who simply cannot afford their own basic needs will be able to access products free of charge ..

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: and comrade Cohen it's not funded by the tampon tax it's funded by Leeds City Council who are going to end period poverty in this city.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Ha ha, oh comrades. (Laughter). Comrades if you will allow me to join the 2019 Leeds Soviet I would like to add my own contribution. Can I just say Lord Mayor we had some really good speeches from, maiden speeches from Councillor Goddard and Councillor Wenham and they used words which were very very key in this whole debate which was do not use rhetoric, do not be disingenuous. We need to talk about the quality of jobs not just the quantity of jobs we also need to lead the way on the agenda. Then of course we have comrade Heselwood who talked to us about the importance of trade unions and their campaign to safeguard exploitative contracts and to reduce zero hours contracts. Right amazon, Amazon is an employer who is particularly renowned for being accused of having such exploitative contracts. They also have a particular campaign which is focused on them by the GMB union. Can I ask if anybody on that bench over there is actually sponsored by the GMB union at all in your activities. Proud GMB sponsors.

OK well can I just refer you, comrades comrades hush please. Can I please refer you to the actual council papers which talk about the Great Jobs Agenda and it makes reference to a Member, that's me, who raised comments regarding how the rates of pay for those undertaking services is commissioned by the Council and the rates of pay of those companies using Council owned premises are not covered by the guarantees that there are in terms of the living wage. Now what I will say to all those comrades who have been so effectively emoted about the issue and how much they were committed to making it change in this city and how this city had to lead by example, that's Councillor Brooks by the way. Instead of just talking about the national Government making platitudes and actually accusing people on this side of not knowing what poverty looks like it's not a very good idea. I'd just say that Councillor Brooks, Councillor Wakefield knows what poverty looks like he knows what homelessness looks like and he's big enough not to think that just because people have a different political persuasion they can't experience those things as well and he never did that. (Applause). What I will say is why don't you talk to the people who are in charge here who refuse to have an ethical landlords policy which means that on the same enterprise zone where Yorkshire Water has been able to afford an anaerobic digester to deliver food waste. Whoo hoo, food waste we instead decided to spend millions on buying sheds which house warehousing and we have got a tenant in there which is Amazon and we are using ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: to implement an ethical landlord policy ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: So why don't you focus your attention on your leadership to make a difference and lead by example.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Golton. Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. When I got on the bus this morning at 10 past 7 to come into Council it looked like it was going to be a very dismal day but I have to say Councillor Heselwood you haven't disappointed you always brighten my day in this Council it's very nice to hear you. It's like, you know when you go into hospital and you get into that state of euphoria just before the surgeon stabs and rips out all your vital organs is that kind of feeling we all have when you stand up and give your speech. But in general Lord Mayor commenting on on this Great Jobs Agenda and much of it is to be welcomed as colleagues have said across the Chamber. There's a few points to make however following comments in the debate. The first one is of course you can't miss the fact that this came out of a TUC agenda and when we're talking about jobs and security you cannot miss that where we are nationally at this present time the biggest threat to jobs is a lack of confidence from businesses and markets not knowing what's going to happen in the next few months and one thing that would throw that into further flux would be a second referendum so I think we should put on record that this side of the benches firmly, firmly reject the idea from the TUC General Secretary that we should be having a second referendum on Brexit. The content of the report does talk about increasing low paid flexible jobs in-work poverty and lack of social mobility. On the aspect of in-work poverty I would just say the Resolution Foundation launched a report recently

and it's quite interesting because it went much deeper than just the politics and it actually looks at facts that were involved in this debate and it did note that the proportion of households in poverty has remained steady over the past decade. What has changed is there are now broadly equal numbers of households in poverty with somebody in work whereas previously the out of work poverty households predominated that statistic so we have more people in work than ever before but people in work currently using the benefit system. So that's where we are. It's wrong to say, as some colleagues across the Chamber said, that there's been a rise in in-work poverty. That's not the case it's remained steady, so what we have to do is focus on how we make that situation better and how we make sure that those in the disadvantaged sectors, in the disadvantaged communities also increase their attainment and this comes down to the tightening of the labour market Lord Mayor and specifically the Resolution Foundation report says again that whilst employment gains of the past decade of disproportionately benefited relatively disadvantaged groups, ie those in disadvantaged groups have increased employment. So the point, I'll wrap up very quickly Lord Mayor, to say that that's not part of the 6 standards and it should be thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Gibson.

COUNCILLOR J GIBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm commenting on minute 129 which is period poverty. Councillor Golton I was quite disappointed that you didn't find time to comment on this minute and I know it's something that you have spoken about quite a lot over the past year and you've advocated, I'll refresh the Council's memory that you have advocated quite vociferously for a P card scheme. A project that you and your group believe would be the solution to tackling period poverty here in Leeds. In fact it's something that you advocated for as recently as the 19th December's Executive Board meeting but I'd like to ask what meaningful research have you carried out to assess the likely efficacy of this proposed scheme in Leeds. How many girls and young women from Leeds have you or any of your colleagues spoken to about the idea or about what they actually want. The P card scheme would force girls and young women faced with period poverty to have to go to a pharmacy to access sanitary products. But that assumes that girls have easy access to a pharmacy and also assumes that they would be comfortable going to a place they don't know and speaking to strangers about something they may find uncomfortable. Whereas this administration work to engage with girls and young women around this issue by going into schools and talking to students will mean that those who are affected by period poverty can help design a sustainable scheme around their needs. I emphasise that word sustainable Councillor Golton it's a common sense and sensitive approach. Schools are a safe environment where there are staff members who students know and trust. School staff are also best placed to start off broader conversations about the stigma around periods and poverty. This administration also proposed a joined up evidence based approach to tackling this issue. Leeds City Council will be working with a variety of partners such as the University of Leeds, Child Poverty Action Group and Freedom for Girls and schools to ensure that there is a Leeds specific understanding of children's and young people's experiences and thereby deliver Leeds specific solutions. This is a piece of work that the administration are undertaking in order to make an actual difference to the lives of vulnerable girls it is not simply a headline grabbing story for a leaflet. Everything that we do and are doing and plan to do is shaped by the voice and influence of young people and I'll give you an example, unlike Councillor Golton's P card scheme the

administration's proposals will mean that if a year 7 or 8 girl is suddenly faced with her first period she can access sanitary products in school and she doesn't have to worry about leaving school to find a pharmacy to use a P card. Sometimes Councillor Golton it comes down to the practicalities we can't just bulldoze in with a 'this is what we think approach'. The whole point of our work to create a child friendly city is giving young people the opportunity to shape the policies and projects ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Gibson, thank you.

COUNCILLOR J GIBSON: That impact on them.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: Thank you Lord Mayor I will be speaking on minute 129, page 130. I'd like to start by telling you all about Christmas this year. On Christmas Eve I burst into tears not because I hadn't bought the right presents or organised the right food but because my period had started. I was spending Christmas at my in-laws' house where a lot of their beautiful furniture is very lightly coloured. This meant that I knew I'd be stressed and nervous the whole time that my period had leaked. Now my fears were vastly unfounded but I guarantee that any councillor in here that's ever had a period has felt that fear of standing up and turned around to check their seat. Would today be the day they have to face that humiliation. My fears were vastly unfounded because I have access to sanitary protection. I know that unless it's a particularly unfortunate period I'm fine. This is not the case for a number of young people in our schools and communities. For these students it isn't a case of asking whether they have leaked but how far they can hide the chair below the desk when they have. I would love to be able to tell you that I've never found blood on chairs after classes have left. Indeed I'd love to be able to tell you it only happened once. This is not just about these students humiliation though it's about their access to education and therefore their future. For obvious reasons many of these girls are unable to come into school when on their period this means they have horrendously low attendance figures. Attendance figures which have been proven to lower grades at the end of their school career. Allow me to quickly do the maths. Let's, allowing for school holidays and long monthly cycles, say the girls will have 10 periods of 5 days during term time. Let's also underestimate and suggest they always fall over both weekend days and therefore only 3 days are spent bleeding at school. This is 30 days of the 195 statutory days that students must spend yearly in school which means they are missing out on 15% of their schooling. Academic research states that for every 5% of school that you miss you go down one grade.

Potentially taking them from a comfortable 5, for example where college and university is readily available, to a 2 or 3 and retakes. Some of our people, our young people are so let down by this Government they are being forced to face very real fear and humiliation every time they menstruate and for what, for the sake of sanitary protection that should be a right. Yet again this Government is ignoring the needs of women and putting the majority of their burden of cuts on us. 50% of the population have vaginas, how dare this Government punish us because of it. If you can get a condom for free how can this Government not provide sanitary protection to those most in need. (Applause). While this Government refuses to fill it's fulfil its role, sorry, in protecting our citizens this Council will do it here in Leeds. We will ensure that the people that need protection get protection ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much Councillor.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: So that everyone can share only my unfounded fear rather than real and damaging humiliation.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor I'm too talking on minute 129, page 130 on period poverty and can I particularly congratulate Councillor Bithell on that very excellent speech and bringing, probably better than any of us have, what period poverty and what the impact of what periods really are and it's a shame, I feel really sorry for Councillor Gibson, he obviously had his speech prepared thinking he knew what Councillor Golton was going to say and find then to rebut it but I'm afraid Councillor Golton didn't play ball on that one. And just coming back to Councillor Gibson's point. He says we should be looking at, we should be doing the research, we should be looking at all these various things and then he himself jumps to a conclusion that could only do this in schools. Well that is not what we were proposing anyway when we put our budget amendment in last year. So I'm sorry what was a good debate what Councillor Cohen brought forward about his understanding and what Councillor Bithell brought forward about her understanding it was in bits marred by Councillor Gibson trying to play politics with it. Now if Councillor Gibson had been in the Chamber last year in February he would have heard our budget amendment where we were talking about a fully costed system that would meet the needs of young people in this city. It would have included a P card scheme which would have made some sanitary products freely available where people wanted to get them. So yes if some would rather get them in school P card system would work in school if they'd rather get it in a youth club or a community hub you could do it there. If they'd rather go anonymously to a pharmacy it would be available there that's how the system works based on the C card system for contraceptives. And you know it's all very well talking about schools but one of the impacts of period poverty is that young girls stay away from school and if they feel they've got to go into school to get the products that will make it even worse. So it's about a wide range of offers and that's what we proposed last year and when we proposed it it was rejected by the Labour Group and in dismissing it Councillor Blake said period poverty a really important issue, Councillor Heselwood is already on it. She's already having conversations with the manufacturers who are talking about doing a pilot study so we can save some money just like that, just like that ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Oh what a shame.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lennox.

COUNCILLOR LENNOX: Lord Mayor today we've heard much today and in the recent months in this Chamber, out in the wards, on the news about the increasing struggles that many families in Leeds and across the country now have in providing the very basics in their households and we've heard about why. Therefore I welcome the decision that Leeds are taken to work across our services in eradicating period poverty. It is real as we've heard and it's happening in Leeds, Yorkshire today. Colleagues have highlighted the vital work being set up in schools but I'm proud that

Leeds are tackling this issue on a much broader basis following on from what Councillor Bentley has just spoken about. This really is a piece of cross Council work on mitigating the impact of poverty in our communities, from our Children's Centres to our Neighbourhood Networks to One Stop shops to Mental Health Groups our approach is about wrapping a package of support around families so no one in this city is left with nowhere to turn. The Children and Families and Communities Directors have been working together extremely closely to tackle period poverty as part of this support. Now as members know, as Councillor Cohen said earlier there remains a 5% VAT on menstrual hygiene products in the UK because they are classed as a luxury non-essential item. I don't know about my sister's but when I have to stock up for the month I don't enjoy that expenditure quite as much as when I buy the Jaffa cakes that go with them which have no VAT because they are classed as an essential item. (Laughter). This sexist levy serves to reinforce archaic taboos about periods and for plenty of girls and women living in the desperate, with the desperate effects of this Government's, ongoing assault on working class families. It makes the luxury of basic menstrual hygiene products unaffordable, menstrual hygiene products unaffordable and research has shown for these reasons that girls and women are missing education and work. It is 2019 and this does not need to be happening and in Leeds we want to build a scheme whereby women can get sanitary products in libraries at One Stop Shops at Community Hubs and other Council buildings. This is about building support into our communities in a way that makes it as simple and as accessible and as accessible as changing your library books or going to a mums and tots group or picking up your prescription. We know the scale to which food banks and other organisations such as the wonderful Freedom for Girls who are already working to support women and we hope that by joining with them and continuing our key partnership work with the people and businesses and third sector organisations across the city who are ready to help us that we can eradicate period poverty in Leeds. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Arif.

COUNCILLOR ARIF: Thank you Lord Mayor and Councillor Anderson I find it quite ironic that you talk about safety in Harehills when actually it's your Government that is putting my residents in danger and this Council's doing all it can and to safeguard them that's just something I wanted to come back on. Moving on the following Lord Mayor I too will talk on period poverty. The following personal account comes from a young schoolgirl here in Leeds. I wrapped a sock around my underwear just to stop the bleeding because I didn't want to get shouted at and I wrapped a whole tissue roll around my underwear just to keep my underwear dry until I got home. I run sellotaped tissue in my underwear because I didn't know what else to do. Makes uncomfortable reading for some but just imagine what that young lady felt. Lord Mayor it really baffles me that we are having conversations such as these in a country that has a GDP of trillions and in a year, in the year 2019. Many flippantly say surely one can afford a box or two of such products. Well let me come back to that. We all know and have already talked about it today that the food banks are on the rise. In this very chamber we talk about that quite often so the truth is if you can't afford to fill your stomach then you simply cannot afford to buy sanitary products. As a teacher Council Bithell has pointed a picture of how attainment and attendance are condemning a whole generation of girls into a cycle of deprivation due to the lack of sanitary products. What has happened in our society that we find ourselves in this situation. Do we honestly live in a city where some girls are forced to miss school just

because they have their period and can't afford the necessary products. You would have noted that I said necessary and not luxury because as part of this the report also calls on the Government to remove the VAT from tampons and sanitary towels. They are not an added extra or a nice to have they are an absolute essential and it is disgraceful that we are not, this is not recognised and I've heard the argument that the cost would fall only slightly but what about the message it would send. It will show that the Government recognises and acknowledges that financially penalising women for a natural function of their body is fundamentally wrong. I don't know how many times we need to go over the same example or how many reports need to be published showing the damaging and disproportionate impact of austerity and whilst the Government has been diverted elsewhere, dare I say Brexit, our daughters, sisters and mothers are being deprived of their health, safety and dignity. For all the women, everybody sitting around this Chamber I ask you to join us into calling out the Government to take the necessary steps to finally eradicate period poverty. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and I also like to talk about the period poverty item and in a similar way but I don't have personal experience of having a period and I might not have personal experience of being in extreme poverty it doesn't mean that I don't care about the issue and one of the things I would like to say is that I welcome this going to Exec Board and the Council taking this issue so seriously. It's something that we should be talking about and shouldn't be afraid to talk about this Council should lead in raising awareness on this agenda. Secondly I would like to thank the partners involved Leeds University, Freedom for Girls, Radio Leeds who did so much to raise the issue and all the other agencies involved and congratulate them on their work and the outreach work that they do is absolutely to be applauded its hard work and often goes unnoticed. One of the things that I would like to ask is, was already taken by Councillor Bithell, who I thought raised it quite aptly that said contraception is so often available for people in GP's, pharmacies, different sexual health clinics and actually are we doing the same thing to put any period poverty and sanitary products on the same level and I don't think we are and I think you are absolutely right to raise this and it's something that this Council should take seriously and the NHS should take seriously as well as our schools. I also would like, I would be interested to know because the Executive Board Member I'm sure will address this, this is a pilot that's been advertised in the report and I'm interested in when the full roll out of this will be across Leeds and the date that is set to end period poverty and what we'll be working towards. I also think that endometriosis is something that's been increasingly on the agenda and this provides an incredibly apt opportunity to form this and to roll this into part of the outreach in the report and reporting in the future. It is often very very difficult for people to talk about in a very difficult for women to talk about for the partners that they confide in to talk about too and we absolutely should look at raising awareness on this. Finally I would add that the VAT that's added thanks to EU regulation I hope that after the 29th March will be one of the first things that disappears this Government should seek to lead on it but I'd be interested in the measures that have been taken as the report quite clearly says that this is about lobbying central Government what measures have been taken to lobby the EU to also remove their regulation and guidance on this matter. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: So thank you everyone for your comments there's quite a few to get through. So the Great Jobs Agenda first of all why wouldn't we sign up to it. It aims to align with our Best Council Plan and Inclusive Growth Strategy a great campaign from the TUC that Leeds is proud to be right behind and thank you firstly Councillors Wenham and Goddard for putting your maiden speeches to good use it's encouraging to hear how much we as an employer are already doing to ensure our employees are treated fairly, paid well and listened to. Although we can only encourage our partners to do the same and for instance pay the real living wage I feel confident that we'll see progress in this area. So Councillor Buckley first of all I was delighted to hear your lecture on the efficiencies of the private sector I was thinking about that this morning actually as I was sat at the bus stop waiting for my cancelled bus and thinking about those Carillian workers who are now working in our building services so I had a long time to think about that I'm afraid I didn't come to quite the same conclusions as you though. Councillor Cohen I think it's right it's laudable that the Government is spending the tax raised on sanitary products on related issues and obviously they was raised again but that tax simply shouldn't be there. I think you're right there are issues with the EU but I think under a future Labour Government we'll be able to get a much better deal than the one this current one has got already. Councillor Brooks is absolutely correct to raise the horror of rising in-work poverty as a real problem not just in Leeds but across the country and it was a fantastic speech and it was sincere from someone with real experience in this rather than just someone kind of waxing lyrical about it. Councillor Knight highlighted the disgraceful rise in child poverty both things that can be laid firmly at the foot of Government continuing austerity, mayhem over universal credit and to be honest a total lack for regard for normal hard working people has left individuals and families up and down the country struggling every single day to get by. Councillor Carlill's comments on food banks and the real living wage are absolutely right we have a moral duty to do the best we can by the people of Leeds and inclusive growth needs to be just that, inclusive, by working alongside our business partners and through the local enterprise partnership we can show that Leeds thrives for everyone and of course comrade Heselwood rightly outlined the debt we all owe to the trade unions and the good they have done for this country. Councillor Golton I'm afraid is preamble at lecturing us all meant he didn't quite get to the point but it's a shame that the Lib Dems in Government didn't improve Labour regulations which he seems to be advocating now.

(inaudible)

So moving onto period poverty I'm glad we were able to discuss it because obviously we didn't get to Councillor Harrison's question which was on the subject unfortunately the Lib Dems only ranked it as the 8th most important question but more than happy to answer the question now. So I was pleased to see Councillor Harrison's work in addressing the issue in one school in her ward it certainly encouraging to see that you've listened to the concerns and moved away from Councillor Golton's P card idea. I think on the P card if a young girl goes to someone and says I need a tampon someone saying "well where's your card" it's pointless you know, people need these products I think adding an extra layer is unnecessary and we must be clear that we need to develop a scheme that will provide sanitary

products to all those who cannot access them our scheme will not discriminate or be selective it will be available to all girls in all schools and all women in community hubs. It's something which I think Councillor Bentley has missed that actually we're working in getting products in community hubs and libraries not just schools. So I want to thank all members for their contributions on this. Councillor Gibson spoke incredibly well on the importance of amplifying the voices of the young women affected that is key to this and I speak as a man dealing with period poverty the most important thing was to listen to the voices of those people most affected in schools. Councillor Bithell made an incredibly strong speech highlighting the reality of the problem and once again in this Chamber informed us of the day to day realities of being a teacher in this country. Councillor Lennox of course referenced the VAT again an incredibly important issue. But so I'd just like to share some feedback from the focus groups that have taken place with students in Carr Manor. So discussions took place around tackling the stigma that surrounds period poverty and solutions to period poverty on topics such as how the girls would feel most comfortable accessing products at school did they want specific members of staff how did they want these staff identified where would they feel most comfortable accessing products, what products specifically would they want available. I can tell you already that some of their suggestions are things we hadn't thought of and this will tackle the issue in an innovative and unique manner is that it's for that reason that I am absolutely convinced that our collaborative approach to this is the right one and that collaboration is what I would like to expand on in addition to the students themselves I am delighted to say that a number of our child friendly ambassadors such as HCP who are an award winning asset management company and other partners who are extremely keen to help with a coordinated sustainable city wide approach. In conclusion Councillor Arif was absolutely right when she questioned the fundamental need for us to do this. It is a total disgrace that we live in a society where girls are missing their education simply because of the natural function of their bodies. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We come to communities. Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. It says on the agenda I am referring to minutes 106, 107, 130, 131 ... I aint.

COUNCILLOR: Red light Lord Mayor. (Laughter)

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: I can assure you I'm not no. The one I want to talk about is the report on tackling poverty and inequality. The report points out the national factors affecting this serious issue but there ones that you have no control over and certainly no influence over. What the report does not go into however is detailed mention of the local factors that you are responsible for and that you can influence if you genuinely want to improve things for people who are in poverty and inequality in the city. The rhetoric is good, the words that you put in the report are correct. However the report does not set out either a quantum of what the issue actually is citywide nor does the report set out the targets that you need to be held accountable to. You've not set out how you're going to reduce it, by how many you are, not setting out how you're going to do about it you just said Well it's all the fault of the Government let's blame them they're the ones who are totally responsible. No we all, every single one of us here have a responsibility to do it and as the administration in this city you have a greater responsibility because you have your hands on the purse strings, you are the ones who've got to determine where the money is spent.

But anybody else we can come forward with suggestions but as usual you would ignore good suggestions. What you could have said however is that you're collecting more rent which means that your housing department are working to make things better for residents. You could have said that you've introduced the big change recently, you didn't say anything about that. We now benefit, I've been out to look at it along with Caroline we went to have a look. We can see the good work that you're actually doing there so you are trying to do things in those respects. You could have talked about in terms of customer access that you've got another 1,120 people into jobs, positive things that you've done, you didn't mention that, you only wanted to do was kick the Government all the time. You could have pointed how much in benefits you've been able to get in because of the good work done by officers again you chose not to mention that because you don't want to mention that because all you want to do is blame the Government for absolutely everything. Yes things are tough, yes some residents are having a really really bad time just now and I'm not wanting to play that down under any circumstances but however, the way that the officers and partners are beginning to work we can get better if you give us the data we can all work together we can see what the quantum is and we can try to do things to help you get these people out of poverty ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Barry.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: and reduce inequality. Thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on minute 106 page 112 and actually goes over to 113 as well. I'm speaking on this because it's to do with 7 sites that's being proposed for Council housing. Now I'm totally, I'm in favour of more Council housing in Leeds but we know we do need more Council housing but, one of them listed is in Oldfield Lane in my ward Farnley and Wortley and it's been suggested 50 houses there though most of the land actually comes under the Leeds but Leeds School Sports Association but part of it is actually in Council, a strip of it is. This is a football pitch and has been for years, isn't used at the moment because the School Sports Association moved but is still a football pitch.

Now if you build houses on it it's not going to be a football pitch any more. I appreciate it isn't used but history if one goes back shows that there's been club's been interested in playing on there, one was interested in buying it but the Leeds Schools Sports Association didn't want to know, they was trying to flog the land for private housing so there's history there. But even when they did that the last firm that came forward that decided not to do it in the end did agree to leave in part of the land open for people, this particular proposal doesn't propose to do that. But as I said my concern is if we lose, if we lose land that's been, that was a football pitch for many years and we're wanting people to take up sport now then where are we going with this cos once it's built on we're not going to get it back. So I just want to say nothing against having Council houses in housing in the world in fact we asked for some we expected some on Thornhill Road on Council land there. We asked for it

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Didn't get it. So now we're without. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Truswell.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Thank you Lord Mayor a prime reason why I joined Labour 42 years ago was to fight for social housing, council housing and tenants. Like many members it's in my DNA. My dad was a low paid foundry man and my mum a part time laundrette attendant. They moved into a brand new Council house in 1949 and 70 years later my brother is still the tenant. I cannot imagine what life would have been like for us without the security of a decent affordable Council house. When I was first elected in 1982 this Council had 98,000 properties, 98,000, today it's down to 56,000. Right to buy has left a gaping chasm of housing need that's why I remain incensed that in Leeds over 23,000 households on our waiting list with around 4,000 on A priority and 2,300 on B and waiting times are going up. How times change between 1945 and 1980 successive Tory and Labour Governments built an average of a 126,000 councils houses a year, last year a mere 6,500. Yes Council house building under the last Labour Government was disappointing but tens of thousands of tenants benefited in our city from decency funding that provided new doors, windows, bathrooms, kitchens, roofs and heating systems in properties left to rot under the Thatcher and Major Governments. I'm really proud that this Labour Council is achieving its programme of 1,000 new homes our new 55 million programme will deliver another 358 by 2020 crucially at social rents. That is crucial because average recent rent figures show that social rents are £60 to £170 a week cheaper than even affordable rents. I'm equally delighted that my ward is earmarked for 1 of 7 new extra care schemes for older people. I've visited the first of these schemes. Wharfedale ward in Yeadon. The residents clearly love it, it promotes independence, it provides on-site emergency and unplanned care and it's more, much more cost effective than residential care. But despite our best efforts colleagues, comrades we are running to stand still. Removing the cap on housing revenue account will help after years of Tory neglect but they must also remove the restrictions on right to buy receipts and we need a far more generous grant regime but above all we need a Government dedicated to tackling this city and this nation's housing crisis a Government that truly recognises the status and importance of council housing in addressing that crisis, in other words a Labour Government.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dye.

COUNCILLOR DYE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd also like speak on minute 106 and 131 part of the Council House Growth Programme delivery of new social housing and also as Councillor Truswell commented on delivery of extra care housing. While I'm very proud to represent the ward that I live in in fact it's the ward I was born in, Killingbeck and Seacroft, and there are many many great things about my community. We have really really great green spaces in Killingbeck and Seacroft something that you heard about in the importance of in the deputation today and we have some brilliant organisations working in the ward and just to name 2 of them the LS14 Trust, Chapel FM do amazing work for our community and we also have some brilliant good neighbour schemes. So I'm very very happy to live in Killingbeck and Seacroft but I'm also very worried by some of the issues that we face and there issues that very sadly you've heard about today you've heard people talking to you about poverty about the impacts of austerity and I can tell you that it's having a big big impact on my ward too.

Our food bank is being used more and more and it's so sad to see long lines of people needing to use it and to make choices that nobody should have to make about whether you feed your kids or whether you heat your home it's really really depressing. Health inequality again you only need to look at any statistics to see that there's a lot of health inequality in my ward but the thing I want to concentrate on today is housing and the effects of poor housing are seen every day in my surgeries. Every week I have people coming in looking for help with housing issues although I've only been a councillor since May it's the top issue that people are walking through and through to my surgeries with. House prices have increased, rental prices have increased, wages aren't keeping up and lots and lots of residents are struggling to find suitable accommodation and many young people in my ward just can't afford the cost of buying a house and the waiting time for social housing is also increasing and we just don't have enough housing to address the need. There's been a massive under investment from this Government and too many people live in unsuitable accommodation. Councillor Anderson said that we're very good at blaming the Government but why shouldn't we blame the Government when the Government's at fault. I also just want to kind of pick up a couple of things about people that have come into it talking about overcrowding so I've had one young woman who came into my surgery living in her childhood bedroom with her baby and her partner so it's really really important that we do something to provide housing for people in desperate need and therefore I am really pleased to say that that when we are building new social housing I'm very happy about the speed that the Council's moved to identify sites and I personally am very happy about the sites have been identified in fact ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR DYE: So I just want to say thank you very much I commend these proposals and I look forward ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you

COUNCILLOR DYE: To seeing them in my ward thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shahzad please.

COUNCILLOR SHAHZAD: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will be speaking on minute 106 and 131, pages 112 and 132 of both Council Housing Growth Programme reports focusing on extra care . I welcome the council delivering more extra care housing for Leeds this is a great example of the Council stepping in and delivering for the people of Leeds where the market has failed to deliver and it will help us achieve so many of our aims. We want Leeds to be an age friendly city, the best city for health and wellbeing and the best city to grow old in. We want people to live in strong, engaged and well connected communities, we want more people to be able to manage their own conditions, we want there to be a left shift for more care to be delivered in the community and people supported to remain in their local communities for longer. This programme will go a long way to help us achieve all of those aims. Firstly I am pleased to see more care and support services delivered through extra care housing. In the community we know people want to be able to live as independently as they are able in their own community for as long as they can this housing is one of the many ways we can help them to achieve that. Given the access to shared facilities and activities I hope that the extra care housing programme in

particular helps to tackle social isolation and loneliness. I am going to talk about the health impact of loneliness which has been overlooked for far too long. Loneliness is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It raises your likelihood of mortality by 26%, raises the risk of high blood pressure, stroke and increases your chance of developing clinical dementia by 64%. We know that lonely individuals are more likely to visit their GP, suffer from falls and use accident and emergency services independent of chronic illness. So not only will building extra care housing help address social isolation it will help us reduce demand on our acute healthcare services it will also lead to savings for individuals and for the Council as it costs significantly less to deliver the residential care. I am proud that Leeds City Council is investing to save whilst delivering good quality housing for people with support needs and I look forward to seeing this programme progress. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm going to be talking on the Council Housing Growth Programme the extra care housing and the Tackling Poverty Inequality report. Council housing Growth Programme. The removal of the cap on borrowing on the HRA is very welcome and the Council has an ambitious programme to get 300 houses built per year. For this they should be congratulated. One of the issues that we have though is looking at the paper the model through which this is to be delivered is not very varied and it depends very much on the Council using land that it already owns so that all of these new affordable housing units are going to be generally in areas that already have large council house supply. This means that there is naturally going to be a differential in terms of outputs for the ability for the council to deliver affordable housing in those areas where it is you, could argue, even more acutely in need which is in those outlying districts where even more of the Council properties that should have been left in public ownership have actually gone to right to buy and this model doesn't offer any flexibility to allow investment in those areas indeed if we did have such flexibility there might be a more positive response from Councillor Coupar about the issue in Sugar Hill and the ability of the Council for instance to use that investment money to buy the land and refurbish the properties. The second is the extra care housing paper. Once again on face value really positive news that we're actually increasing accommodation which is best suited for our ageing population. However and it was something that Councillor Truswell pointed out, there are 7 of these complexes that are going to be built. The first wave however is actually going to be in Woodlesford and in 3 other areas where the Council is entering into a deal with a private developer and that deal is so that the Council can sell the land that they do own in that area and it delivers far less affordable accommodation in extra care than the other 4 sites which are going to be in other areas where the Council owns the land where that will be 100% affordable housing. We would have liked that option in my area. And finally in the tackling poverty and inequality report Lord Mayor I did make a point at Executive Board that period poverty was not included in that, this is for Councillor Gibson's benefit and I was glad to see that there was a separate report come afterwards what I wasn't glad to see was that in that report there was no money, no timescales and no urgency so for all of that concern out there on those benches you really do need to focus on Councillor Heselwood and Councillor Pryor to get more delivery and get them to give them some proper timescales so that this can be enacted in your ward and not just in Carr Manor school.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrison please.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Thank you Mr. Mayor. I'm going to be commenting on minute 106 delivery of new build social housing. We've already heard that the Local Authority's planning to build 300 new homes. With the best will in the world however that is going to fall well short of our percentage quota which would be needed to achieve target of 3 million new homes that was recommended by last week's Shelter report in time to alleviate the housing crisis by 2040. We're always hearing from the Labour Group that there are so many things the Council cannot do because it is a Local Authority and constrained by the legislation or Government cuts. So what I would like to know is what can we do. A one solution is the idea proposed by the Lib Dem Group to set up our own housing company to act independently of the Local Authority without the constraints that the Council suffers but which would reflect the ambition that Leeds City Council has to seriously tackle homelessness and the causes of homelessness through a series of affordable and desirable designs. The Lib Dem recommendation would allow the Council to create a company that would effectively be owned by the citizens of Leeds and it could be confident of building homes and creating communities that people want to and are able to afford to live in so it could put in applications for 2 and 3 bedroom homes rather than the 5 and 6 bedroom homes that the big developers prefer because there more profitable. It would be able to go to the open market to raise money, it will be able to invest in innovation such as modular homes. Modular homes that can be quickly and easily built on small pockets and infill land enhancing existing communities and helping to solve Leeds housing crisis. It could even use pockets of land that are eyesores and unattractive to everyone for example land at Pinfield Lane in Carlton so helping to negate the need for a larger developments that seriously impacts on already overstretched services. Better still it could turn to companies that build modular homes in the West Yorkshire area. It could also buy existing housing stock such as the 71 homes at Sugar Hill Close in Oulton so that we could more easily put an end to the uncertainty that residents there are facing. Residents there are under the daily threat of eviction notices and the Council will eventually face having to rehome 71 houses. As we have already heard when redeveloped it's highly unlikely that these homes will be affordable homes so that the unaffordable homes will further reduce the stock of affordable homes for families in the city. Yes an independent housing company could invest in the modernisation of the existing stock confident that they would not face ultimately demand from tenants to sell to them under the right to buy scheme. The proposals currently offered by Pemberstons are a divide and conquer (inaudible) ..

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Harrison, that's it.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Quite simply if we are to tackle the housing crisis in the area that needs ... Sorry.

THE LORD MAYOR: No, no, no, no.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth please.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I wish to speak on

minute 107 on page 103 Transfer of Yeadon Town Hall to a community interest company. I think this is relatively good in principle. Yeadon Town Hall is a very notable building to the whole of Yeadon it dominates the skyline and people of Yeadon and the whole city in all fairness do come to various things at the Town Hall. It has a wide range of facilities from a fully fledged theatre to small meeting rooms and anything really in between and the CIC will be free to attract further investment and I've met with the couple of members of the CIC and they're very keen and got very ambitious plans for business to invest in the Town Hall and for new performances and I think this is really a good thing and I'm confident that they will improve the way that Town Hall has been left because in the last few years getting a room at the Town Hall has been extremely difficult through the Leeds City Council policy of lettings. In fact almost impossible with regards to that. I do however hope that the backlog of maintenance is agreed with the CIC before they take it over and a programme to carry that out and I would just like to pay tribute to John, the caretaker, who's being there for as long as I remember and he's worked exceptionally long hours and could always provide everything that you wanted whatever you ask for he could provide it from a beer glass to a bowler hat and has always been on site to ensure things went correctly and in actual fact in recent years he's been the best person to go to if you wanted to get a room much better than going to the lettings procedure. With regards to briefings I do feel that all 6 ward members both Guiseley & Rawdon and Otley & Yeadon should be briefed because it is something that affects the whole of Yeadon and Guiseley and Rawdon does represent part of Yeadon but I'm very confident that hopefully this will be approved at the March meeting of the Community Committee, Councillor Downes to be on the CIC and he will be able to hopefully report back to the Community Committee on the progress and there is always of course the backstop where the building returns to the Council should the CIC fail, (applause), which I don't expect will be needed but it's always there. At least it proves your all listening doesn't it. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Unfortunate choice of words, Councillor Wray please.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll be speaking on minute 130 but due to the nature of conversation will be varying widely about tackling poverty and inequality and I think from the room today from this Chamber there's been many eloquent examples of what poverty does to people and I think going over facts again and statistics is perhaps in that sense not very useful. But what I will say is why this is important to our city, it's not just in economic terms. Yes tackling poverty means that we have spent more on restorative services in terms of our social services, in terms of helping our citizens in need but there is a moral dimension. This is about how we judge ourselves as a city and how we judge ourselves as a city now our Best Council Plan, our Inclusive Growth Strategy is about sharing the wealth of this great city with all of its citizens making sure that no matter where you're born, who your family was, what you're outlooks and ambitions are that there is no cap on what you can achieve in Leeds so you can work in your local schools, a proud teacher knowing that you're educating the next generation, you can aspire to stand in this chamber representing the peoples of your community and through our work as a Council of tackling that we do acknowledge and I think it's unfair to say we don't acknowledge that there are things we control in this city that is why we have a dedicated strategy for our poorest neighbourhoods where we're tackling the deep rooted problems in areas like mine in Beeston Hill where many of my residents live in extreme poverty we've put extra resources in with coordinated targeted responses from all of our

agencies and our partners but in the end we have to aspire to more than just the staff. Yes we're building more council houses we built nearly a thousand and we should be intensely proud of that. We're looking to build more using innovative capital receipts in different ways we're looking to use the Government's lift on the cap to build more homes, we're looking to speak to our partners, to speak to our constituents, to speak to all the members of this city about how we tackle their needs but in the end we must have the aspiration and very clear aspiration that one person in poverty in this city is one person too many. This isn't about stats it is about people's lives it is about their aspirations, their futures, their untold potential and this city cannot reach its potential unless we allow them to reach their potential. So when we talk of poverty let's not just talk about the stats let us talk about the people it affects, their hopes their dreams, their aspirations and let us as a city do what our Government should be doing and making sure that intergenerational contract that the next generation does better than the last is a key priority of the city via our Best Council Plan, via inclusive growth and via every endeavour we do so while you may mock some of the stories you've heard today, may you think there rhetoric and political spin, they are the true stories of the people of Leeds.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan please.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. I'm speaking today on minute 130 the Executive Board minutes for tackling poverty and inequality report. I'd like to start by echoing my colleagues praise for the truly wonderful work our council is doing to supply social housing across the city. In fact due to Government failing to do anything about this desperate need for this. We want to be that welcoming city with a strong economy building strong cohesive, resilient and sustainable communities and supporting our residents every day. Sadly the very fact of this matter is due to continued oppression of austerity from this Conservative Government that has paused upon our city currently 65,000 Leeds households are living in poverty and 164,000 people in Leeds which is 20% of the population live in wards ranked among the 10 most deprived nationally. My own ward of Burmantofts and Richmond Hill has 2 of the 6 priority neighbourhoods. Priority neighbourhoods in case you are not aware are areas that are focusing on those areas which are seen as in the bottom 1% across the country. Let me repeat that fact, these are areas in the most deprived 1% neighbourhoods nationally. Teams throughout the Council have been doing an amazing job in collaborating on programmes of work and responding to the needs and aspirations of each community. Throughout both Lincoln Green as well as Clifton and Nowell's there has been an increase in community engagement with third sector organisations with a view to improving local playgrounds, community gardens as well as providing more facilities for children, young people and families to integrate and develop. Working to improve the community's supporting our residents improves their quality of life and the place where they are proud to call home. It is horrendous knowing that in our city in 2019 people and families are in such poverty with it having a detrimental impact on their welfare. The sad fact of the matter is that we as a Council need to implement a plan tackling poverty and inequality across our city because it's really that bad, thanks to this Government. The work our teams are doing is fantastic but it still is heartbreaking to know that we have to do this because of the consistent crush of austerity. I can stand here all day and read out statistics and figures all day but these are real lives and real people who face a daily battle of living in poverty, food banks, rent arrears, homelessness 1 or all of these factors staring people in the face. All we can do though is ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: through the hard work and the determination of colleagues combined with the tenacity of our communities

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: is keep battling and showing that as a city we will continue to try.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Anderson please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: I don't know which City all these people are living in but it's not the city I am living in and I wish you'd stop running Leeds down in every speech that you make. (Cheers and applause). Thank you Lord Mayor I'm speaking on minute 131 in respect of the delivery of extra care housing. (inaudible shouting). I am delighted that in my ward we are going to have extra care housing and a new scheme to be delivered and brought forward on the site at Farrer Lane which borders Adel and Holt Park. I really welcome the investment, we have a high number of elderly residents in our area who want to remain in the area. This is purpose built supported living for elderly and vulnerable people. It has just been announced today that a consortium have been awarded the contract to deliver this housing which is part of the extra care package won. The site chosen is ideally placed for all essential services. It is close to ASDA, it's close to the bus terminus for 3 different bus services, close to the GP practice and due to be completed and operational by spring 2021. Its residents will also have the benefit from being in an area covered by our wonderful Neighbourhood Network, OPAL. This housing also supports the aim of keeping people in their own homes for longer as part of the strength based social work approach. I was pleased to hear from the director recently that we have now a downward trend in people going into nursing homes just as a matter of course so we will need more of this type of housing as we move into the future. This scheme will also help to alleviate and prevent social isolation. It should also lessen inpatient stays in hospitals thus saving money for the NHS. However that money should be redirected back to the Council to help support existing and future schemes. I look forward to working with the consortium and the planners to get the scheme delivered on time. In terms of healthy and active lifestyles the Farrar Lane site will also benefit from being next to the Holt Park Active which, as a lot of you will know, is one of the Council run Leisure Centres but also has a number of classes for older people and is a facility well used by Adult Social Care as it has a well equipped therapy pool and rooms for activities for adults with learning difficulties and other vulnerabilities to take part in crafts and I discovered on a recent visit when the manager showed us round that it has a garden area as well which has won an award from Leeds in Bloom and that's being tended to by the adult users of that service. Furthermore this housing site is also next to the Holt Park Library which is housed within Ralph Thoresby High School another service very much valued by older residents and nowadays not just for borrowing books but a host of other services and information on local activities. Overall a great location for the extra care housing in Adel and Wharfedale. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes and thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to everybody who has spoken on the Community minutes from the Executive Board. Unfortunately I'd like to start addressing Council by informing them of some sad news and that's the sad death of one of our officers, Jill Hunter, who was working in the West. Now I inform Council because I know that she worked with many members of Council over many years she's worked for the Council and being dedicated and committed to all the work that she has carried out so I just wanted to let you all know because I know that many of you have worked with her over those years and I hope that you would join with me in sending our best regards to her family and condolences and sympathies. So thank you for that so I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors who have spoken today on subjects which they are really very passionate about on all sides I can say. Affecting each and every ward across this city. What we can see from this is the hard work and dedication that our Council is doing to address the needs and the priorities of our city. We're having to do this due to our Government's failure to provide adequate resources and support that is needed while continuing to push austerity onto this city. Council I'd like to address a few of the points that were made actually and Councillor Anderson quite surprising some of the comments that you made because those have never been comments that you made in Scrutiny that I have to say. You've always been in support of the schemes and the projects that we're doing and indeed the extra care scheme that's going into your ward as your fellow Councillor as already outlined and thank you for the support of that Caroline Anderson. It's very strange that actually in your address to Council you even contradicted yourself that we're getting used to the contradictions of the Conservative Party I've got to say. Councillor Ann Blackburn who raised the issue of the scheme that is proposed for Wortley and regarding the football pitch. Now I know that that football pitch has not been used for over 10 years in excess of over 10 years but I still accept that you are concerned about the loss of an amenity to the ward and I'm more than happy to listen to what local members have got to say and speak to you regarding those schemes. Councillor Truswell thanks for outlining the value of social housing in this city. It's always very good to hear from experience what people's views are of a social housing and again the support for extra care. Councillor Dye thank you for outlining what's happening in Seacroft and I'm pleased again that we're able to take our proposals for building extra care and housing out to a much needed area and also everybody that spoke about the new housing and the extra care I kind of, really thank you for those comments. Councillor Golton you know to suggest that housing and extra care that's proposed for Rothwell is disingenuous, is not really good from somebody who represent that area. I have to say that it's 1 of 7 sites that are being created and we are actually getting a lot more units because we're doing the 2 different types of method of delivering these schemes without which we would only ever be able to pride 200 units of extra care so by doing this we're over double in the amounts of extra care that were being able to get to. So I'd just like to provide a reminder of the work in which we as a Council are doing to address the ever growing need for new building, social housing and extra care. Although we are a long way towards our target today we have delivered the following new build social housing already. 388 new homes across 10 development sites via PFI, 116 other homes have been delivered on other sites and £18m of right to buy receipts, funding has also been committed towards the delivery of 474 new affordable housing. Another 87 homes are at the pre planning stage and 4 new extra care housing for older people will be built through the external provider by March 2021. I think that's pretty good going I don't know about anybody else. I think the removal of the HRA cap helps us

to progress and to plan ahead of significant ongoing programme and I know that we've got a long way to go to achieve our goal but I think that the aspiration of 300 houses by this Council the ambition of providing that is one to be applauded. I'd just like to say I also recognise everything that's been said on poverty and inequality in this Council Chamber today and extremely passionately by members certainly on this side of the Chamber and I've got to say that Theresa May said austerity were over, well try telling some of our residents that austerity is over because it's way from over. You know Theresa May can't even get her own side in Government to agree with what she's doing never mind cross party to you know get agreement on austerity I've got to say. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: 14 16 personal explanation. I actually, I've been misrepresented ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me Councillor Anderson. You have to illustrate this relates to some material part of an earlier speech so that I can decide whether to admit it or not.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Right, I've been accused of not backing which is what I did in my speech actually backing all the good work that the Council have done in all the various Departments by talking about how good housing well I won't go through the whole thing again I wanted to explain ...

THE LORD MAYOR: OK you can make your point.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: You know to clarify the point so may I ...

THE LORD MAYOR: You may.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Right. I stood up, she's obviously misheard what I said which is fine, that happens in the general din around here. I was actually complementing housing on the good work they've done, complementing the big change for all the work that they've done, complementing the Communities Team for all the benefits that they've been able to get in I did not run down any Council service at all in what I said. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Bear with me a moment Councillor Coupar. Right Councillor Anderson thank you very much for that we will now move on you have made your point. Children and Families, Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: I was so busy contemplating procedure rules I forgot it was me. Thank you Lord Mayor I'm speaking to minutes 97, 98 and 121 starting with which would of course be minute 97 support for care leavers but I'm going to be if I may ever so slightly cheeky because it would be entirely remiss of me to run out of time before I was able to speak to minute 121 about our Ofsted inspection report and we wanted to congratulate officers, the administration Councillors across the board particularly the officers for what is on any measure a tremendous report that we are

one of the leading cities according to this report is something that we absolutely all take pride in and should be rightly proud of. (Applause). I can't think of an area of Council where there is more cross party work and where more effort goes into depoliticising the work that is taking place and I think therefore I think, I hope that members who sit on Scrutiny Board and Corporate Parenting Board, the many boards that champion our young people would testify to that and I think I do, just it's a tremendous result, I shall move on. One of the things though that I'm equally delighted about and Councillor Mulherin you said it today in almost the same breath as you said what an amazing report it was and how we should take pride in it you said to your absolute credit and the Director of Children's Services said it in the same e-mail when he reported the outcome that we will not rest on our laurels, that we recognise the work that there is to do and will continue to do that work and to do it at pace to get the absolute best outcomes for all of our young people and so we look forward to working with you to continue to that end so congratulations. Turning very briefly to the support for care leavers. Mention is made in that report of universal credit and members opposite could learn a huge amount about how we deal with Government policies because instead of simply lambasting the policy what it does is deal with it. It says this is happening and this is how we will work with it. Governments are there to do their job, we are here to do our job. We are not a powerless Council, we are a Council here to serve the people of Leeds and we do that not by simply decrying the Government but seeking to work with it. Thank you  
Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor and I'm speaking to the similar minutes but I'm going to mainly focus on the Ofsted inspection and as Chair of the Scrutiny Board first and having been almost had a ringside seat to the improvement process from back in the early days been in administration when the inadequate Ofsted judgement came in and then being a shadow to Councillor Blake for a number of years being on the Children's Trust Board and Scrutiny Board it is genuinely a pleasure to be able to stand here and welcome and congratulate you on this outstanding result. It is something genuine on all sides of this Chamber that every single member has been committed to trying to solve that situation and to do the very best for children and young people in our city and it is heartwarming to know that we are one of the leading local authorities that there are so many people that deserve congratulations I'd like to add our congratulations as a group to Sal Tariq on his thoroughly deserved honour in the New Year's honours and we should quite rightly congratulate Steve Walker and all of his team for all the good work that they've done and it would be remiss not to mention Mr Nigel Richardson for all of the work that he set in place when he came into the Local Authority and I had many battles with him over the years but that that was our job and it's helped to lead us to the place that we are and as Councillor Cohen has said as others have said and it is not a time to be complacent and the Scrutiny Board is doing a piece of work asking the question this year is Leeds a child friendly city and certainly I think it would be remiss not to take into account what Ofsted have had to say and there's no doubt if it's not the best yet it is one of the best cities for children and young people to grow up and that's to all of our credit and to all of our benefits going forward but it just shows and perhaps others further away might take notes that when politicians focus on what they agree about and work together to try and achieve shared objectives that sometimes actually they can achieve great things and when we focus on our differences and what divides us

that rarely leads to good outcomes for anybody so I'll leave it there Lord Mayor.  
Thank you very much, congratulations.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and echo the comments by Councillor Cohen and Councillor Lamb there as well. It is good news for the city I'm sure all of us appreciate the work that's gone in by officers and members as well. I just want to make two short comments on the report a Child, Thriving a Child Poverty Strategy which once again that there's little in it one can disagree with so just a few points that might be helpful for further drafts going forward. As I mentioned earlier the timing of labour markets often has the result in terms of people entering the market and if we think about the people who are hit hardest by a financial crash as we had in 2008 that is the poorest in society those are the people often that was first laid off and therefore it comes that when the economic situation improves or when a Government has a long term economic plan to improve the economy for everybody that is those people that then re-enter the jobs market and the priority should be for this Council and for Government to ensure that when people re-enter the jobs market it is the most disadvantaged who benefit as well and are not left behind and that has been the case as I referred to earlier that it is the disadvantaged who have benefited most from a rising in employment and of course that then knocks on to children living in poverty and if a child's parents evidence shows of a child's, both child's parents are in work their life chances are better, their opportunities are better and their income obviously is better so policies like childcare support is crucial to help get parents either father or mother back in to work to contribute to the economy get off of a cycle of welfare dependency and therefore be able to improve their own circumstances and the child's circumstances well. And it's remiss not to mention as well that of course tax cuts help in that the Government's tax cuts have benefited the poorest in society the most since 2010 and as a positive message to say at the end that what reports like this should always include which they don't always include is the success stories like the fact that the gap between attainment between advantaged and disadvantaged children is now the smallest it's been in a decade and we've got more children from disadvantaged backgrounds going on to university than ever before and that should be something we're all proud of and we shouldn't shy away from putting those successes in reports such as this.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you Lord Mayor I'll be speaking today on minute 97 but first of all I would like to echo the congratulations of my 3 colleagues we got in the recent Ofsted report. I'd like to talk today about the incidence of mental health issues for children in care and the likely sort of implications for them once they leave. 50% of adult mental health problems first present by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 24 so it's self-evident that an early diagnosis is absolutely essential to ensure the children in care do get the care and the treatment that they need before they actually leave the care system. I suspect that children in care might be at least as susceptible to mental health problems as children outside of the care system. Recently I've been involved in a specific case of a child in care but I won't go into the

details of that here except to say that I experienced some frustrating issues in my role as a corporate parent which of course will affect everybody in this Chamber too. It's almost impossible to find out anything about children in care because of confidentiality that's not a criticism it's just a statement. There appears to be an expectation that we should accept what we are told by officers but I really believe that our role as elected members is to challenge not to blindly accept reassurances that were given as I said before it's not meant as a criticism of either social services staff or children's services as an organisation but more about the organisation itself. I understand that the daily welfare of children in care is mainly in the the care of therapists, very well trained therapists rather than clinicians and that the former, that's therapists, have psychology and psychiatric training. I would just like to know whether children in care are diagnosed or assessed initially by a psychologist or psychiatrist on first being admitted to care and if they are subsequently assessed routinely by clinicians and if details of their sometimes complex problems are known to their GP's. For example I understand that as a proven link between hypersexuality and bipolar conditions and would like to know if children demonstrating hypersexuality are assessed regularly for bipolar so finally I would just like to be reassured that all children are constantly sought to reassess during their period in care and particularly after their transition to adult social care in terms of their mental health and mental illness sort of situations. I think we're all clear that in the past there have been issues about the transition of children from care going into adult social care. Thank you very much indeed Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: Oh sorry Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I wish to speak on minute 97, page 103 which is the reports about support for care leavers. Colleagues around the room will be aware that care leavers remain one of the most vulnerable groups in society and that in our role as corporate parents we have particular responsibility for supporting young people leaving our care. It is widely acknowledged that in their lifetime the outcomes for care leavers are very poor compared to their peers with care leavers being at much greater risk of being homeless being in the criminal justice system and experiencing poor physical health and mental health which Councillor Flynn has just referred to. As many of you know I work in mental health I have done for 25 years and I was asked last week to speak on Capital and Heart radio about the Government announcements to put more money into children and young people's mental health. I did make the point that if the Government care about mental health they could stop moving people onto universal credit which is having such a detrimental impact on the mental health of adults and of young people. But moving back to this report I am very pleased that this report highlights our commitment as a whole Council to improve outcomes for care leavers and to engage with a range of partners across all sectors through Child Friendly Leeds to ensure that care leavers have access to the support that they need. The strong multi-agency partnerships that we've built through our network of Child Friendly Leeds Ambassadors have enabled the Council to engage with a significant number of local organisations, employees and supporters who are committed to supporting care leavers and I'm very pleased that the report highlights Leeds strong track record as support for care leavers across the city particularly as Leeds is performing better than most other cities, counties and borough's. Young people leaving care do not have the same family support networks that other young people have, however that doesn't mean they don't require the same level of support in fact

in many cases because of a history of trauma they will require more support. It's very reassuring to know that the Leeds pilot of The Stone Cut initiative which allows young people to remain with their foster carers up to the age of 21 and we now have 61 young people who are in staying put arrangements in the city this allows our young people to live in a family supported environment for longer which I'm sure you'll all agree is very positive. I welcome the Government's efforts to promote better support for care leavers nationally up to the age of 25 for those who requests it. However part of our commitment to be the best city for children and young people involves going above and beyond the statutory requirements and I'm delighted that we've gone one step further to support care leavers for as long as they need it. In our recent Ofsted inspection report as you know we received a judgement of outstanding. It's delightful to be able to say that again and in the report Leeds has commended for being ambitious for care leavers futures and it's a credit to this administration and this city that we continue to offer opportunities ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: that allow our care leavers to thrive it underpins our values to be an inclusive and compassionate city. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you for the comments I think they were very constructive and I'm pleased to say that the great work that Leeds Children's Services have been doing has been recognised across this Chamber as well as by Ofsted. Councillor Venner I agree that in our role as corporate parents we have a duty to support care leavers as they remain one of the most vulnerable groups in society. I'm sure that most if not all of us would ask the question would this be good enough for my child and that's what we should be doing as corporate parents and I think that the work that we're doing currently support our care leavers highlights this as a Council were striving to go above and beyond the statutory requirements for us as a Council. We are trying to do what we would do for our own children which is to support them for as long as possible and that's the aims of the care leaver strategy and the report that we took to Executive Board. Councillor, now then got I've Councillors Ryan Stephenson, I've got Councillor Lamb, Councillor Cohen, Councillor Flynn and Councillor, I think, was that everybody I caught there. Thank you for your comments in terms of the recent Ofsted inspection. I'm really delighted that we have a city that values the voice and influence of young people so much. I'd like to make a special mention at this point to our Voice and Influence team, they're a very small team but they play a really vital role in terms of ensuring that young people's voices shape the work that we do and our care leavers Council have being really active in shaping the services provided to them and providing reassurance also that the services that they receive are ones that are fit for purpose. So I'd like to thank them also for the work that they're doing to make a difference for the care of young people in the city. Tackling the impact of child poverty is at the heart of our refreshed Children's and Young People's Plan. Councillor Venner touched upon this in the work that we're doing with our partners in the city there's a huge challenge for us there as we've already set out in the previous two discussions under the communities portfolio and under the learning portfolio with the rising numbers of children living in poverty in the city. We need to look back at where we came from in 2010 poverty was a 13 year low and was reducing still and

now we have the number of children living in poverty set to rise to a record level of 5.2 million over the next five years. That is a really significant impact on the mental wellbeing of young people and we know that as a city that has to be at the heart of our plan, it is at the heart of our Refresh Children and Young People's Plan and when we talk about not being complacent that is where we are taking the next steps in terms of driving forward our ambition to be the best city for children to grow up in and Councillor Cohen you mentioned universal credits in your comments and just yesterday at the Corporate Parenting Board we were learning yet more about the impact of universal credit on kinship care in the city and special guardianship orders and I think you know as we're still learning about this and the Government's saying its listening and is open to making changes to policy we would like to hopefully have cross party support and go to Government and saying actually there are wider ramifications of the policy that you are introducing and that we can actually help to flag up other areas that you need to change to actually ensure that young people are not suffering the consequences of an ill thought out policy. So can I thank all of the members who have spoken today for their comments on the recent Ofsted inspection. I'd like to thank, thanks I gave earlier to thank members of the Scrutiny Board's and Chairs past and present of the Scrutiny Board for Children and Families and the role they have played in our improvement journey, our judgments of outstanding just reflects years of hard work that's seen a safe and sustained reduction in number of children entering care and improved outcomes for children and young people across the city. It's a credit to the work of this Council to its hard working members of staff and to our partners across the city. Finally just let's say and Councillor Flynn I know that there have been numerous meetings arranged to discuss that specific case with the Director of Children's Services, the family with the Chief Officer for Social Work and I know there have been significant exchanges of information as well but I am more than happy to discuss the matter further with you and finally just to say I am proud that elected members across this Chamber take their role as corporate parents seriously. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. It actually feels like quite a long time since we had such an in-depth opportunity to look at the minutes of the Executive Board that we bring to this Council and I just want to say I'm incredibly proud of all of the contributions today reflecting the extraordinary work that we actually do through this Council in our communities and whilst we can do some things directly and I believe we do them very well we also have an incredibly important role in influencing, empowering, leading by example and I think the comments today have reflected how every member really takes their responsibilities seriously. It is so powerful to hear personal experiences and thank you to all of you who have shared some of your experiences with us not only today I know many of you do it in other places as well. It is not an easy thing to do and I really respect each and every one of you for sharing those things with us so that we can, it helps to inform our decision making and it helps us to understand the impact of policies on people in our communities and it is as well for all of us we have a responsibility to make sure that those experiences that our constituents are going through are brought to light that we do talk about them and we do shout out when we see gross injustice and we know that we have to work even harder to make sure that we can put some distance between some of the harsher national policies and how we can try and lessen the impact at the level of our communities here in Leeds and can I just thank

my Exec Team as well for their summing up, I think there's just been such a range of issues that we've covered today but incredible linkage actually in consistency between all of the areas that we found covered so thank you for that. Actually I don't know about all of you on this side of the Chamber but I get the sense that the Tories are a bit subdued today actually and do you know. (Laughter). Actually they actually are on their best behaviour and I think we can all thank them for that. But actually on a serious note, on a serious note I think they recognise too that damaging impact that some of their national policies are having on people in our communities and it's because we call out the impact that people like Amber Rudd have actually had the strength to come in and actually say this isn't right and put a pause we don't know where it's going to go but she wouldn't do that if it wasn't for us shouting out and showing the injustice that we see in our communities on a daily basis. I have to say I want to stand up here and say an enormous thank you as well for everyone involved in our Children's Services right across the piece. I want to say thank you to Councillor Mulherin and all of her team for incredible leadership in a very difficult part of our business. (Applause). I also want to say thank you to Steve Walker, Sal Tariq and all the team. (Applause). I'm pleased to all of the staff who just worked so incredibly hard we know that. But I also want to say thank you to Tom Riordan as our Chief Executive. (Applause). I wasn't going to allow him his own personal applause but thank you. But also the Finance Team because if we hadn't got the finances of this Council where they are we could not have put the additional money that we know we've needed into Children's Services and look at other local authorities across the country how they are struggling with the increase in need the decrease in budgets and that we know it is children and within their families who are really suffering the most. So bringing all of this together I believe we are incredibly ambitious for our city and do you know what I don't see what we've been talking today as running down our city we will always frame what we say in the context of how successful the city is in many areas and how that success enables us to do the things that we need to do what we know and what perhaps there is a denial about is there are too many people in this great city of ours who don't have the opportunity to take advantage of the fantastic opportunities that we're creating and we know that it is those inequalities that hold people back and it is our responsibility to make sure that we intervene, we interrupt and we shout out and make sure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit where they can. So you know running through everything we're doing we're now looking at two pillars to inform all of the work that we do we could have picked up more of it if we got further but the whole agenda around inclusive growth that has been covered by the reports that we've been through today, all of the issues that you've raised about in-work poverty and I'm afraid you know argue to you know the cows come home this is a scandal it is the scandal of our time how many people who are actually in work are forced to go to our food banks who have to make horrendous choices and how many of our children and young people live in households deemed to be in poverty who have at least one parent working. We are leading by example in this field we know that many businesses are starting to recognise that if you a treat employees well, if you look after them, if you pay them a decent real living wage it will benefit the whole of their enterprise. We have to and this is the work that LEP is doing, the Local Enterprise Partnership is doing is actually with businesses with direct experience going out and actually showing the examples out in the private sector following our example of how it can bring benefit to our whole city and we have that ambition to be a real living wage city that is our ambition and we will keep working until we can achieve this. But the other parts around inclusive growth absolutely bang on about the impact of period poverty on attainment and all of those issues around skills and education unlocking life changing experiences and the opportunities to move forward into work and into training. Absolutely right that we call this out. And

moving on to the housing portfolio we know that housing is one of the biggest issues in terms of the prosperity and wellbeing of our families. So that fantastic contributions and we welcomed the lifting of the HRA borrowing cap but we know that it is still limited. So much that we need to talk about in terms of the pulling the whole of the agenda together but the second pillar of what we are doing relates to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Absolutely fundamental and doing brilliant work, groundbreaking work and a national leader and actually enabling us to move forward in the area of prevention strategy, preventing ill health has got to be the top of our game. I listen to Neil Buckley really with interest actually, (laughter), and I will ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: follow the example of others and I'll just say look at the renationalisation of railways now being promoted by the Williams review in terms of the absolute ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Devastating impact of privatisation in our rail industry. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now vote on the motion to receive the minutes. (*A vote was taken*) Those are CARRIED.

We will break for tea we'll reassemble at 10 minutes to 5 and the gentlemen in the gallery are welcome to join us.

#### ITEM 9 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE LORD MAYOR: Right come on settle down we're 4 minutes late with starting. We're starting now with the Report on Devolved Matters. Councillor Blake please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: OK, I could start off where I finished talking about the renationalisation of our railways, (laughter). OK I'm really pleased to give an update on devolved matters all of the issues that are raised in the report that you've got before you. With regards to One Yorkshire devolution. We were invited to a meeting with Jake Berry as the Minister of the Northern Powerhouse. Unfortunately we had written as the 18 Council Leaders and the South Yorkshire Mayor asking for one meeting with us all with the Secretary of State what we actually got was separate meetings so West Yorkshire with Jake Berry as the Minister. However we actually had some good discussions and he certainly didn't, he certainly gave us a very good hearing and promised to move the discussions forward on the One Yorkshire proposal that we've submitted. Since then we had a Yorkshire Leaders Board last Friday followed by the One Yorkshire Committee which comprises of representatives of the Leaders plus the representatives of all of the business organisations from around the region and the trade unions, the House of Lords so we have cross-party representation there and we were pleased to hear from John Grogan that he's, as one of the Co-Chairs the other Co-Chair is Robert Goodwill the Conservative MP for Scarborough, that we've managed to get 32,000 from the Joseph Rowntree

Foundation to help us move forward in promoting the case that we've got. I do need to touch on the issues around Brexit because we did take a report to WYCA just to bring to the attention of all of the different involved communities around the WYCA table and of course the LEP Board all of the business communities in terms of how we're coming together as a region to prepare for the outcome whatever it may be and that fits very well with one of the reports we didn't reach today, an update report to the Executive Board on the work that the Council is actually doing to help make sure that the city is prepared as well as it can be for the outcome of the uncertain situation that we find ourselves in at the moment and I have to report that it's that uncertainty that is really troubling the business community in particular. The LGA are very much involved in working with all councils around the country in terms of making us prepared but I just want to draw attention to Council we have a number of EU citizens working for the Council and we have agreed to support them in the cost of them applying for the EU settlements scheme. I have to say I think it's really quite shocking that EU citizens have to pay for this scheme and I'm really pleased that as a Council we've been able to support those workers who have given, given such a contribution across the peace. The other issue is we are moving towards a merger of West of the Leeds City Region LEP in the North and East North Yorkshire and York LEP's which we'll be working on ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blake that's the 4 minutes.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: and introducing in April 2020.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Second and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The closing comments Councillor Blake, it just went to show actually there was a report recently on the television and it was a group of women that had come across from Italy in the 1950's and they'd come to work in our mills at the invitation of the Government and they, this particular report talks about women in Bradford but I know that a lot of these women settled in places like Guiseley and Horsforth, more of our northern fringes of Leeds and through the vagaries of the Brexit process there now all being asked to register in the same way as the windrush generation have from our Caribbean communities. Sorry windrush generation, to register their British Citizenship more formally and it just goes to show the sad state that were in going through this process and the effect it has on individuals and particularly individuals that came to strengthen our economy at a time when it wasn't in a good way and we're going to need as many people as possible to strengthen our regional economy now that it's not in a good way over two years of Brexit negotiations where investment decisions have been put on hold because the business community want to find some kind of clarity about where they're going forward and what they need to invest in. So it was very welcome to have the Brexit paper at the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority itself, I'll go onto another area. The decision making in the Combined Authority, it was good to hear Councillor Blake talk about the other Yorkshire Leaders coming together because I do think sometimes you need to create momentum of your own especially

when you've got a governing party which isn't really interested, they say that they are but they're not and they put every obstacle they can in their way to say we will not recognise what you're taking forward. One Yorkshire in particular is something that I think is gaining momentum I think the leadership of Councillor Blake and others it will hopefully get so much momentum that it becomes what's the word, it cannot be ignored and the fact that actually Jake Berry is not dismissing in the way that he did and he's actually promising to engage with Councillor Blake and her colleagues actually shows that that is working and we need to do more of it. I have to say that it was a little ironic that at the point where he has been holding up when Yorkshire devolution Jake Berry was going out and telling people running County Authorities that they should be prouder of being in that particular County and those Councils should be flying the flag for their area and creating a sense of community identity ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Councillor Blake please keep pushing because this community needs (inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: That's your 3 minutes. Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor by what we saw in November in the press on television and at a Metro presentation to Councillors for the first time in 30 years there is progress towards an ambitious West Yorkshire Transport Strategy although sketching outline is very much an early draft will show an intention to have a major public transport investment corridor from Dewsbury to Bradford then to Leeds then branching to Thorpe Park and Castleford. That is a vision which is needed. The out and back Leeds only suburban trams and trolleybuses which dominated thinking for so long never had a chance. The functional City of Leeds, half a million people would have been barely big enough to support them even with favourable factors such as suitable disused railway alignments which by and large it doesn't have. To make sure that there is new thinking we need new people already we have Kim Il Groves brought in from North Korea. (Laughter). A bit of style and his decisiveness won't be out of place just hope that your house doesn't get in the way. Leeds only routes were nonsense only inter urban routes would do enough in going from somewhere to somewhere else to save enough journey time to be a worthwhile in West Yorkshire. It wouldn't be wise to allow new mass transit project to be guided by those members or officers who failed so clearly in the past at a cost to the taxpayer of around £70m. At the July Council meeting Councillor Andrew Carter said I found Councillor Leadley's comments profoundly depressing because he can criticise looking forward to the future to a different way of providing public transport but he does not actually suggest anything he just warns of Supertram and NGT. In fact what I had said only about 5 minutes earlier was mass transit in Leeds alone would not work but a Leeds to Bradford link might. The final truncated length of NGT was about 19 kilometers only 1 kilometer short of been long enough to get from Leeds to Bradford. A route that would have been far more useful, generate far less opposition, be cheaper to build per route kilometer, have two way traffic and intermediate journeys all day and have far more stops than the current railway. The central link of that transport corridor now however lightly sketched by the Combined Authority is that from Leeds to Bradford as I have said for many times over the past 25 years it is the obvious West Yorkshire tram route and all the more so should HS2 get to Leeds as you would finish the journey towards Bradford in matching style and at an appropriate speed with capacity and flexibility to take those wanting to travel to and from the various points along the way. My Lord Mayor we're a long way from laying rails let

alone selling tickets but we might at last be moving towards a sensible strategy.  
Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: I'll avoid calling Councillor Grove names. but I think just picking up on, I wasn't going to say anything about, but just picking up on what Councillor Leadley said. I must agree with him that the transport strategy that we discussed at Transport Working Group from WYCA is something a lot better than we've had in the past and is a way forward I think. It's encouraging that we're talking about extending the LEP's so it covers North Yorkshire or merging the two together. I think that's symptomatic of the fact that one, beginnings of one Yorkshire beginning to happen. But I think we need to press, press and press and press and press again whoever's in Government that this region needs that devolution now. I think with the certain issues that's happening in another place down south and the uncertainty that has produced it's even more necessary that we in this region have our own organisation to push this forward speaking for all of us so that we are not left out as we have been so many times in the past whatever political colour the Government might be. So you've got my support in that, please press for it. I've got to say my idea as a devolution and what we might get might slightly differ but I am not prepared to throw the baby out with the bathwater like Parliament did yesterday with Brexit. I want to go forward we could always try and modify it as we go along. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor and I have been referred to by a similar term before by my constituents who call me Councillor Kim which I did think sounded like a small little Korean Leader. So in terms of the update on transport I'm going to start with the buses. So the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance is the new Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Districts and bus operators. It was endorsed by the Transport Committee on the 9th November. The Alliances will be led by myself and the Vice Chair of Transport with strong participation from bus operators and Transport Focus who are really important, they represent the passengers. There are 10 streams of work that will be decided on, we'll be looking at clear fare structures, offers for young people, thinking about people with disabilities, delivering improved journey planning, delivering highway improvements and cleaner buses. The Combined Authority has commissioned a review of the region's bus networks. We know that the bus economy is changing vastly. I expect the review of the Leeds Bus Network later this year. This will inform the investment we are making through connecting Leeds, I will share the findings as soon as I've got them but I feel it will be at the back end of the year. The Transport Board also took the report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation tackling transport related barriers to employment of low income neighbourhoods at the meeting on the 9th November. I then took the decision with the board to write to Nusrat Ghani, the MP the Under Secretary State of Parliament for Transport to ask if there is a better model of cooperation between transport and sense of employment, affordability of public transport fares for those under 25 on minimal or living wage especially where they are needing to change between different

bus operators, it can be really expensive. I'm pleased to say that I received a response Ms Ghani and she's going to visit and meet with us at the Combined Authority. In terms of today's connectivity strategy, that was taken to the Executive Board and it is around mass transit. The roots have been set out and we've given you all the information. It's a really exciting time to start the conversation when we think of all the other things that are happening across the region of our hopes and aspirations around HS2 and NPR. It's crucial that we continue to invest in highways, bus, rail, cycling and walking and that we have an integrated seamless network across all modes. We know that HS2 is one of the most significant investments in the city region. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and we must make sure that all the other networks and infrastructure meets it so we definitely need HS2 plan to meet the needs of our region, boost our economy but we must have the other things that go with it such as ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Alright, Thank you and I'll update you cos there is obviously more and I'll update you later. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. So what have we learned so far today. Following on from where Judith left off we know that Councillor Blake doesn't understand or ignores the red light zone. People in Holbeck take note and that Councillor Heselgrave is the best advertisement for voting Conservative I've come across. (Laughter). I'm not surprised I got your name wrong I try to forget what you said as well. My Lord Mayor so much for being subdued. Can I congratulate my colleagues not just for this Council meetings contributions but indeed over the past number of months particularly the newer members of my Group. I'm amazed and delighted at the level of confidence and the competence of the speakers that we now have in our group and their contributions in a balanced way towards the debates that we have and there were some very serious comments earlier and I agree with Judith about one thing it was, it was good to see more time given to the serious matters on the Executive Board agenda but to move to devolution. Again I'm delighted that we're now in talks substantial talks with our colleagues on the LGA we hosted a meeting of LGA Leaders and other Conservative Group Leaders here in Leeds on Thursday last week and we are going to continue to host those here in Leeds over the next number of months where devolution will be an issue that's at the top of the agenda. I don't think we should kid ourselves I don't believe they'll be any significant substantial progress until after the next general election. There will be a general election, my guess is it will be sooner rather than later. My guess is that it will be of our choosing and not yours and I hope that all political parties will set out their proposals for devolved Government in the regions of this country and that the people of this country can then make a choice and vote and hopefully we'll have a parliament that actually understands what people say when they vote, doesn't treat people like lobby fodder, doesn't ignore results of democratic elections and we might then begin to get somewhere. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you. Just summing up thank you for your support from the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. It's really important that we have the cross-party consensus and I'm glad that on the One Yorkshire Committee we have representation from your parties as well as obviously the Conservatives' right from the start. The West Yorkshire Transport Strategy I think is really is an important piece of work and we've talked a great deal about the links the important need for the links between Leeds and Bradford in particular. It's just, it really is shocking to me just how disconnected Bradford still remains and it's a City of a significant size, I think over 500,000 people with the very very poorly served by public transport so I hope all, you know everyone will engage in the consultations that that are undergoing so that we can have a really full discussion on the opportunities when it comes forward. So I refuse to be downbeat about the prospects for devolution I think there are lots of discussions happening, there is a real debate's about, the framework that's coming out, there are all sorts of things in the press about the Conservatives talking to their own Counties and rural devolution well you know we've got it all in Yorkshire haven't we so you know let's just get carry on and bring it together. It did make me smile though slightly you know how people rediscover great ideas and Jake Berry the said Minister for the Northern Powerhouse came out with his great proposal for a regional Government for the north proposal to set up its own department, to have a Secretary of State, to have tax raising powers. I just, perhaps we just need to remind him about the Richard the third, the President I think the first President of the Council for the North who ended his days under what became a car park in Leicester but I think it means he really is starting to think at a regional level let's keep the pressure up and keep going and get the deal that we need for the whole, you know to make sure that we can deliver for our people. Thank you, thank you,

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blake. Right we will now vote. (A vote was taken) That's obviously CARRIED.

## WHITE PAPERS

### ITEM 10 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – BUSINESS SUPPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we now move on to White Papers and the first White Paper, Item 10, Councillor Robinson

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. This is a pleasure to be able to move the first White Paper of the day and my first White Paper that I've moved as well since being a Councillor and it's on an issue that I think is of great importance to the city and to this region. It's a long white paper for those who've read it and it covers in great detail a number of issues but I think that those issues including our high streets and how we look to support them in the future. District parking charges, use of the apprenticeship levy and the clean air zone are important ones, not just for this Council but for this region and for the stakeholders across the city. Recently what we've seen is the Yorkshire Evening Post has launched its Love

your High Street campaign and we continually hear that our high streets are under threat from the use of online retail and actually we know as most of us serve communities that have important local high streets that those centres have changed over the years and it is now making sure that our high streets are in a resilient position and to be able to future-proof themselves and to be able to stand on their own two feet and attract business and it is very welcome to see that the local centres, the local centres, many in the local centres programme has been brought forward by the administration and we were just talking about ideas that were rediscovered from before they are, that seems a little bit of a revamp of the Town and District Centres Programme that was under the coalition administration previously but a good idea should be welcomed whichever side it comes from. But I think there's far more that could be done for our high streets actually a review of how we support our high streets now is incredibly important I think that all sides would acknowledge that there are threats to our high street and making sure resilient they are resilient and making sure they have the right sort of employment is absolutely important. Councillor Goddard earlier today, and sorry to pick on you maybe, but Councillor Goddard today mentioned something about jobs being obsolete and I think that's a really important point too. What this White Paper seeks to address through use of the apprenticeship levy and through supporting businesses making sure that we have high quality jobs and high skill jobs across this city too making sure that we are engaging with communities so that they start to meet the 8 Gatsby benchmarks that our schools should be taking account of. One of the most important ways that we can support small businesses though on our high street is to make sure that there is an adequate supply of customers who are able to access them and it is my view and I believe it's the view of this group as well that increasing parking charges on those council car parks will actually be a job killer and will be a killer to retail too. It puts at threat people who work in those small businesses it also puts a threat to the number of customers that can access those small businesses. The Labour amendment that I would acknowledge suggests that there is a parking charge subject to consultation that's what Councillor Richard Lewis said before. I know Councillor James Lewis is going to speak but the point around consultation wasn't addressed earlier in the questions and I wanted it to be clear if though if the consultation happens and the majority view is that those parking charges aren't introduced will this be something that is dropped. I would also look towards the clean air zone I don't think there's anybody in this city who doesn't want to see clean Air and a clean future for this Council and the communities across this city. However small businesses risk that getting caught up in the tentacles of circumstance there are many that can't retrofit their vehicles, there are many that are just not in a position to be able to adapt in an adequate enough time and revising the sunset clauses that are in place will provide a great deal more certainty to those businesses and allow them to be flexible in what they do moving forward. Finally Lord Mayor, Brexit was mentioned and actually offering business certainty in a time of great uncertainty is something that they would welcome and actually provides great support for those who are in work. We've made, I'll address that in the summing up comments if I may, one thing that I would say is we also just touched on devolution it is my firm view that any administration looking to serve this City and the communities of the city going forward needs to take these issues incredibly seriously and needs to make sure they're showing action on them and any Mayor that seeks to cover Leeds or the region of Leeds needs to make sure that they place this as the highest priority in their manifesto going forward so we can plan for the future, plan for, plan for growth and plan for success. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: I second my Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak which I shall be undertaking.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor John Bentley, Jonathan Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all can I congratulate Councillor Robinson in his first White Paper and so eloquently delivered as well I was wondering why it was such a long white paper and then I realised of course he's thinking he might not get another chance he'll get as much as he can in the first round and it does cover a lot it covers, as he said, it covers apprenticeships to car parking, taking the clean air zone and I was going to say that it doesn't mention Brexit but you even managed to get Brexit in as well so a full house there and you raise very important issues about the need to support high street and bricks and mortar retail economy generally and I stand to raise an amendment generally to be helpful and to put something in that supports that even more. So much of the work being done by local and national Government and further proposed in this White Paper seems to be about improving the infrastructure and the deliverability of the existing high street retail model so regeneration of District and Town Centres, development of retail skills through apprenticeships, easier access to retail outlets. These are all good things but if the retail offering in terms of price and service is not competitive if a customer can go online and get something at a better price delivered to their door why would they go to their local centre or come into the city especially if they have to pay to park a car as well. So there is a move to make retail centres more about more than just shopping more about experiences and I think that should be supported so if you you're just as likely to go to say the Trinity Centre for a meal or drink or to go to the cinema if you are to shop There was a sort of downside of that because if you go into some of the district areas from the district centres, places like Headingley, Meanwood, parts of Weetwood every time a retail shop becomes empty it becomes a bar or cafe or something similar and the ability for local people then to go and shop diminishes. So really to encourage retail outlets in town centres and district high streets this has to be a levelling of the competitive playing field no one wants to stifle competition but where there is dominant and equitable competition there should be intervention to deal with that it's when you place a tax like business rates which is based on a notional rental value which then inhibits investment and growth because as soon as you do that your cost base goes up through having to pay more business rates it skews the competitive model. Now in his amendment I noticed that Councillor James Lewis highlights the issue of taxation on global companies. Sales made in one country accounted for in another that had a lower tax regime and we've all seen examples of that with Google and Amazon etc. But this dissuades it's just the same in a way because if you look at Amazon that famous tenant of Leeds City Council they paid £63m in business rates on a turnover of £8b so less than 1%. High street shop Debenhams, Next, they paid £6m sorry £80m on a turnover of £6b over 1¼% of turnover so a radical reform of business rates I think it is a vital component of reinvigorating the high street and the Chair of the Labour Chair of a Select Committee Clive Betts says there is ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Sorry it's a group thing.

THE LORD MAYOR: You don't need reminding about the red light. Thank you Councillor Bentley.

(Applause)

THE LOR MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis. I do beg your pardon Councillor Lay. Your getting me flustered with all this red light stuff.

COUNCILLOR LAY: I second the amendment Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I know you were obviously so excited to hear my speech you missed Councillor Lay out. I wanted to touch on a number of things. I welcome Councillor Robinson's first White Paper, I congratulate him. I did wonder why it was such a long White Paper compared to even some of the ones we normally see and then he mentioned mayoral manifesto's so I congratulate him on launching his Mayor's campaign. (Laughter). As well in this Council Chamber and there's a number of things I want to touch on Lord Mayor without sort of treading onto the red light. I've got another White Paper to talk about parking later and I'm sure we'll pick up some of the issues, some of the issues there. But there are a couple of things I want to pick up on which I think are really really important in this debate. I think first of all it's a clean air zone which has come into this White Paper and I think it's worth remembering just a little bit of history about the clean air zone.

The reason we are been forced to implement the policy in the way we are under ministerial direction is because the current Government lost, cases in court about its inaction about the filthy and in some cases illegally filthy air that exists in this country and exists in Leeds. Many of us will probably think it would be far more constructive from rather them actually being chained to the court's that they actually got on with some of the things that Councillor Robinson referred to particularly around trying to develop technology that can help small businesses move over to drive clean vehicles that impacts on their business as quickly as possible and also looking at some perhaps other proper funding packages in place so to help businesses who may have older polluting vehicles we know it tends to be, not always but tends to be smaller businesses that operate more polluting vehicles. To move over quickly so they can continue about the business without an impact and achieving what we want which is cleaner vehicles driving around the city. We've got to where we are today and we still less than, less than a year away from the implementation of the clean air zone. All the work we have done to try to understand what financial packages are needed to help businesses from Government we still don't know what funding the Government is going to make available to us, we've done a huge amount of work in Leeds trying to understand what that is. They've turned round and said from Whitehall we know better than you what we need for Leeds and is still not confirming what we need, what support we need for businesses. I have businesses on to me all the time asking for that certainty of funding and until the Government quite frankly gets its act together and gets behind Leeds we are in a very very perilous position in terms of some of this work and I think that simplest thing on the clean air zone isn't looking at sunset clauses it's looking at the Government pulling its finger out and putting the money into not into the council but into those businesses in Leeds that need the support to do what everybody wants to achieve including the businesses themselves which is have cleaner vehicles driving round Leeds. The second thing I wanted to touch on in particular is finding the one thing Councillor Robinson missed out completely is the

impact of austerity. I won't repeat what members have said earlier about poverty but do people think that one of the reasons that there's less money to spend on the high street is because people have got less money in their pockets. That's one of the simplest reasons so one of the biggest things we could do to boost our high streets, boost our shops, boost our small businesses and rebuild employment in this city, end zero hours contracts, introduce a £10 an hour minimum wage so well paid for everybody and give people the money so they can go out and spend, treat people on benefits with dignity, stop driving people into poverty, stop driving people to food banks, start giving people the money and resources in their pocket to support themselves. We heard lots about the impact of poverty on individuals but let's not forget that the reduction in incomes that we've seen right across our labour force doesn't just impact the individuals affected it also impacts the businesses where they spend that money.

THE LORD MAYOR: Red light.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: End austerity now ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: End it for individuals, end it for business

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: End it for the city.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Second and reserve the right to speak.

COUNCILLOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to touch on the element of Councillor Robinson's White Paper that relates to District Centre parking charges and I heard what Councillor Richard Lewis said earlier about the proposal's been broadly in line with the parameters for how district centres and free car parking should be approached but I've said this lots in Council over the years, Leeds is unique in as much as we are a city with satellite towns and villages and they are entirely different in scope, makeup and demographics. We can't simply adopt a one size fits all around district parking. We actually would get behind, very much actually, the calls within the White Paper for the high street review. But actually I would say that back in 2012 with results actually coming into fruition in 2014 we did a lot of work at that time with, many colleagues will remember a guy Peter Mudge who was excellent who was a Town Centre Manager we used locally and working with Peter we acquired an empty unit and we actually did a piece of work, a very detailed piece of work around what people would like to see in terms of car parking provision and charges and like anything there were mixed outcomes. First of all the positives we extended the carpark at the back of Barclays Bank on Garforth Main Street, many of you will know it, but we kept it free of charge, we allowed on street parking on Main Street. Now they were outcomes based on a lengthy consultation. I have to say not all popular by any means. You have people who would defend on street parking,

people think it's terrible but that work came out of a formulated plan, there was a plan and it meant as ward members we could say with a degree of confidence you have been thoroughly consulted on this and these were the outcomes and therefore you know you really can't please everybody and there was a tension actually between independent traders and traders' who want more provision for themselves. But actually on the flip side wanted more footfall and you know you can't please everybody and we couldn't facilitate that. But we reached a happy medium and I think we're in a situation now where anybody who visits Garforth know that it's horrendous at times to find a car parking space but they are free, there's a decent turnover and it also means people who come into Garforth to work, to trade, to ply their trade can also have unfettered parking all day. So we've reached that fine balance and I think it's broadly accepted we're in a good place to unilaterally just go in and say right we're looking at district parking charges, I don't think cuts it. This isn't the budget debate that's for next month and obviously we'll all have our views about what should go in but please look at the alternatives again, let's try and find a way that doesn't reinvent lots of good work that's taken place over many years and I would therefore for that reason alone get behind Councillor Robinson's White Paper. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you my Lord Mayor. The Morley Borough Independent Group is happy to support the White Paper in Councillor Robinson's name. Morley Town Centre has benefited from some of the proposals that central Government have introduced such as the additional business rate relief for smaller businesses which has helped Morley to survive and thrive at a time when its local rival towns especially Dewsbury and Batley are under exceptional pressure with higher numbers of empty shops and a clear reduction in the number of shoppers visiting those towns. We are also encouraged by the commitment from Leeds City Council's District Centres project that is proposing to finance an additional £300,000 to regenerate the centre of Morley and to keep the town thriving. All district centres and indeed large shopping centres including the city centre are under pressure from online sales with many people choosing to buy online and avoid visits to town or district centres. The online traders especially large companies such as Amazon have reduced costs as they don't require a shop front in their local centre to sell their goods and therefore pay less than their fair share of business rates. Their tax positions have been closely scrutinised and it's fair to say that such large companies should be paying more covering their fair share of the tax burden, some things small independent traders have to do as a matter of course. In Morley our Town Centre Management Board supported by Morley Borough Independent Town and City Councillors find new ways of supporting local independent traders to make sure Morley Town Centre survives and thrives. We find additional funding to put more police on Morley streets including the town centre, we find additional funds to finance an entertainment programme that includes Lantern Festivals, Morley Art Festival, a Christmas Lights up event and of course the largest St George's Day celebration event in the North of England. Morley Town Council finds additional funds to improve town centre street cleaning, support for the gold award winning Morley in Bloom team and free wi-fi for Morley Town Centre. All to make the town centre a popular place to visit and to bring Morley into the digital age. We are promoting a business improvement district which goes to ballot in June which will put businesses at the forefront of developing our town centre further to cover the challenges all district

centres face. However the introduction of parking charges into our areas and potentially to Morley in the future will be a real kick in the teeth to those independent traders who are working hard purely to just get by. Free parking is a major asset to all our town centres and the introduction of parking charges is a backward step, putting pressure on our district centres when we should be providing support. This proposal for car parking charges needs to be shelved if we are to survive the onslaught to our district centres. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blackburn, David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I might not, some of what I was going to say might not go down very popular here on this side but in principle I've got no problem with car parking charges or increasing car parking charges if necessary. But the thing is if you're going to do that you've got to look at the consequences of taking car parking away. I will cast my mind back several years when Councillor McKenna and I sat on the old CIT's together and we'd be discussing the rundown of Armley Town Street, the bus links from parts of my ward did not enable people to go, people were going in their cars and what is now Amber taxis were they used to park, Amber taxis bought and there was no parking and it's gone down and down since then with people from my area going there. So you've got to look at consequences and also and I think this will count in Morley is if you have got an out of town shopping centre nearby and you put in parking charges are you going to send those people away from the traditional shops into where all these big businesses are in those out of town shopping centres that's got to be taken into consideration and I've always felt myself that those out of town shopping centres should have to have parking charges so that people go to their locals and encourage people to go to their local centres. But the fact is you cannot go ahead and just do this without thinking it out, for thinking out what the consequences are. As colleagues have said the present business rate doesn't help, it's quite ludicrous when a superstore compare, all right they pay more but their pay less per square foot than a little shop where a chap can't on Lower Wortley Road who is trying to sell and he can't sell it because it's been his business rates are too high. It is totally ridiculous and you get people doing online who aren't actually putting anything into supporting local communities. So that needs to be looked at and regards the clean air zone. I mean as one and I know there is, I'm not the only one in this Chamber that thinks this we would have liked to see it go further and cover a bigger area but I know why that was done and I can see sense of why it was done. But what we do not want to be doing is seen to be encouraging cars what we need to do is make sure those district centres have got proper public transport and look at what's makes that that district centre work and if that means that you have a free car park I'm afraid we have to have a free car park. But at the end of the day we've got to be careful what we do and a hard and fast rule doesn't apply to anywhere so as I said I am not against charges but I want to know what effect they have. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well where to start. Sorry Matt but I usually expect much more than this from conservative White Papers. It's a hot potch of loosely connected policies seemingly put together to give the impression of a

strategic approach to business. You , whether it is the apprenticeship levy, the future high street fund, business rates reform, business taxes to name a few. There appears to be no strategic vision to this White Paper and it's a shocker really and this from a party that pronounces itself the party of business one thing the nation is sure of this Conservative Party is no longer the party of business. In fact, you know, and that's where we differ in our approach to communities and individuals.

We've set out a strategic view of a strong economy that works for everyone. We need a new economy, prosperous fair and sustainable right for the 21st century and unlike the Conservatives just some of the things we would introduce are a national skills strategy with expanded skills and training levy with lifelong learning entitlements. A strategy that would properly invest in skills and in particular opportunities for retraining for all ages we would get on with devolution and devolve more powers and economic development to cities and regions within England. We want to harness the strength of the public sector balance sheet to open additional sources of finance for innovative business, the green economy and vital national infrastructure, we want to help businesses to adapt to the challenges of the digital economy. We would help the high street by abolishing business rates and replacing them with a tax on land values this would not only be paid for by owners rather than the tenants, taxing landowners rather than businesses means half a million SME's would be spared the bureaucratic burden of property taxation with less plots of land and individual businesses this would also save Council time and money in collection.

We want to improve Britain's historically low productivity. We see we also see immigration for what it is a positive contribution to UK plc we do not support a 30,000 cap on migration and we would work with public and private organisations to ensure that we have the right skills, knowledge and experience both in the UK and from those we invite into support our businesses, our public services and our communities. But I am running out of business, running out of time so I'm going to get on to Brexit remind members about the most damage this Government has wrought on business in these last few years. The absolute mess they have made of Brexit and yet despite last night lessons do not seem to have been learned just this morning I listened in disbelief of Jacob Rees-Mogg attacked the CBI just because they and other trade organisations want some certainty, some stability, some direction. They like me and along with most informed economists believe most harm to the UK is withdrawing from the European Union harm in the short, medium and long term will make it harder to achieve stability, lasting growth and prosperity. Not only will it harm the UK economy but it will make our ability to ensure a global economy that is more fair, more secure and more sustainable harder. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am delighted to second Councillor Lewis's amendment as it calls for real action to support British high streets and wider measures to improve both economic growth and quality of life for the citizens of Leeds. In particular I'd like to focus on an aspect of Councillor Robinson's novel which seems to have been overlooked and that's on apprenticeships and what we as a Local Authority are doing to further this agenda. So within the council we have 626 apprenticeship starts across 70 different apprenticeship standards with a further 30 due to start this month. Many of these will take between 1 and 3 years to complete and represent a spending commitment of over £5m over the next 3 years. Our target set by Government was 535 apprentices so we are already significantly exceeding that set against a drop in apprenticeships nationally. One strand that we

have recently launched of a new leadership and management apprenticeships which have been offered across the Council. In relation to Councillor Robinson's concerns about the gender pay gap I can tell him that 55% of the of the participants in the new qualification are women meaning of course that if they choose to move on from working for the Council they will have an additional qualification that could enable them to help narrow that pay gap in the private sector. Furthermore our next priority cohort will be supporting our outstanding Children and Families Directorate through social work apprenticeships as well as teachers and teaching assistants apprenticeships and of course school leadership and management qualifications. So that's what we're doing but what are the Government doing. Well last October the Education Select Committee published a wide ranging report into the Governments apprenticeship record. Do we think it was good it was not exactly glowing. The report criticised the Government on almost every single level including the policy, process and the delivery of apprenticeships. One particular criticism was the failure of Government to utilise the panel of apprentices, a group set up specifically to ensure the voice of apprentices were heard and yet that panel went 10 months without meeting. I hope you agree that that message, the message that that sends about the level of importance Government places on apprenticeships is appalling. The Select Committee also highlighted the repeated failure of Government to properly support under-represented groups. I'd like to just quickly take this opportunity to remind you that Labour have repeatedly promised to set targets to increase apprenticeships for exactly those under-represented groups and I can assure you we would pay a great deal more attention to the voices of apprentices than this Government has. I think it speaks volume that the website for the Institute for Apprenticeships, the public body, the quango responsible for approving standards is still in beta phase not even that's up and running properly. That is the level of care that the Government is putting through apprenticeships. Council Robinson's White Paper references the rate we are spending the levy unfortunately constraints within the system we remember the Select Committee criticising the processes. They included the pace in which the Institute of apprenticeships approved standards to cover job roles within the public sector. Of 550 submitted less than half of those have been approved with only 4 last April. This combined with the difficulties of 20 percent of time needed to be spent on off work training is why we are where we are and yet we're still doing better than the Government. While we're bound by the constraints of Government policy we are making faster progress than the Government just another example of how as a Local Authority we are helping plug the gaps of an improperly implemented Government policy. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll begin by congratulating Councillor Robinson on his excellent White Paper which I have pleasure in seconding and I don't know whether it was the launch of his Mayoral campaign or not but if it was then I endorse it. (Laughter). I heard Councillor Lewis and I thought Councillor Lewis was launching his Mayoral election bid too. It just struck me they could job share. Councillor Robinson could be the day Mayor, Councillor Lewis could be the nightmare. (Laughter and applause). The old ones are always the best ones, (laughter), but think about it. My Lord Mayor then then we had the extraordinary exhibition from the Liberal Democrats. I in future am going to refer to the Liberal Democrats as them. I'm not going to refer to them as Liberal or Democrats because they certainly have not been Liberal for a long time and with their

efforts to overturn a vote by the British public the largest ballot ever shows they are not democratic either but the nonsense of their amendment is that Councillor Bentley spoke extremely well virtually in support of Councillor Robinson and then Councillor Lay rubbished Councillor Robinson and by the same time there for rubbished Councillor Bentley which just goes to prove you can't get two liberals to agree on anything. But my Lord Mayor the point of all this detracts from the seriousness of the resolution and in particular the issues on charging in local centres for car parking.

Now whatever you think about the Government and we've heard plenty of that from you today and the last budget they reduced business rate taxation by a third that has to be a help to local businesses. And when you propose to do something like you've proposed and by the way we know you are looking at all sorts of centres you have a little list and we know who's on the little list and we'll be making sure that all the people who live in these areas know, and if you go ahead with this, that you are proposing now you undoubtedly will go ahead with the rest at some stage in the very near future. I can only believe, I can't think that any politician with half a brain would have come forward with this nonsense particularly at this time and David Blackburn was absolutely right to take a step like this in isolation is utter madness so much for inclusive growth you don't include the small shopkeeper, you don't include the small business working out of a mill complex employing apprentices and creating jobs and you're putting all those at risk. If you've any sense you'll drop the idea and drop it now before more damage is done you will find in the consultation that nobody wants it drop it even though I'm afraid you will never escape the fact that we know what you were up to and what you'd get away with if you could. I second my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR: Oh well done.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Fantastic Lord Mayor from my cerebral confused. I didn't think I was going to get to speak. So there's been some great speeches this afternoon on a number of threads they are actually kind of tying together with what looked like Matthews random collection of thoughts about what he thinks about business but actually there's a bit of a golden thread going through today so people spoke at length about what's going on in the White Paper so I don't want to dwell on that but I want to join on a couple of aspects of what these White Papers are actually representative of. So I hope members in the room have all noticed it's the 21st century right we're good with that, OK and that changes are given now and that change can often be really active, really rapid so there's lots of fundamentals about how we conduct ourselves over in flux at the moment so for example how do we buy and sell goods, where does that activity take place, how do we tax that activity, you know, what are centres for, how do we make places and as someone who sees himself like a lot of members of this Chamber as a custodian of those places in the role that I perform and these are kind of big fundamental questions and the need big fundamental answers I believe. So I think when it comes to public policy everything really is internet connected isn't it and I think we'd all agree on that in this room so looking at the White Papers and there are good White Papers across the board here. There's obviously a lot going on and I don't want to dwell too much on those but as we can see from the Government's responses like often central Government's are really fond at setting up taskforces and having reports and things like that but sometimes it doesn't really follow through to substantive action we've had and the PORTAS review , we've had two WIBSEY reviews and yet things are slowing down

it's almost like there's some big macro issue that slows central Government down into a geological timescale. I wonder what that could be colleagues. So Westminster and Whitehall are sort of falling behind the pace of societal change and as an example happened yesterday Marks and Spencer has just announced they are closing another tranche of stores and we look at where these stores are going to close you look at ones that they have closed already. There like a who's who of places that voted leave in the referendum. Rotherham, Hull, Boston, Newark. Why could this be. I think we can see the thread that joins this up. We talked a lot about devolution this afternoon haven't we. Whitehall and Westminster are log jammed. We've talked about devolution. What would unite MPs at the moment that seems rare to be saying that as the sentence, would actually be lots of quick and easy devolution to Local Government. It wouldn't cost them any money to start with, I'll come to that in a minute, but it would be something that would be popular and would get things moving. There has been a theme this afternoon of things are not moving in the centre. Well if the centre cannot hold I suggests the peripheries take over and start to do things. We saw that with Councillor Blake devolution update. So as I said everything's interconnected in fact, actually when you think about the discussions we've been having this afternoon has been quite appall cast over them by perhaps the mistakes of the last 40 years in terms of macro policy in this country. Some poeple call it neoliberalism and that name gets banded around and I agree with that. But the last 8, 9 years we've had austerity which has bit hard and that's affected so many things about our communities we've talked about wage levels we've talked about various aspects of poverty we're look at now how that all translates into what's happening in our town centres and we can see the story is not good. I would disagree with councillors over that side that say they don't see poverty in the city, that that's not the city that they see but I think actually for inner city councillors that is the city that we see all too frequently in our surgeries, in our community centres. So I think austerity again is the next golden thread that runs through this and I reiterate devolution could unlock so much couldn't it. Devolution is essential that we get moving on now and we start to progress. Local centres is clearly working and that needs innovative leadership from across the community from ourselves as elected members, from developers, from entrepreneurs, from all aspects of our community. When the fundamentals are in flux like they are that's a tremendous opportunity to generate real lasting change in our communities so we need to look alive councillors, we need to look at what are people doing in centres, what do people want to do in our centres. Somebody mentioned the fact that restaurants and bars open. Yeah because there's been an eating out revolution in the last 30 years in Britain that's what people want to do in centres. Your not going to be able to buy a pair of plimsolls in the centre of Headingley I'm afraid but you have an amazing array of fantastic opportunities of things to do at night ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Things are changing, there are huge opportunities in that Lord Mayor. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson will you sum up please.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and I thank all the

speakers there. Councillor Bentley thank you very much for your supportive comments, Councillor Lay I respect your views

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: In other words your talking rubbish.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Councillor Walshaw said that they would not be some strategy to this White Paper it's all about business support that was there and I think that you are absolutely right about being ready for change, I think it was Churchill that said to improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often. I'm not sure whether that was when he was a Conservative or when he was a Liberal or conservative again but the point is well made. Councillor Dobson I think he's quite right that one size fitting doesn't work for this city, there are very different district centres around. Councillor Elliott the enormous pride and passion that you speak with Morley about is really really quite fantastic and its superb to see in this Chamber and obviously your a great champion for Morley and making sure that those businesses are supported. Councillor Blackburn I completely appreciate what you say about the consequences of actions taken and the unforeseen consequences that might come forward with something that is quite well meaning but can have damaging effects. Councillor Pryor I think it's really really welcome to see that so many more women doing the management training in this Council I think more reporting back of that sort of information to the Chamber and that we can champion and shout about and especially the diversity agenda that you were talking about there is something that we really really want to see a lot more of, I personally would want to see a lot more of, I hope colleagues would too. Councillor Carter I thank you for your endorsement and Councillor Lewis I can reassure you that I rule nothing out when it comes to a Mayoral election, (laughter), so we will wait and see. It is so so important to make sure that business does feel in this city that we are supporting them. Small businesses and large businesses. I hear what the Chamber is saying and actually the argument about online is one that is well made. There is a huge amount of innovation that goes into the online sector making sure we appreciate the skills and that we actually channel them in the right way and remember that the growth of online has managed to take far more information and support to areas and communities than we ever could have previously. But that comes with consequences too. We may need to make sure that business can stand those consequences and don't take advantage of it and damage other sectors of our economy. I applaud the work that's been done around the apprenticeship levy. The reason I raise it is because I think more can be done and there's far more that could be done in innovative ways that looks at the supply chain and the stakeholders in the businesses that we work with as a Council and that is something that I think that all of us could agree we can do far more to address. I know that the parking charges will be discussed in the next White Paper so I won't say much more about that but I also appreciate the comments made about the the clean air zone that was brought forward and I think that it's striking that right balance of supporting businesses in this city but acknowledging the concerns and while the Government may have failed in the courts and this Council has to take action it is making sure that we don't end up in the courts ourselves by taking the wrong sort of action. I hope that people will vote for the White Paper, I hope that they will continue to support businesses in this city and thank business for the important role that they play in this city too. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we will now move to a vote. First of all we vote on

the amendment in the name of Councillor John Bentley. Jonathan Bentley. I keep calling him John. I do apologise. (A vote was taken). In which case I'm afraid that is lost.

We now move on to the second amendment in the name of Councillor James Lewis. (A vote was taken). That one is carried.

Therefore that becomes a substantive motion and we move down to vote for that as a substantive motion. (A vote was taken). That is carried.

#### ITEM 11 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – CAR PARKING CHARGES

THE LORD MAYOR: Move on to White Paper number 11, Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, St Francis of Assisi prayed. Lord give me chastity but not yet. Now we see Franciscan philosophy in a modern context. Lord give us new or additional car parking charges but not yet in Pudsey, Morley or Rothwell where there are deserving comrades with distressingly small majorities. (Laughter and applause). Everyone should bow down to the great Dobbo. Other comrades seem to have written off Garforth and Swillington already. As readers of the YEP, Morley Observer may have noticed we're not taking in by any of this. If the principle of having new parking charges was established, sooner or later Morley would follow. They were considered in Morley more than 15 years ago to determine, to deter informal Park and Riders to Leeds who were said to be hogging town centre parking spaces but in the end everyone concluded that the charges would be harmful to trade, even if well meant. Councillor Campbell kindly provided figures for Otley where charges were imposed some time ago. In 2017/18 £129,005 was brought in by 3 council owned car parks. In the light of that I would guess that Morley might bring in £200,000 or so if people continue to park though apparently in Otley many of the locals avoid the charges by parking outside other people's houses. Seriously councils have been bled dry by central Government since 2010 so every possible source of income does need to be looked at. Even so imposing parking charges when the life of a lot of traditional retailing hangs by a thread would be a mistake. In the long run it might cost the city council more in business rate appeals and reductions and dealing with building abandonments than it would bring in. It would cancel out money which currently has been invested in town centres by local and central Government and by business people to try to combat deflation in demand and loss of trade to the internet. Out of town shopping malls with free parking such as White Rose near Morley or Thorpe Park not that far from Garforth would increase their share of shrinking trade. A second matter which my motion touches upon is the damaging effects of private car park operators. Some of them try to catch people out and fine them for infringements of bogus or obscure rules. The city council should do what it can, by persuasion, by example and by lobbying central Government to deal with those operators some of whom must have access to DVLC records of number plates and car ownership to enable them to send out demands for payment. Although not brought about by the City Council unpleasant experiences at the hands of rogue private car park operators may provoke an aversion to town centre shopping at least as damaging as the imposition of straightforward parking charges. Looking at the amendments I see that Councillor Harrison's is tactical rather than substantial and that Councillor Lamb's adds a bit of detail where I was trying to focus on principle. Both are acceptable and do no harm. Councillor Richard Lewis's amendment is a red herring or a decoy duck in as it tries to draw attention from what is clearly a money-making draft budget proposal by dressing it up as if it was a benign attempt to

stimulate car parking turnover. The truth is revealed by the fact that there have been none of Councillor Lewis's promised consultations in Garforth, Guiseley or Wetherby. The proposed parking charges have appeared from thin air. I would urge members not to be mesmerised by Councillor Lewis's bobbing and weaving. This isn't to do with snake charming it's to do with putting people off bringing trade to our town and district centres at a time when traders are already hard pressed. My colleague Councillor Wyn Kidger has done a lot to preserve and encourage liveliness and footfall in Morley, both as a town councillor and as a city councillor and I'm sure that she will enlighten you about what she's done as she seconds my motion by way of a maiden speech. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Kidger and as you've heard this is a maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR KIDGER: My Lord Mayor in seconding Councillor Leadley's motion I wish to say Leeds City Council is contemplating as part of its 2019/20 budget introducing carpark charging in the outlining towns of Wetherby, Garforth and Guiseley. I would like to express my concern and opposition to this proposal. In Morley we have free car parking and as an active member of the Town Centre Management Board we work hard to encourage footfall in our town. This work would be significantly undermined by the introduction of parking charges that have been shown to cripple neighbouring towns such as Dewsbury and Batley where the administration there decided to increase parking charges and reduce the amount of free parking time. We are preparing a business improvement district like the one introduced by the City Council in Leeds City centre and we believe it would be very beneficial to local businesses who would become real stakeholders in our future development of our fine town. We have many independent shops who work hard and footfall is important. We believe especially when considering the impact online shopping is having on our town and city centres that the introduction of car parking charges would be disastrous and drive people out of the town and into those locations that offer free car parking such as the White Rose or even worse onto their computers and smartphones. Local businesses need our help to support and sustain themselves and offer hope for a vibrant future. Adding further burdens on small independent businesses such as parking charges makes their already difficult situation harder and will undermine all the district centres we are quite rightly proud of. In Morley thanks to hard working MBI councillors we have a good and supportive relationship with the White Rose Centre and our town has survived and has a thriving high street. It is only by working with local businesses that we can provide the support they need to survive and thrive. A few weeks ago I had to go to an appointment in Dewsbury and had to pay for car parking which was plentiful but the town's high street was empty the last thing we need to be accused of as a Council is of contributing to the decline of footfall in our small towns. I pledge as a Councillor representing Morley to oppose all proposals to introduce parking charges to our town centre. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrison please.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Thank you Mr Mayor. Retail sales stalled for the first time in 28 years after this Christmas. Marks and Spencer's announced new

closures and other major retailers struggle to flatline sales despite having strong online operations. And as we hurtle towards Brexit consumer confidence in the UK fell way below that of our continental cousins. The good news for high street is that those businesses who choose to and are able to innovate are more likely to have a fighting chance of success. Consumers today while careful with their money will happily shop at retailers where they know they can find something bespoke, unique and where they are dealing with a person who understands the value of customer service and can offer advice. Small business has the versatility and agility to do this.

Thriving district shopping centres offer more than retail therapy they provide an opportunity for the vulnerable and socially isolated to mix and for the wider community to interact with them all. While open they contribute to the fiscal well-being of their communities and the wider Leeds areas, they create flexible work and in many cases offer well paid skilled experts to offer advice to consumers. In Rothwell we have a very busy and almost full commercial street. High street chains and independent retailers thrive and feed off each other and when they close for the day busy business people can relax in a number of traditional or newly opened night time economy ventures. Retailers include butchers, pet shops, clothing retailers, gift shops, school uniform outlets, fashion stores, hairdressers, beauticians and electrical retailers. It helps reduce the impact on the environment because people can shop locally rather than coming into the centre of Leeds. This is partly due to the fact that the local district centre has free parking which is time limited, most of the car parks have only got two hours free so that actually there is a steady turnover of parking. So what's the response of the Local Authority while we're going to threaten to impose parking charges. Parking charges are a mean spirited, expensive and unimaginative way of hitting shoppers and retailers where it hurts. It's also counter-productive. Driving shoppers away from the high street plays into the hands of online discounters who are able to offer low prices because they don't provide customer services and they operate out of warehouses on outer center parks and they pay minimum wage to people who are on vulnerable contracts. They give very little back to the community and they need to be monitored more closely. The Council needs to look at more imaginative and creative ways of raising revenue. Preferably by looking at making the retail landscape a more level playing field for all types of retailers. A start could be lobbying Government to change the way the online retailer's pay business taxes.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. If I can follow on from the religious tone that was set by Councillor Leadley. I just wonder when you had your conversion on the road to Damascus Tom because if you go back to 2016 in your budget proposals, if I can quote Councillor Finnigan as was, turning specifically to our budget amendment we propose increasing charges on parking to raise an additional £650,000. This will generate the revenue we need to keep open 3 social care homes across Leeds including Siegen Manor in Morley. Seconded by Councillor Leadley and voted for by all of the MBI Councillors at the time. So in terms of kind of red herrings and sleight of hand I think I'm way behind the Morlites. But that's very very

clever because within Morley you've actually got legally protected free parking with your supermarket which most people haven't got. And the truth is that across the city the arrangements are completely different in each town centre. You look at Morley where there is a short stay car park near the crossroads. It's incredibly busy nobody minds paying 40p for an hour there. It's easier than going to Sainsbury's or to Waitrose. It is about how you charge people, what you charge and how you get that right and similarly you know The Wilderness Car Park in Wetherby is not going to have a huge impact on the town because of the other parking that is available, and you will disagree but that's you know the truth. But we've had this discussion as if it's kind of context free it's that we're all sitting here thinking what can we do to make life difficult in the outer areas, well it isn't. The thing is that 9 years into austerity there are not many choices left that are nice that are easy. I hate to think how many times I've sat with colleagues here in pre-budget discussions where officers have come to us and said we want you to charge people for residential parking, we want you to charge for town centre parking. I'm surprised we've lasted so long without it so don't kind of come all the Andrew with this kind of sanctimonious stuff. Look it's your Government, 9 years of austerity, you get involved with it everywhere else.

(Inaudible)

Oh come off don't give it

(Inaudible)

Your talking rubbish Andrew. Your austerity, your austerity and your Government says are we getting bored with it but not for local authorities you can be stuck with it. So when we are at this stage in the electoral cycle with no clue as to what to what the next few years bring other than more austerity, we're really struggling. If you and we'll get to the budget debate shortly. I'd like to know what you're options are because to be honest there aren't many and you'll be like the Morlites coming up with stuff and you'll forget about it in a couple of years' time. I think the best comments were actually Neil's about you know the reality that town centres are changing and it is, you can't just think that car parking is either the cure all or it is the thing that's going to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. It's part of the mix but we have to realise that our town centres are changing daily and that for most of us we've been moaning for 20 years that they dominated by charity shops and estate agents so there is a need for change I don't know when it will come but if I can just pick up on one other point, the private car park owners we're going to persuade them not to charge. Can I just let everybody think about that for a moment. Please, you know what kind of world do we live in where we think that the private car park owners are going to suddenly say these car parks are open to everybody. It's never going to happen and we should stop talking this really kind of stupid way. So go back and none of us, none of us want to impose charges ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: in these car parks but you have put us in a position where there is very ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Few other places we can go. Thank you Lord

Mayor

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: I second and reserve my right to speak. Thank you very much

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well well well Councillor Lewis has let the cat firmly out of the bag he tried in his White Paper to kid people, which nobody fell for anyway, that this was somehow about improving turnover in our town and district centres. He's just told us perfectly clearly what we already knew it's simply a revenue raising cash cow from the outer areas. It's nothing to do with trying to improve our town and district centres it's all about trying to sort out their budget problems and Councillor Lewis will do well to remember the immortal words of Liam Byrne on leaving the Treasury 9 years ago. There's no money left because the last Labour Government spent it all so you take your share of responsibility before you want to start trying to ram it down other people's throats.

(Shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we have a little bit of order please, please.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor I'll happily take my extra time once the red light comes on. Councillor Dobson made a very pertinent point earlier what makes our city so great is the combination of a vibrant city centre surrounded by a unique set of satellite towns and villages.

COUNCILLOR: Here here.

And to take this and say in a blanket way we're going to take the mill town of Guiseley, the former mining town of Garforth and the rural market town of Wetherby and just treat them all in exactly the same way and as ever we know Councillor Lewis you've done not a single piece of work on what the consequences of this would be. Nobody knows, it's just we'll try and raise some money. I put to you this will cost you money this will cost this Council money in lost business rates, in all manner of other things in lost employment opportunities, lost sales it is going to cause no end of problems and in all of our districts we know the areas well. I'm incredibly proud to be part of this great city of Leeds I'm also incredibly proud of my hometown of Wetherby. I know it very well as do the ward members, my Ward colleagues I work with. We've been facing parking challenges in that town since before I was born in 1974 there was a Wetherby Town Council meeting that tried to introduce a parking strategy. It was Wetherby Business Association that came together to create The Wilderness Car Park that you want to now introduce charging for. It was the local people from Wetherby that came to clear it that's why it's called The Wilderness Car Park it was a wilderness they came to clear it and create the spaces. As local members we've been working hard to improve parking as well and you seem to have disregarded all of the work that we've been doing, all of the long term plans that we have and the things that we've done. (Inaudible). I'm sorry you've had your go Richard so if you'd kindly shut up the rest of us can get on and say what we want to say. (Cheering).

Your the one, you are the one who's trying, you're the one who's trying to kill our town centres and we've got your little list and we know if by some miracle you get re-elected next time you'll be coming for Pudsey after that and introducing charges in Morley and anywhere else you can get them. So Lord Mayor coming back to the things that we actually do in our areas to try and improve these issues. We work closely in partnership with City Council officers, with Wetherby Town Council, with the Business Association, with private business as you well know, unless you weren't informed of it, we managed to negotiate just over a million pounds from a local business to take a car park that was charged for, upgrade it, hand it over to the City Council, remove the charges and introduce additional long stay parking all at the same time and you may have forgotten that part of that was predicated on parking in Wetherby remaining free. So don't be surprised if you introduce these charges if they come and ask for their million pounds back and where's your £200,000 going to go then. We have been working really hard with officers of this Council as well. It's clear that one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. We've got meetings with senior officers only tomorrow to talk to private businesses about trying to improve car parking in Wetherby and increase capacity. Those very people are questioning us and saying what on earth is going on here just the left hand know what the right hand is doing. I don't think anyone knows ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: What Richard Lewis is doing least of all Richard Lewis thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm pleased to second Councillor Lamb's amendment and I want to concentrate on, I mean district centre charging of car parks is harmful to the businesses, there's no doubt about that. The Otley experience shows you that and if you don't learn by that well you're your own fool aren't you. But I want to concentrate on Netherfield Road particularly the car park there that you intend to charge. The history around that car park is around, the project was led by ward members of the time when the car park was a staff car park for the large Whiting factory across the road, that became derelict and was to be redeveloped and the owner of that after being persuaded by one of my colleagues who worked very very hard on getting the carpark designated as a commuter car park and also getting the clock that was on the building moved across there that became the car park. It wasn't universally accepted by people to use it there were still parking extensively in the streets around Guiseley and they've been coerced by all ward members including myself to actually use that car park. Numerous times I've said to people who had cars parked outside. Why are you parking here. Oh well it's convenient. I said well can you not use the Netherfield Road Car Park because that's the car park designated to the railway station and they've gone and used it and it's grown and grown and grown until now it's 100% full and the vast majority of the people that use it are commuters, there's a small number of business owners who are now having to use it because Morrisons have implemented an enforcement of their 3 hour limit and business owners were parking in there and now because they've introduced a camera system they've been forced to go into the Netherfield Road Car

Park. They're not happy with that but we've sort of got, I don't say an agreement but a sort of arrangement that they're going to use that but they are only using it because it's free it's much further of a walk. All our other council car parks have 3 hour limits enforced by our wardens so they're left really with no choice. If you introduce charging a number of things will happen, they'll not use it and they'll close their business and I've been warned that that will happen particularly with charity shops where volunteers are going in for longer than three hours and having to use it. Those volunteers will no longer go in so the charity shop will close due to lack of volunteers. The other issue around car parking it's that of course it's as I said it's that what we call a park and railers carpark so it's a predominantly a Park and Ride which is taking vehicles off the road because the introduction of charging will do one of two things those vehicles will either be back in the local streets or they'll be back on the A65 travelling to the city centre which is against our policy and it's just as, it could be the thin end of a wedge to charge you for Park and Ride and Councillor Groves you might be interested in this because of course you're encouraging Park and Ride in the case of you want Stourton to progress, you want to extend Elland Road you've got permission to do that, you want to expend Temple Green but of course you will have many, that equates to about 4,000 cars off the road which is very good but if charges are brought in of course you could be charging for Elland Road. Look how much money could be made from Elland Road and Temple Green if you're bringing charging. It's a good list isn't it, it's a good money spinner Richard you know and as I say you talk about where ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Come on let him speak.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: You'd get your £200,000 you could actually get £200,000 from your ward colleague, from your colleague sat at the side of you, if he implemented the 1 million pounds of savings on the rationalisation but he fails to do that so getting the money is not the problem Richard but I just think you ought to talk to the Combined Authority and see if they agree with it because I believe that some officers do agree with charging down at the Combined Authority but I just think that your policies to take cars off the road and then by charging you putting them on the road again so it seems to be a mixed message you sending to people. So I just think you ought to be clear about it Richard. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. In 12 years in this place I've heard some interesting debates and I've also heard lots of theoretical arguments around why somethings a good idea somethings a bad idea but really do we actually touch on the practicalities of what a proposal is going to mean in practice to people in a specific area and that's why we'll be supporting Tom's White Paper because actually we agree with two of the principal assertions, the first certainly in the terms of Garforth, district charging would be a further imposition and we think it would be an imposition too far for traders who already at times struggling. And there's a reason behind that, no hyperbole it is a fact that Garforth the old town as I call it everything that's West Garforth effectively is old, you know, we cannot defy the laws of physics and stretch Townend or Lidgett Lane or Church Lane or Barley Hill Road the areas that actually serve Main Street and if you could somehow do that and there was sufficient places for people to disperse and park elsewhere then actually this probably wouldn't be something that would be completely untenable but the fact is there's

nowhere for people to park. It's a simple reality and of course because of the number of people who want to come into Garforth Main Street you have a further issue that we've had to introduce more and more and more residents only parking schemes so there's no easy answer around it. But there's a very practical reason why it's probably going to be a bad idea. I was, aren't I always, I was in the pub the other night in the Gaping Goose and something caught my eye and it was a picture of Barley Hill Road and there was a horse dragging a Hay cart down and the road hasn't widened since that time and actually you know Lord Mayor that's about all its fit for. It's a small road and yet we're expecting it to deal with 21st century complex traffic issues and it simply won't. Richard made a point around we can't persuade people and we'd be fools to think that private enterprise would help us in this way well actually one of our major property owners on Garforth Main Street has always applied free parking charges for the principle it helps his tenants and it helps footfall. But actually and I don't think it's a coincidence only this week he's turned round and said I'm going to reduce mine to an hour and I think it's absolutely in line with a mood that suggests that if the Council aren't doing their bit why should I bother and we are actually positively and they set a limit of persuasion again Tom, we're looking at Town End again but we're actually at a position now where the private landowner wants to work with the Council in facilitating some form of parking for traders. So there's a lot of people doing a lot of work in a lot of areas to make something happen so to put this imposition on people is kind of frankly untenable and you know we've been fortunate in Garforth we've ridden out a recession, we've got a thriving Main Street, a mix of independent and the more high street names you know your Card Factory, your Costa and we've got them not by accident because they've looked at the demographics, they've looked at things like parking they realise it's somewhere to come and work and trade that's vibrant and that's thriving but just down the road, if you like that sort of thing, we have The Springs. So sooner or later if we can't address this in a mature manner around parking we're going to lose that footfall and people are going to suffer. That's independent traders it's not just the big boys we've a thriving independent market in Garforth. I want to see it continue, I want people to be able to come work, trade, shop free of charge in a way that currently works with a very specific and very tight environment we've got so no hyperbole just some simple practical explanations why this could not fly. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. Before my colleague Sandy upset Councillor Carter he took the opportunity to show me the little list and I thought to myself I've seen this list before somewhere. I'm going back it must be oh 10, 15 or more years the Labour Party then actually put forward the same set of proposals. Actually slightly more extensive but in effect this has been Labour policy for some 15 or so years actually it might be more than 15 years because it was in the days of Councillor Trickett. I'm not sure whatever happened to him but so it goes back awhile but at the time there was strong opposition from all the district centres, all the district centres not those simply represented by the Conservatives, not those represented by the Independents, not those represented by the Morley Independents but by the Labour members as well and I am thinking particularly about the vociferous opposition there was from a couple of the Pudsey councillors, Councillor Coulson and Councillor Jarosz who at the time were extremely vocal about the detrimental effects that introducing car parking charges would have on that district centre and actually I think it's fair to say that because of pressure from the Labour Party because they had

perhaps some electoral problems at the time and everybody else those charges were not introduced except, sadly, in one area and that area was Otley and we were told at the time as Richard's told us today that it was a great idea because it would increase turnover, it would encourage visitors to come to the town, it would make the high street thrive. Well I have to say to you and if you want an example of what happens when you introduce charges, Otley is a good example. It took 5 years for the high street to recover, it took 5 years of a great deal of effort from a lot of people, the Chamber of Trade, the Town Council, Community Groups to get us back to where we were before you introduced those charges. The second effect of course and a major one which will affect all of you is it moves parking away from a designated carpark onto streets. So the second problem I suppose relates now to on-street parking because residential streets are clogged up by people who work in the town, people who come to shop, people who are visiting the town who are using on-street parking because there's a charge. Now Richard, I have to say to you Richard you've said to us initially it was about improving the town centre but actually you admit it's a money raising scam. (Laughter). Well I think I've described it as a money raising scam. But you did talk about and I'll say this you did talk about consultation. Now there hasn't been any consultation and I'm not sure that there is going to be any consultation before the February Budget meeting and there isn't going to be any consultation with the other areas that are proposed in your list but we're not talking about at the moment but I would just put one plea in, if you are going to do a consultation, if you mean what you say and you're going to do consultation could you consult with Otley because I can tell you now that the traders and residents of Otley would say to you we would actually like you to take the car parking charges in Otley off because that would be a major step forward into improving trade within the town. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, Councillor Golton not Golton, Gruen sorry.

(Inaudible and laughter).

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I don't mind Lord Mayor as long as he (inaudible) to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: There's a strong likeness. (Laughter).

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I have to say I will start with an apology to my colleagues because after 9 years of hearing the self-denial is about austerity I have turned into a grumpy young man. (Laughter). And I really think there is a golden thread running through today's Council meeting. Earlier on when we talked about Children's Services and you were very quick to associate yourselves with the success it was actually Councillor Blake who reminded us when she said thank you to the Finance team that it took courage and it took money to invest in Children's Services to set that scene for future success and then in the next White Paper when Councillor Mulherin will talk about Youth Services, what's it about, it's about money and it's about the fact that this Council now has £250m less in grant than it had 9 years ago. So there is a golden thread and there is a threat that you don't acknowledge and I'd have more time for Councillor Leadley's White Paper and the contributions of all the ponscious pilots over there as a good catholic I am aware of the hand washing and all this so why don't you come up and say where the money is coming from if you're not

going to have, if you're not going to have charges in certain things then propose in your White Paper where the money is coming from and I wouldn't dismiss if I was you, what I think is a very well thought through amendment by Councillor Richard Lewis I'd look at your own White Paper which is entirely opportunistic. You know you've read a story somewhere about there might be some charges, you've been told it will go out to consultation, you've been reminded by Richard that when we had that proposal on residential parking there was a consultation, we did listen and it wasn't implemented. I'm also a bit irritated by the fact that you only ever talk about public car parks you never talk about private car parks and the money they charge and the increases and the increases they levy but you don't talk about it, I know you put it in there but you don't really talk about it. So we talk about the fact let me say we talk about the fact that that the new Aldi in Chapel Allerton. When they came to a sticky part in planning what do they say, we are going to provide free parking in the evening for all the local residents because we know there is a dearth of parking. What have they done actually in practice, not only have they not put a legal planning permission in the first place they've also implemented a two hour zone after, so you can't park for free, until after nine o'clock. That's hardly the private sector actually playing ball with the local public. (Inaudible). Well all I will say to you is you have to be a bit more honest and show a bit more integrity when you put forward at budget time when you put forward these things. I think nobody likes paying tax, nobody likes paying charges but you have to make choices and the choice now is that 65% of our budget goes on Children's Services and Adult Social Care. You have to make choices easy for you to simply condemn everything. We don't want this we don't want that we don't want the other but we're not going to tell you how to pay for it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton please. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: This is your moment.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: It's alright I thought we'd gone past the threshold. Right Lord Mayor the issue of parking. There's a big difference between the city centre and the outlying districts and since the word disingenuous has been used quite a lot this afternoon it was disingenuous of Councillor Lewis to mention the Morley Independents and their budget amendment in terms of parking because it was associated with the city centre. And just by example Rothwell town centre we don't have our major bus routes going through the centre of our community. There's one bus route that goes down the centre of Commercial Street, the rest that take the rest of the population to town which is where most of our public transport terminates and begins goes nowhere near our town centre so to actually try and deter people from getting there in their own motor car is counterproductive because they haven't got an alternative to get there. Particularly I have to say if we're talking about how great we are responding to diversity if you've got mobility issues you're not, or if you were infirm or whatever don't want to be standing outside a bus stop where the buses don't come for an hour if you've missed one. So a lot of people depend on getting into our town centres on the car. We don't want to deter them and why do they want to come to our town centres. The reason is not only because they want to shop in the local area, as mentioned by Councillor Harrison, because you get good customer service, people know who you are but they also want to meet their friends and their friends that they've grown up with over the years and this ties into the isolation

agenda Councillor Charlwood and the more that we can make our town centres those community hubs in the real sense of the word Councillor Coupar for our communities and enable people to meet and have a cup of tea and go shopping together or whatever that's what we want to encourage and you don't do it by treating those people who go there as cash cows. Now I'm aware that we have parking charges in the city centre that is appropriate because there is public transport alternatives if you are disabled there are quite a lot of disabled parking spaces. The Council is very good at being inclusive with the city centre and especially with the cooperation of the Leeds bid makes it very accessible for every one of those Leeds citizens that usually uses a Town Centre also uses the city centre so they are already contributing in terms of their car parking charges. What is key Lord Mayor is what you do about enforcement of parking because all of these complaints that we have about our district centre car parks and I know that, Karen and Carmel and I we get people saying oh that Rothwell Car Park it's always full and it's those people there parking up and then their getting the bus into town or their parking up and they're getting picked up by their mates to go to the local office park, they're not really shoppers, they're not really locals. So how do you encourage churn in those car parks you don't do it by charging them and stopping people coming you do it by introducing restrictions in time but the key to that is actually making a commitment to investing in enforcement and if you have a look at all of the fees that we have when people are having infringements the vast majority of them 95% of them are all in the city centre and if you actually did a fair deal to people in the districts to enable enforcement personnel to work more effectively in our district centres and introduced some time limits on the carpark and you'd actually get more income from doing that and as Councillor Bruce and I would know our pedestrianised area would be more effectively policed by those same enforcement personnel so instead of treating the outer areas as another way to skim off an extra bit of income that you can spend in the center potentially why don't you actually start investing in those outer areas and showing that you are responding to those pressures in our parking by introducing better enforcement.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pat Latty please.

COUNCILLOR P LATTY: Lord Mayor I'm going to probably repeat some of the things that my colleague has said but I want to go through this. I wish to speak up for the people of Guiseley. We suffer from being a town that was built before the motor car came to cause problems that we now have to learn to live with. The A65 which brings traffic from far and wide and channels it through Guiseley in the middle of Guiseley, we have a railway station that attracts commuters who have had to leave their cars all day. We do not have sufficient on and off street car parking be it public or privately owned. Our problems started to get serious about 25 years ago when Morrisons bought a tract of town centre land which had been used as a car park for local people and shoppers and built a store on it. They got a bit browned off when commuters started to fill their car park leaving their cars all day and making it difficult for shoppers. So Morrisons introduced time limited parking which threw the commuter's onto the streets upsetting the residents. Then we managed to get Netherfield Road Car Park and things started to look up, commuters gradually learned to use it and now it is full on weekdays. It is so successful that adding a second storey has been considered importantly it is a free car park. Now the fly in the ointment, let's charge people for using it, Leeds could use the money and Guiseley people are well away out in the leafy suburbs so we can pretend they're not there. The worst point about this is that retail outlets are suffering, look at any high street

and you will see that genuine retailers are dwindling. If you want to go shopping in Guiseley or Yeadon your best chance of parking your car is in Morrisons or the retail park. If they get filled up with commuters who will also overflow on to the residential streets you have no chance. Adjacent to Netherfield Road are two new estates which will be immediate targets for commuters if charging is introduced. That means that as soon as their roads are adopted we'll be looking to introduce a TRO for restricted or resident only parking. That means another bit of Guiseley for the wardens to patrol. So what will we have, we will have cars parked all over our housing estates, we will have cars blocking up the shoppers car parking, we will have a hard won and valued car park rendered useless and the city will not have benefit from any extra revenue.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: To sum up Lord Mayor. I just refer to the comments made by the various speakers. I mean Wyn Kidger showed the practical measures that she's helping within Morley in fact since before she became a city councillor and she has also highlighted the problems that there are in Dewsbury if anybody ever visits Dewsbury it's practically deserted. Councillor Harrison she mentioned a stalling of retail sales which is already evident, is the need to attract people into district centres which means you've got to have a positive policy of attracting people rather than thinking of ways of dissuading them and persuading them not to come. Time limited free parking exists in quite a number of places, it existed for a while in Morley unfortunately somebody stole the machine in the belief that it was full of money whereas in actual fact it was full of tickets but we have tried it and it was quite useful while it lasted. And Councillor Richard Lewis well I think another red herring for anybody that's not been listening, our amendment in 2016 was to do with city centre car parking and of course today's debate is to do with district centre car parking out in the shopping centres and shopping in the towns and district centres surrounding Leeds not the city centre. Persuasions not as ridiculous as all that there are parking grounds in Morley which are privately owned, the owners of those grounds have been persuaded to, as you might say, keep in step with the City Council and allow people to go on there free but no doubt if the city Council started to charge those landowners would look at charging. The existing problem that we do have in Morley is the management of one car park which is nominally free but where it's operated by one of these firms who've installed a camera and their trying to catch you out with various silly rules and then they send you a fine and it does strike me as remarkable that some of these rogue operators do have access to DVLC records. They must have otherwise they wouldn't be able to send their fines out and possibly the city Council can check that up as a body of Local Government take it up at a different level. Councillor Campbell pointed out that it's essentially a resurrected policy that some of these charges have been considered before and Otley unfortunately did get them. He said that it took 5 years for Otley to recover presumably that would have been at a rather more bountiful time than we have now when the high streets are already under extreme pressure to introduce car parking now would not be at all wise and I think a number of speakers have also mentioned that it might actually be counter-productive for the city Council in terms of raising cash because you might get business rate appeals which would bring in less money and now the City Council's getting 75% percent of the business rate obviously that directly affects City Council coffers if buildings are abandoned and fall derelict that the City Council may very well have to send in Planning Enforcement Officers to deal with them, tracing the owners and

getting the buildings boarded up and so on. So it adds to City Council revenue costs and that £200,000 could soon be swallowed up in other costs. I don't think Councillor Gruen added a great deal to the debate he did mention private car parks but I think I've covered that already in that Morley and probably other towns as well there are bits and pieces of land which are privately owned where people access and free of charge. Now because it would be slightly ridiculous to have little bits of land that were charging if others weren't. Councillor Golton again pointed out that the city centre is different from the town centres and the district centres. Councillor Pat Latty well obviously speaking from the heart because she's a Guiseley Councillor who would be directly affected if the current plans went through without modification although I suspect that there's a fair amount of backtracking on the other side of the Chamber already so I think we might see some change there. Alan Lamb really his amendment was helpful and wasn't at all destructive of my original ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Leadley we are time limited.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: So I'll just sum up. I thank you my Lord Mayor I didn't have time Councillor Wadsworth or Councillor Dobson but there contributions

...

THE LORD MAYOR: I'm sure they know you would have liked to have spoken to them

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: Can I ask for a recorded vote when we come to the voting Lord Mayor. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: So we move to the vote and Councillor Leadley has asked for a recorded vote. Are you asking for that across the board or on the first one.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: (Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you get a seconder for that. Right there will be recorded votes.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Would all members please ensure they are in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Harrison. All members should refer to the desk unit. Press the button marked P the lights will flash then press the plus button to vote in favour, the minus button to vote against or the zero button to abstain. . (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: So the first vote is for the amendment in the name of Councillor Harrison. Right the vote is as follows: 91 present, in favour 10, against 58, abstaining 23 so that amendment is LOST.

Can we now vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Richard Lewis.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: All members need to be in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Richard Lewis. Press the button marked P, press the plus button to vote in

favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn are you voting. Have you now voted. Right those present 91, in favour 59, nobody abstained and 32 were against so that is CARRIED.

Can we now vote on the third amendment in the name of Councillor Lamb.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I know your in your allocated seats. This is a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Lamb. Press the button marked P then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Right strangely there are 92 present now, who's been hiding. Anyway, of those 31 voted in favour, 2 abstained and 59 voted against so that one is LOST.

So the amendment in the name of Councillor Lewis becomes the substantive amendment and we need to vote on that.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members are now in their allocated seats and members have requested a recorded vote on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Richard Lewis. Refer to your desk unit, press the button marked P then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain. . (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Right present 92, in favour 59, abstaining none and 33 against so the motion in the name of Richard Lewis, Councillor Richard Lewis is CARRIED.

#### ITEM 12 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – YOUTH SERVICES

THE LORD MAYOR: Move on to White Paper in the name of Councillor Mulherin. Councillor Mulherin please.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor and members of Council I'm moving this White Paper because I am passionate about the impact that good quality youth work can have on the life chances of young people and also because the Government has failed young people by inflicting unprecedented and cruel cuts on local authorities resulting in vital Youth Services being cut up and down the country. Nationally overall spending on Youth Services in England has fallen by £737m since 2010 and this has caused 600 youth centres to be closed and 3½ thousand youth workers to lose their jobs between 2012 and 2016 nationally. As a result nearly a 139,000 youth service places were lost nationwide during this period and Youth Services are now a shadow of what they used to be. This has impoverished the prospects of many vulnerable young people having a negative impact on employment and training opportunities, educational outcomes and health and wellbeing. Youth Services provide a holistic approach that enhance young people's personal and social development helping them to build confidence, to explore their personal identities and build positive futures. These services are also vital in developing young people's sense of belonging within their communities in which they live and strengthening community cohesion. Youth Services play a crucial role in improving our communities saving the public purse future costs in health services for the criminal justice system and benefiting the wider local economy. They

present a useful invest to save opportunity through promoting positive outcomes and activities that help young people acquire and hone skills for later life. Essentially Youth Services acts as a vehicle to allow young people to fulfil their potential and help communities to thrive which is our goal for young people here in Leeds. Without the funding that's so desperately needed for local authorities to continue providing these vital services we run the risk of seeing children and young people lose out and suffer poorer outcomes. The impacts of which could last throughout their lifetimes. This is not fair, it's not just and it should not be allowed to happen. I'm pleased to report that despite the significant cuts to Local Authority funding in Leeds we have continued to fund a core in-house youth service and third sector Youth Services, a universal youth activities fund delegated to Local Community Committees to spend based on local need, identified with young people and a wider youth voice offer that ensures young people's voices influence and change the way in which services respond to meet their needs. In autumn 2018 our refreshed Children and Young People's Plan reaffirmed this Council's commitment to putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do. As Executive Member for Children and Families I'm incredibly proud of the work that we have done and are doing to ensure Youth Services continue to play their parts in placing young people at the heart of the areas in which they live and crucially working with our children young people to empower them to help shape and develop their city. Against a backdrop of austerity this Council's protected and improved services for children and young people across Leeds despite punitive Government funding cuts made year on year with grant funding for the budgets for Youth Services in Leeds falling from £5.3m in 2010 to £1.8m in 2016. With increasing Government funding cuts being imposed on local authorities leading to mounting local pressures councils are struggling to balance the books and having to reduce their provision of non-statutory services as a result. Placing the invaluable role of Youth Services on a statutory footing is long overdue and I urge members across this Chamber to back my White Paper and supports calls to secure funding for a statutory youth service to improve the life chances of young people. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes please.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: Lord Mayor I am very pleased to second this White Paper as it has the potential to genuinely change some young people's lives. I'm going to talk about 3 things, I'm going to talk about the impact our Youth Services have on our community both now and in future. I'm going to talk about how great our young people and I'm going to talk about the concerns I have about the sustainability of these services at a time when austerity is hitting our communities so hard and when resources have been stretched and therefore why this White Paper is so important. We are all aware of the news, the national headlines of the increase in youth crime. We're all aware of the mental health issues that keep being reported amongst the young and we see high unemployment rates again amongst the young it's heartbreaking to see the futures of our young people put at risk. Those simple facts are why the role of the Youth Services are so imperative. Providing a wide range of opportunities for young people inspires them to pursue their goals and undertake training, development opportunities and volunteering opportunities to get where they want to get to. When you give young people opportunities they are inspiring. Young people at the Sunday School group that I help lead in Beeston they do just that, they inspire me, they inspire me with their energy, their compassion, their generosity and the hope for a better future. Let's be absolutely clear here young people of Leeds are the future of our city if we do not invest in them now we're setting

ourselves up for failure in the future. It is literally that simple. We also all know how good a job our Youth Services do, we see that in a number of children. So for example the number of children not in education or employment or training has fallen since the Labour administration took control of the Council. We also know that school absences are down and this is evidence of effective interventions. The question here isn't about the quality of the service it's about the scale and the sustainability of those services. At the moment as Councillor Mulherin has already pointed out we fund these opportunities and not to the levels that we want to do. Yet the Government seems like it cannot, until this point, put Youth Services on a statutory footing. It's almost like they're distracted by something else. Should funding not be made available there is the uncertainty in the future is deeply worrying. Where will our young people go when their Friday night is cancelled, Friday night group is cancelled. Demoralised by lack of support I fear that some of our young people might not have futures as bright as they would have been otherwise. I have no doubt that some will still achieve but are we helping everyone achieve their full potential, surely that is something the whole Chamber wants to see. I could go on literally for hours, I'm not going to but I could and about various things for example with the cuts to education maintenance grant or child tax credits or revisit what Matt Gibson said about in work poverty or what Councillor Bithell said about young women in period poverty or what Councillor Truswell talked about in terms of housing issues and how they impacted on people or what Councillor Ragan has already said about the number of houses in our city that live in poverty. All these issues impact our young people and it is a serious problem. The simple truth is that our Youth Services need proper funding and they need it now. They need statutory funding to ensure that we safeguard the children and young people of today and the adults of tomorrow. I'll close with this, I urge all members of this Chamber to support what I see is a no-brainer of a White Paper.

Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. In moving this amendment, I was thinking actually, it's not often you, my heart always sinks when you see White Paper amendments and it's remove everything after this Council and we had a look at this the 3 of us and talked it through and tried to dissect it and bring it back again and then the penny drops, there's nothing at all in Councillor Mulherin's White Paper that we could disagree with not a comma or a full stop nothing. But we wanted to bring forward an amendment that we hope will be considered useful and helpful because the reality is we believe that as things stand there's a few fundamental issues that we have to look at to actually make this more robust. We're not going to suggest for a moment and I think maybe that people thought this was on our mind to sort of say look at Garforth and Swillington, how hard done by they are in the grand scheme of things. We're not chasing any radical redistribution of funds because actually we believe the money should follow the need as a fundamental principle with no objection. We've looked at the Ward allocations and actually I think it tells you quite a lot in terms of the story of the city and where funding needs to actually go and I wholly concur with the idea that investing wisely, sensibly and fully now can actually stave off a whole raft of social issues and costs later in the day for young people. So again absolutely no issue. In my day job I sometimes get to interact with young men, young offenders who are serving custodial sentences and there's always an exception to this but by and large what I keep seeing are young guys actually that just never had a fair crack of the whip. They've never had a chance probably from day one and they

found herself inside and it's awful and I think that better intervention, statutory interventions now would help that situation. But what we're seeking in the amendments are just some simple objectives clarity and certainty that all young people get the support they need and again I'm not saying we want to redistribute funds but it's kind of clear that with the money going in in certain wards we're really not drumming down perhaps in getting a full and detailed picture of what's out there in terms of a lot of young people's quite complex needs. The other thing is around housekeeping we actually think that a lot of the good work citywide, I've always thought this, looks a shade disjointed and I think a good solid housekeeping exercise now to find out where we are we'd actually find favour because if this does become something that gets support and we can get statutory funding which would be wonderful I think unless we're looking at an imaginary shipping company nobody's going to give us £14m or whatever amount of money without some hard facts, some hard due diligence, a good solid exercise in robustness and that's why I've added that brief paragraph as an amendment to the Labour White paper. So we move our White Paper amendment Lord Mayor. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Field.

COUNCILLOR FIELD: Second Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I think Council will be happy that I don't intend to speak long but I have just a little bit to say in support of this White Paper and its due for a more comprehensive strategy or it's a request for more comprehensive statutory footing for our young people and particularly statutory funding in my opinion for young people and I thought the best way to guarantee a chance to say that was to put a small amendment in. But firstly on behalf of the Liberal Democrats I would also like to congratulate the Council on its recent outstanding rating for Children's Social Services my party hasn't had a chance yet today and I felt that we ought to take our chance now. I would particularly like to thank the officers and staff who deliver the service but I'm also wanting to congratulate the Exec Board Member, her predecessor's, Councillor Lamb, former Councillor Chapman and her colleague Alderman Sue Bentley and their Scrutiny Board and all members that have ensured that the city services have met the needs of our children. Current statutory provision for young people is woefully inadequate and that states that councils are, and I quote, to secure sufficient services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19 and those with learning disabilities to age 24 to improve their wellbeing. Well what it seems to mean is that councils including this one are increasingly rationalising services to those that need it most. I am led to believe that 37,000 looked after children now take over half of the spending. That leaves 11.7 million other kids with varying levels of need fighting for the leftovers. Without statutory funding we will continue to see a hollowing out of services for those neither wealthy or most in need, those just about managing and those increasingly once deemed middle earners and their children's ability to access education, community activities and to improve their wellbeing are increasingly missing out as this Council rightly in my view target their resources on those most in need. For these reasons I want to see statutory funding allocation for young children. We already have a precedent and I am aware of at least two examples UK defence funding at 2% and 0.7% for international development. I see no reason why Youth Services couldn't

have a similar statutory pot managed by a Cabinet Member perhaps an extended statutory estate for your children, Secretary of State for children, young people and education. Not unreasonable when we now have a Secretary of State for Health and Social Care which are also two huge portfolios. These reasons I believe that statutory funding will help ensure every young person has the opportunity to get on.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: COUNCILLOR BENTLEY.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: I second the amendment Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've just been advised that there's been a sudden rush onto the webcast. People come to watch at ten past seven the most important debate currently taking part in this country as we speak right now. I have to say Lord Mayor we wondered, we wondered. (Inaudible). You've spoke my time shush. We wondered with all that's going on in the world today where this White Paper was actually coming from. Well indeed because this Labour Group motion today reflects the policy of the Labour party politburo calling for youth service provision to be placed on a statutory footing. In fact if there was any doubt as to who's in charge of what Labour in Leeds tell us today this White Paper is incredibly telling. In July 2018 the Labour Shadow Cabinet and London Mayor jointly announced a proposal to, Council please, to make it compulsory for councils to provide a minimum level of Youth Services as a way to tackle knife crime and various other social ills. The plan promised dedicated guaranteed funding but would also create a national body to oversee the provision of Youth Services in England. Now if I cast my mind back and I realise members opposite will not like this but as I cast my mind back through history I can only recall 2 examples of state controlled and supervised provision of youth provision that's Nazi Germany and Soviet era Russia. They are the two, they are the two administrations that had state controlled youth provision and I do not believe for one minute that is something that we are looking to go down as a route but that is a fact. Providing opportunities for young people to engage in activities and leisure time is something that most people will support wholeheartedly. But we believe quite rightly as you do there is a debate on the best way to facilitate that. The Government argues and we agree that it's for individual councils to decide what is best for their areas allowing them to prioritise the funding they have as available as they see fit. Indeed not every area, not every family needs or wants state funded youth service. Many families, many areas make their own arrangements and are comfortable making those choices themselves. In addition Labour proposed a national body to oversee youth service provision as I said quite aside from the somewhat sinister overtones of a local community youth commissar to ensure comrades youth provision is in line with policy what kind of additional layers of bureaucracy, regulation and expense is this going to bring. Councils like us had the opportunity to manage our budget in a way that prioritises spend for Youth Services in a way that meets the needs of the local area. A White Paper also talks about the Government investment in initiatives are already to support young people because let's not forget there is a significant amount of such initiatives, early intervention youth fund, troubled families programme, youth endowment fund, national citizen service, significant funding for uniformed movements, life-chances fund, youth performance

partnerships. There are many ways to get, do delivery of youth provision. Indeed let's look at how we do here in Leeds already with the Youth Activity Fund perhaps we could look at allowing that to be spent on capital projects as well as just on revenue spend. Just some suggestions. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor second and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor since 1996 I've been on the Management Committee at Lewisham Centre in Morley and its Chairman since 2011. City Council Youth Services have run youth clubs there for many years serving the Denshaw Newlands estates at some of the less privileged parts of Morley South Ward. Our experience of Youth Services has been variable and effectiveness depends on who's in charge. We've had spells when posts have been left vacant for months without explanation. Sessions have been cancelled at short notice or without any notice at all, staff have been on endless sick leave and so on. Rates of pay and terms of employment for youth workers often have been quite poor leading to rapid turnover of fairly poor quality staff. In recent times we've done well and the risk of causing embarrassment I have to say that a lot of the improvement in quality and stability has been due to the work of Glen O'Mally who is now officially Team Leader Youth Offer Localities Inner South and Outer South East believe it or not. Hes' used tight budgets very well, he's motivated staff, kept on top of recruitment and replacement of staff and always seems ready to listen to a constructive criticism and would be prepared to apply solutions which actually work. Also he's not above discontinuing sessions or services which don't work or for which there is little or no demand. Youth work can go further and be much more demanding than might be thought. Last autumn I helped staff raise money for an outward bound trip to Keswick during the half-term holiday which is this sort of activity which might be expected. In contrast support had to be given by, had to be given to club members after a lad had attended Lewisham died in a road accident on his way home from school so the youth workers had to be able to cope with that. Youth Services were important in the depression years of the 1920's and 30's. Boxing clubs and the likes kept youngsters off the streets and out of trouble and the same underlying truths remain today. It's better to be doing something constructive than to be wandering about doing nothing or for idol hands to become destructive. There is a good case for making Youth Services a form of strategy, educational provision with guaranteed levels of funding but as experience of Lewisham over the past 20 odd years has shown both the service and the funding would have to be managed properly to make sure that there was value for money and real value to the youngsters. Youth Services currently make realistic contact only with a minority of 13 to 19 year olds. Those who literally are teenagers. Coverage is geographically patchy which seems to be the point of Councillor Dobson's amendment and a statutory service might become much larger and more expensive than the one we see especially if pre-teen age groups were better catered for. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Youth Services I've seen the provision in my ward of Farnley and Wortley decrease because as has been stated, well the money isn't there now and the workers many a time aren't there, the Council employees, Youth Service Officers. One of the great things in my ward that goes down well with the youngsters and I'd love more of it is the mobile provision and I said to Youth Services the other day in fact they are in years to come thinking about other ways to do things and have companies work with us. I always ask when people are suggesting other things what about this mobile provision. Because obviously you know buses they last so long and I know sometimes I've been told yes well it's if we have people that can drive it, if we have used workers that can drive it because people come and go over the years. So as far as this goes I have no problem at all in saying that we should apply for youth service statutory funding whether we get it or not is another matter. I doubt we would but certainly yes we can ask for it. The main thing is that we do continue having funding to provide something for youngsters and as I said yes I have a thing about the bus because it really does work well in my area but I know some places have regular youth clubs, we don't have that not that's provided by Youth Services anyway. We do have a church one that's brilliant. So the fact is yes I would like more funding, we do have some problems with some youngsters in my ward in certain areas and as I said Youth Services it goes down and down and so we would like more so if we can get some statutory funding to improve that I think we'd all like that and I know what's been said about other wards some don't get much at all and whatever and that every ward has its own story on this one I understand that. So I'm very much in favour of us trying to get this. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Lord Mayor I'm speaking in support of the motion on Youth Services in funding in the name of the Executive Member for Children and Families and I would also like to emphasise the importance of the Youth Services as a valuable invest to save method for Leeds and for councils across the country especially in a period of austerity. There is plenty of evidence to show that investment in the early years pays dividends in later life in terms of education, ambition, achievement and employment and this to be fair is well recognised and reflected in Government policy. Adolescence however and the difficult and challenging transition into adulthood is an equally crucial time for making life choices and decisions and yet as a non-statutory service the Government has chosen to repeatedly cut funding for this vital intervention Youth Services and this has resulted in some councils having no youth provision at all and in Leeds where we have done our very best to retain good quality youth work it is nevertheless much reduced and mostly delivered in short, time related contracts which are targeted at particular groups of young people. Time after time we're forced to provide youth interventions after the horse has bolted when we are faced with issues of antisocial behaviour, youth crime, mental health problems and most tragically even suicide or death by misadventure and both of those things that happened in my ward. Youth work is a professional discipline delivered by highly skilled professionals who provide a unique blend of learning and recreational experiences in an informal environment which is accessible to young people at a very challenging stage in young people's lives. At a stage when their learning to take responsibility for themselves and their lives when they need resilience, determination, a belief in themselves and positive ambition. If

we fail to give young people the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with the youth service to be guided and encouraged to explore their emerging adult world of morality, the value of employment, the benefits of friendship and the exhilaration of achievement and all the things that go with becoming a responsible citizen then we needn't be surprised when many of them struggled to engage in society or to fit in as many young people have said to me. The Early Intervention Foundation states that £17b per year is spent nationally on addressing the costs of late intervention. £6.4b of it by local councils. How much of that could be saved by more early youth intervention. Between 2009 and 2017 youth funding was cut by over 62% and in the 2010 spending review many of the previously ring fenced targeted Youth Services were abolished altogether compounded by population growth and increased demand. £3b of the £7.8b funding gap that we now face nationally is attributed to Children's Services. It's not only the right of our young people but it's the right of our society that this vital cog in the education and learning wheel should be allowed to play its part in addressing the present and future lives of young people. Lord Mayor all of us as Councillors are part of a community which puts us in touch with young people and this gives us the opportunity to secure their rightful entitlement. I believe that Youth Services should be a statutory service and I wholeheartedly support this motion.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you my Lord Mayor and I also welcome this opportunity to talk about our wonderful Youth Services In the city and to support this call to, ability to do more. As a Council and we've seen in the outstanding judgment from Ofsted we are committed to protecting our most vulnerable of citizens tackling antisocial behaviour and crime is one of our key priorities but being responsive to local needs and building, supporting, thriving and resilient communities and I've also got this opportunity to tell you about a fantastic scheme in my ward of Temple Newsam delivered by the Leeds United Foundation. In Halton Moor the Premier League Kicks is a flagship scheme. The scheme uses a range of sport educational and personal development activities to engage our young people in making positive choices. Those who may be experiencing inequality in their education, employment housing and health and wellbeing which we've heard so much of today. Initially this scheme was introduced to run for just two hours on a Friday night but immediately we saw a reduction of ASB, a number of people young people become ambassadors in the local area and three have gone on to higher education with the Leeds United Foundation with one of our wonderful young people winning a national award. All the children and young people benefit from the sessions, learning new skills, improving their health and wellbeing and benefitting socially and I'd like to thank our Youth Service Team and the Neighbourhood Policing Teams for supporting the scheme for the last two years. I am delighted to say that this scheme has now been running for seven nights a week, 14 hours a week since October. One of the sessions is dealing with targeted families, The other six are for the general population. In fact it has been so successful in Halton Moor with the outcomes that have been achieved it's hoped to be used across the city which certainly gives us a great amount of pride. However the uncertainty lies in the funding of this scheme we knew the impact it was having but in order that the scheme could go to seven days a week we had to enlist the support of a number of partners. There were numerous meetings to secure funding the scheme is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Housing Advisory Panel which is our own council residents, our Community Committee and was match funded by Viola. It was quite a complex undertaking managing different funding

streams and was only possible, and she's going to have words with me because she told me not to, but it was only possible due to the tenacity, the dedication and commitment of Councillor, my wonderful ward colleague, Debra Coupar. But when it comes to renewing this we will have to do it all again and that's, this pivotal scheme that has done so much good that's where we don't have the guarantee that it will continue much into the future. So schemes like this are pivotal to young people in the heart of an area that needs it most we know that through the work we do some of us from our own personal life, that children and teenagers are often hard to reach and need support and we also know too well how easily they can be influenced by negative factors around them. We're providing the opportunities to develop young people and the skills they need for their career also provides additional emotional and social support. If the funding was no longer available it would be disheartening for us, for the city but most importantly for our young people and their families and I'm really quite upset to be honest that a proposal such as this to put new service on a statutory basis and to provide more funding has been compared to the schemes of vicious totalitarian regimes, that's not what we're about, we want equity of delivery of Youth Services throughout the city because not every city has got an administration like this Labour Group.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Who put children at the heart of things.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: We want it for everyone.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's been a good debate actually so far and lots of interesting points made from across the Chamber. I'm particularly pleased to see Councillor Caroline Gruen back and hope your in full health, it's good to have you with us. Lord Mayor I think my ward is unique in being the only one in the city that has two prisons. Wealstun and the Young Offenders Institute and I live close to both of them and drive past them regularly. I visit the young offenders' prison from time to time there's about 270 young men on average that stay there and as Councillor Dobson alluded to earlier when you when you talk to them they're full of hopes and aspirations and once you've been there a little while and forget where you are it's like you're talking to any other teenager. There obviously there for a reason and they've done something they really shouldn't have but you can't help but reflecting every time you go, every time you drive by is that really the best that we could do as a society for those 270 young men and yes they've done something wrong but what has happened in their lives, what are the influences in their communities, in their families, in society that have led them to get to that place and I reflect on that often and I've been thinking about it as the debates been going on and there is things that need to be done I think I agree with a lot of the things Councillor Mulherin said at the outset. I agree with a lot of the analysis that Councillor Gruen set out. I agree and applaud a lot of the work Councillor Hayden's been doing but while you may have taken offence to the way that Councillor Cohen made his point, the point was well made and important. The idea of a state sponsored and centrally run statutory youth service particularly if it was to be run by comrades

Corbyn and McDonnell is frankly a terrifying prospect and you may say that's not with the intention of your proposal but that is the policy of the Labour Party nationally. That is their policy, that is what those of you that will be standing in a general election would be arguing for and that is not something that we could support on this side. (Inaudible). Well you're probably well aware by now that the House of Commons does absolutely have confidence in Theresa May and her Government. (Laughter and clapping). As we do over here and perhaps now that Comrade Corbyn's call for a General Election has been resoundingly rejected he might actually have the guts, he might actually have the guts Lord Mayor to tell the country, to tell the country what his plan for Brexit actually would be. But there we go. (Inaudible). Well at least she has a plan at least she has the courage to try and see it through. But anyway turning back, turning back to the matter in hand Lord Mayor. For that reason because of the implications of the national Labour Party policy which is been referred to here this is not something we could support and I'm happy Lord Mayor to support Councillor Cohen's White Paper. Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor wasn't expecting that. Yes well the problem with Youth Services and the reason why it's a pretty good idea to make it statutory is there is an obligation to recognise that it's an element of Children's Services that's worth investing in. We've been celebrating earlier the fact that the Council has got outstanding in its latest Ofsted inspection and that was an inspection of the Council's Social Care and Safeguarding Services and the only way that you get outstanding in areas like that is if you put consistent funding in there, you make sure that resources are made available to make sure you've got the right staff in place, that you have the ability to get your policies in place, to make sure you've got the systems to ensure that there is consistency there. But Lord Mayor that kind of level of service and excellence comes at a cost and the problem is that the Government has expectations of local authorities like ours to deliver that level of excellence but it also expects those local authorities to deliver everything else as well and I think there are figures released by the Local Government Association it pointed out that currently local authorities are spending as much nationally on something like 37,000 looked after children as they are on 11.7m children who aren't and that's one of the reasons why making the service statutory would actually reflect a commitment onto the Government as well that if there is a national commitment to Youth Services then they would have to pitch up with the resources to then pass on to local authorities to enable them to fulfil it. And I think that's something that hasn't actually been properly recognised by national Government but is a point that Local Government Association is making cross party. That if you want excellence across Children's Services and not just in those areas that are involved in looked after children and safeguarding then you have to provide the resources to invest elsewhere too.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I thank members across the Chamber by and large for their very sensible and positive contributions to the debate on this White Paper. First of all Councillor Scopes your quite right that the

decrease in provision of Youth Services nationally has been accompanied by an increase in youth crime and social behavior, mental health issues and rising youth and employment demonstrates in just a few of the negative impacts that a lack of provision of Youth Services has on children and young people's futures and on their communities. Councillor Leadley, Councillor Blackburn thank you for your recognising the benefits of good quality youth work and what that can bring to our local communities. Councillor Gruen I agree Youth Services are about recognising the enormous potential of young people and nurturing their developments and their skills to support them to make positive contributions to our society. Councillor Hayden I'm delighted you spoke about the hugely positive impact that the flagship Premier League Kicks Scheme is having in Halton Moor, it really shows the value of providing positive activities to young people. However I share your concern about the future funding of such schemes for the negative impact it would have on the lives of young people in the communities that yourself, Councillor Coupar and Councillor Lyons serve. Youth Services have been hit especially hard by austerity and councils nationwide are currently spending £6.4b on late interventions. If Government invested in Youth Services we can provide early intervention and generate much needed service savings downstream on health and care, criminal justice system and on the costs of young people not becoming economically active (inaudible). However as the benefits of Youth Services are less immediate and obvious than other interventions the Government has failed to invest in them. Councillor Dobson a review of Youth Services already happening there's been full engagement with elected members, officers have been out to speak at Community Committee meetings at every Community Committee meeting in the city and they've offered briefings to local ward members on the review and the offer of a ward level briefing to all members. An offer that was made to all members I understand that you haven't as yet taken that offer up. Councillor Lay thank you for your supportive comments. Given the approach you've taken in these speeches in the debates both to Councillor Lay and Councillor Dobson I don't know why you don't just support the Labour White Paper and it would be great to see you and your groups voting for it. Councillor Cohen's flights of fancy did little to inform this debate or to promote his own amendments. We're calling for Youth Services to put on a statutory footing, the reasons that Councillor Golton very eloquently set out at the end in his contribution. We need dedicated funding and we need it to be statutory provision because up and down the country these services have gone and it is showing in terms of the news reports every single day in terms of crime, not least knife crime that is affecting young people in communities up and down the country. We're calling for essential services for our communities to be given sufficient funding to meet a growing demand, a demand that's growing for all the reasons that we've debated today in the earlier discussions, on the minutes, under the Communities and the Learning portfolio and under the Children's Services and for those services to be given a statutory footing. I would urge you all please on a cross-party basis to vote for this which is not actually calling for the sort of ridiculous notions that Councillor Cohen was portraying in his contribution. We are looking for funding and statutory footing for Youth Services that we can deliver as a Local Authority. So please vote with us and Lord Mayor I would like to ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We need a seconder for that. Right are we asking for that across the board.

COUNCILLOR: Yes

THE LORD MAYOR: Right over to you Chief Exec.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes. Would all members please ensure they are in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Dobson. All members should refer to the desk unit and press the button marked P then press the plus button to vote in favour, the minus button to vote against or zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we have 91 present so we've slipped one again. In favour 15, abstaining 17 and no 59 so that amendment is LOST.

Move to the second amendment in the name of Councillor Lay.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: All members are in their allocated seats. They've requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Lay. Press the button marked P, plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: The voting on this amendment is 91 of us present. Yes 11, abstaining 15, no 65 so that amendment is LOST.

THE LORD MAYOR: Move on to the amendment in the name of Councillor Cohen.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Which members have requested a recorded vote on. Members should press the button marked P, press plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Right the voting on this amendment. 91 present. Yes 17, nobody abstaining and 74 against so that's been a bit LOST.

THE LORD MAYOR: So now we come to the substantive motion. Pardon. The motion.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: So members have requested a recorded vote on the motion in the name of Councillor Mulherin. Press the button marked P, plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against, zero to abstain. (A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: Right 91 present. Yes 74. (Cheers). Abstains 17. (Applause). That's well and truly CARRIED.

That represents the close of business for today. Thank you very much have a safe trip home.

*(The meeting closed at 7.40pm)*