

**COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**VERBATIM**

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**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 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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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon everybody. So welcome to Council the last time I'll have to not drink too much tea or coffee in the morning with a bit of luck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: So it's also the last full Council, excuse me, for some of our colleagues today some who are going to be leaving us. I think just the odd word would be appropriate to see, well not to see them on their way but at least to know, to say I noted the fact that they're going. Gerry Harper, where's Gerry, there he is. So from 94 to 2004 and then he was off then he came back in 2010 till 19 representing University, Hyde Park & Woodhouse and currently Little London & Woodhouse. He's had lots of positions on Council but he's also been Lord Mayor 2016/17 but most remembered and loved as you might say as Chair of the Leeds Market Board. Not many people get the market Board to their name so that's something to remember.

Alison Lowe

(Cheer)

I think that Alison's cheer is that she's actually I think looking forward to just standing down. 29 years and noted down here as Chair of the Police and Crime Panel but I've come across her most in her sort of Adult Social Care role because we've had one or two things together there. Always been an enjoyable experience.

Mick Lyons seemed to have been here since time began ...

(Inaudible)

but he's represented Richmond Hill and then Temple Newsam ward. He's been here since 1980. I know Mick most from Plans in the period when I chaired Plans East, Mick was a constant thorn in my side ...

(Laughter)

but one thing I'll say for him ...

(Inaudible)

Absolutely, one thing I'd say about Mick if you were right he'd support you to the hilt always, but if you weren't he made your life miserable ...

(Laughter)

but wish him all the best anyway.

And then Keith Wakefield Keith

(Applause and cheers)

Keith has been Leader of the Council twice, 2003/4 and then back again 10 to 15 and anybody who's lead Council is bound to have made their mark and so I suppose that everybody in the room will have have thoughts about Keith I've always found him a very pleasant chap ...

(Laughter and inaudible)

I'm talking about personally not necessarily in Council but yes always been all right with me.

Also we've got two notable officers who won't be here next time we meet, Doug Meeson the Chief Officer of Financial Services ...

(Applause)

He's here and Lorraine Hallam Chief Officer for the ...

(Applause)

HR. I've never understood how anybody who really believes in people can call them a human resource, you know I always thought Personnel was a lot better, but anyway but I'm sure that we all join together and wish all of those people a wonderful retirement and I hope that life smiles on all of them and thank you for everything that they've done.

Right tensions unbearable. Right, so now we come through with a little bit more serious business. We all, I'm sure, were horrified at that terrorist attack in New Zealand on 15th March and I think I would not be far wrong in saying that we would all offer sympathy to all the people who are affected and to express support and solidarity with the people of Christchurch. I think one thing that this brought home to me, Leeds is a city where everybody generally speaking gets on. All the different communities the different cultures and whatnot and so I'm sure that we are well placed to understand just what that must have done to Wellington when that happened and so I hope that we can all join together offering sympathy and support to them.

On a more local note here Honorary Alderman Graham Platt died on the 17th March. He represented Whinmoor ward from 1980 to 1990 and then Weetwood ward from 95 to 99 . He was cremated the day following his death by his own wishes but there are plans for a small memorial event to remember his life and once we have those details I'll make sure that they're circulated to full Council. So now if you if you would join me if we just have a moment's silence in memory of those.

(Silent tribute)

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

Right, so Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Like to move that the minutes be approved Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you and Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: If I could just reassure members that I am standing up in line with the notice we received. Delighted to second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: You just beat me to it I was going to comment on that.

(Inaudible)

Could we have a vote on that please. *(A vote was taken)* That's CARRIED.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Now then do we have any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests. No.

ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Chief Executive do you have anything to report.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No Lord Mayor.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Right but you do have something to tell us about Deputations.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes there are four Deputations Lord Mayor. First St Gemma's Hospice and the Just One Day Event, second Central Yorkshire Scouts and the promotion of the Scouting Movement, third Advonet Connect in the North and Tenfold on the ambition for Leeds to be the best city for people with a learning disability to live in and the Leeds Community Foundation and the Healthy Holiday Programme.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move the deputations be received Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Can we please vote on that. (*A vote was taken*) That's CARRIED.

### **DEPUTATION 1 – ST GEMMA’S HOSPICE AND THE ‘JUST ONE DAY EVENT**

Right let the Deputations begin. Good afternoon and welcome to full Council. When you make your speech make sure it's no longer than five minutes because you'll get cut off sharp and would you please begin by introducing your colleague and yourself.

SPEAKER: Of course. My name's Emily Clarke and this is my colleagues Sofia Last and we work at St Gemma's Hospice. My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors everyone at St Gemma's was absolutely delighted when the Lord Mayor, Councillor Graham Latty, very kindly chose the Hospice as the charity he would like to support during his year in office. We thank both the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their dedication to raising awareness and funds for the Hospice throughout the past months. Some of you may know St Gemma's Hospice provides vital care and to support people across the city living with incurable illnesses of any kind. This may be cancer, heart disease, lung disease, neurological diseases and anything else where the patient is sadly not going to get better. We acknowledge the value of life and the deep importance of dignity in death. Care is tailored to each and every patient and their specific needs and concerns we ensure that any pain a patient may be experiencing is controlled as quickly as possible along with any other physical symptoms that may be causing discomfort. Beyond that we provide emotional and spiritual support so that all aspects of a patient's wellbeing have been considered and supported enabling their final months, weeks and days to be as peaceful and fulfilling as possible. We care for patients of all faiths and none and all cultures and backgrounds.

We also support a patient's loved ones through a patient's illness and after death with our special bereavement service. Our young people service also provides bereavement support for children who have lost their parent, grandparent or significant person at St Gemma's. Along with the outstanding care we provide we also realise how important it is to look to the future of care to ensure that medicines, treatments and care plans constantly evolved to benefit the patient. Our academic unit of palliative care conducts groundbreaking research into palliative medicine. The unit's robust and effective approach led St Gemma's to be granted University Teaching status by the University of Leeds in 2017. We are the only Hospice in the UK and

we believe the world to have been granted this status. St Gemma's also hosts the City Wide initiative called the Palliative Care Network which aims to bring all of the palliative care providers across the city together to ensure care is of the highest standard and every Leeds pound that is spent on palliative care is spent as economically as possible.

Through their year as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Councillors Graham and Patricia Latty have been raising funds for St Gemma's with the aim of raising enough money to fund a St Gemma's Staff Nurse for one year which costs around £45,000. On Friday the 17th of May St Gemma's will be working with the Lord Mayor to hold the annual Just One Day events which encourages everyone across the city to get involved and raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal for just one day. I am here today to ask if you all are able to help in two ways. Firstly please encourage all of your contacts and everyone in your wards to get involved in Just One Day no matter how big or small the fundraising every single pound made counts and will make a difference to a patient and their loved ones. Secondly please will you personally pledge to take part and raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal on Just One Day. We have fantastic fundraising packs for you to take away today full of ideas of how to get involved and useful things such as posters to advertise your event, balloons, bunting and stickers.

As you can see we are an extremely ambitious organisation aiming to make a difference directly to our patients but also working with partners across the city to have an impact on many more lives. To reiterate the impact you can make by taking part in Just One Day I'd like to share a quote from Ronnie who was a patient at St Gemma's Hospice 'St Gemma's is a tree and everyone who works there is a strong branch of that tree. Providing shelter, compassion and treatments for the fortunate patients who have managed to come here. I'm really hard to impress but this impressed me I'm the luckiest man in the world to be here.'

Thank you for your time today I do hope you'll get involved in Just One Day and we'll be in the ante chamber for the next hour or so if any members would like to ask us any questions or to take a fund raising pack away with you. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: And Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: In that case can we took a vote on that please.  
(A vote was taken). That is well and truly CARRIED.

So thanks very much for coming along today and for doing that. This will be put to the relevant department and a decision will be, there's not a lot to tell you is there, the results in whether they all do something on Just One Day but we will keep our fingers crossed, but the formality is that the appropriate department will be in touch with you as soon as possible but thanks very much indeed.

SPEAKER: Thank you.

(Applause)

## **DEPUTATION 2 – CENTRAL YORKSHIRE SCOUTS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to Full Council. It is time now for you to make your speech it must be no longer than five minutes and would you please begin by introducing your colleagues and yourself and then get on with it, yeah.

SPEAKER: Lord Mayor, members of the Council. I am nothing but proud to stand here and represent Central Yorkshire Scouts alongside Poppy Hamza, Alicia, Sharmeen.

We are privileged to be part of the largest co-educational youth movement in the country, locally providing Fun, Friendship, Challenge and Adventure to over 5% of Young People in Leeds.

We're also proud that our volunteers continue to deliver an incredible programme in a city which makes clear its commitment to children and young people through its Child Friendly Leeds initiative.

Now to try condensing Scouting's 111 years of rich history, heritage and success into 5 minutes would be a challenge even for us. So, allow us to share some of our more recent successes.

I, alongside the other 2,500 volunteers in Leeds and Wakefield all hold our own anecdotal evidence of the incredible impact Scouting can have. From supporting our 6 year old members on their first night's away from home to seeing our older members develop in character and confidence as they progress through the sections.

Now, thanks to research carried out, we know that our members are 17% more likely to demonstrate leadership qualities, they are 90% more likely to be empathic to those around them and they are 15% less likely to suffer from mental health issues as an adult. We know that we are providing a generation of young people with skills for life through our incredible programme.

We also know that we don't always reach those young people that would benefit from these skills the most. We're tremendously proud of our recent inclusion projects that form part of our year on year growth. From our Hospital Unit based at the LGI opening scouting to the patients and their families to our recently opened Cub Pack at Hillcrest Academy bringing scouting to those who would not normally be able to access it. Or our work with Children & Families Services to invite children from looked after families or unaccompanied refugees along to our events.

Income, health, transport, home support all affect young people's ability to partake in scouting. However projects like those are helping to make Central Yorkshire a more inclusive and accessible place to scout than ever before. This work was given a huge boost recently as we secured funding from the Pears Foundation to help bring scouting to those areas that would not typically be able to access it.

So our ask of the members of the Council? Whilst we certainly wouldn't say no to 99 new volunteers, our ask today is rather simple. Would the young people in your wards benefit from being more mentally resilient? Would they benefit from having a safe space to form friendships and develop their character and leadership skills? Would these young people benefit from employers thinking more than 40% of employers thinking more positively of them.

Further than that would the adults in your ward want to be able to say that they had higher life satisfaction and self-esteem, with less stress and feelings of loneliness since before they started volunteering? Would two thirds of them want to develop their employability skills and would they benefit from being 20% more likely to vote, although I can't guarantee who for.

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then please, work with us to support scouting in your areas. We are confident that if we take a volunteer driven charity, passionate about providing young people with essential skills for life, and a city who recognise the importance of their children and young people, then the result, will be something quite incredible.

I implore you to get in touch with the groups that operate in your area, find out how you can support them to deliver even more vital skills. Thank you very much for listening today and we look forward to working with you all to bring scouting to even more young people.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I'd like to move that the matter be referred to the Director of Children and Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor

THE LORD MAYOR: In that case may we have a vote. (*A vote was taken*). That is CARRIED.

Well you haven't done badly there have you. Thank you very much for coming today to today's meeting the officers from the department that was referred to will be in touch with you as soon as is possible and thank you very much indeed. I personally thought you did very well, thank you.

(Applause)

**DEPUTATION 3 – ADVONET, CONNECT IN THE NORTH AND TENFOLD ON THE AMBITION FOR LEEDS TO BE THE BEST CITY FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY TO LIVE IN**

THE LORD MAYOR: Are we all ready, jolly good. Well good afternoon and welcome to full Council. You're now going to make your speech would you please make sure it's no longer than five minutes and start off by introducing the members of your delegation and yourself of course.

SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I introduce my colleagues Kathy and Vicky from Connect in the North and my colleagues Alan, Claire and Jonathan from Advonet and I'm Cath from Tenfold.

My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. Thank you for inviting us today, it's an honour and a privilege to be here. In Leeds we have a fantastic Learning Disability Partnership Board. Our vision in the Learning Disability Strategy is to make Leeds the best city for people with learning disabilities to live in and we know that this is your aspiration too. To do this we want to build on the great support we have always received from you, our Leeds Councillors. We particularly want to thank past Councillors Yeadon and Ogilvie for their help over the years both of whom were co-chairs of the Partnership Board. We also want to thank our current chair Councillor Khan who has already shown a great interest in this work and has been our key sponsor in making the deputation. Finally we want to thank Councillor Charlwood for supporting the recent Women in Power events at Connect in the North which was the catalyst for this deputation today. We need your help to make Leeds the best city for people with a learning disability to live in. Learning disabled people's voices are not heard as a group, they hold little power or influence but as our city's democratically elected members you hold the power and you have the influence to work with us to make our vision a reality.

I now want to hand you over to my colleague Jonathan who will explain a little more about how we'd like to make this happen.

SPEAKER: people with a learning disability suffer from more hate crime and more need crime than any other group. We have power of health less work and less issues of opportunities, they are things that other people take for granted.

To help us to change this, by working with us, please support us to understand and get involved. You can do this by being a part of a Shadow Project. Shadow Project will match Leeds Councillors with people with a learning disability, it will take place from a shadowing day probably during the week starting 13th May. We could then share your stories during the Learning Disability week. The Councillor Chamber take over is on Tuesday 18th June. We think that a person with a learning disability could spend anything from an hour or two or a full day with one of their local Councillors, how they spend that time would be agreed between them. The shadowing day could start with a Councillor explaining that their role to their learning disability partner, they could then go to one or more events or a meeting through, together the day could be spent shared on social media, this will help to reach more people access the city. We we will have a work publish on the 7th May for people with a learning disability to meet their Councillors to match and to talk about how to do the shadowing.

SPEAKER: So to summarise, our aim is to improve your awareness of the challenges and issues for people with a learning disability. To improve people with a learning disability, to understand of the role of local Councillors and how to work with them better to increase the political awarenesses of learning disabilities of people in Leeds to increase the number of people with a learning disability who votes in the local elections nationally to make sure that Leeds is the best place for people with learning disabilities to live in.

SPEAKER: Thank you for your time and I really hope you want to work with us on this exciting project.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I would like to move that the matter be referred to the Director of Adults and Health for further consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: In that case we'll have a vote. (*A vote was taken*). In that case that's CARRIED.

Well thank you very much for coming to the meeting today and also for involving your whole group in putting your points forward, thank you very

much for that. Officers from the appropriate department will be back in touch with you in due course and once again thank you for coming today.

SPEAKER: Thank you.

(Applause)

#### **DEPUTATION 4 – LEEDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE HEALTHY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon welcome to full Council your now about to make your speech will you please limite it to five minutes we're quite strict about that and would you introduce the rest of your deputation and yourself please.

SPEAKER: Thank you, my name's Pip Goff I lead the Partnerships for Leeds Community Foundation and with me today I have Anneka and David from CATCH in Harehills who were one of the Healthy Holidays Programmes that ran very successfully last year and are funded again for this year. Alison Spall from StreetGames who are one of the really great partners who have enabled this to happen and Kate Hainsworth the Chief Executive of Leeds Community Foundation who you will remember brought a deputation last year about our shared aims about making Leeds a city of opportunity for all.

My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors thank you for the opportunity to highlight the Healthy Holidays Programme, one of Leeds's real success stories of 2018 made possible through partnerships between Leeds Community Foundation, Leeds City Council Financial and Inclusion, Public Health, Activity and Food experts and the diverse organisations rooted in communities right across your wards who deliver fantastic activities in areas of greatest need.

What is the Healthy Holidays Programme, Healthy Holidays is funding and support for local groups to provide inclusive, healthy, fun activities and food that address holiday hunger through nutritious meals but do that alongside sport, creative, social activities that help create happy holiday memories, build friendships and skills for young people. 1 in 5 children living in poverty in Leeds. 20,000 children here are eligible for free school meals but these are only available in term . We know that feeding children in holidays is a growing challenge for families. Returning to school in poor physical and mental health can have a highly detrimental impact on educational attainment and such disadvantaged children finished secondary school over 19 months behind their peers in terms of attainment.

Partnership working is what helps make healthy holidays resources go further and last longer. StreetGames have shared their fantastic expertise in delivering fun, informal and accessible physical activities, fair share and rethink food, formerly fuel for school, provide intercepted food and nutritional information alongside public health.

CATCH's project which posted their daily dish on social media reached new younger children in Harehills, the older children, the older young people helped by communicating simple healthy eating messages such as encouraging younger ones to drink water, snack on fruit or try new food items. All those eating lunch sat together creating sense of community and everyone was expected to clear up together a small step towards addressing gender attitudes towards cooking and cleaning tasks. The volunteers achievements were recorded through CATCH's brilliant superstars app and volunteers are now much more empowered to run more projects.

Many children otherwise might get into trouble in the holiday through trespassing or vandalism or being involved in more criminal activity more seriously. New Wortley Community Centre observed that they didn't see the same levels of problems as a result of last year's Healthy Holidays activities which for them included film club, rock climbing and sports in the local playing field as well as a family fun Friday group. A headteacher from Chapeltown, sorry a headteacher wrote to Chapeltown Citizens in September praising the wonderful impact of their holiday scheme. She wrote 'children have settled back into their routines and classes very quickly and calmly. Staff have commented on how eager they have been to start their learning and meet new challenges. Much of the anxiety and problems that we usually see after an extended holiday seemed to be minimal this year.'

This year we funded 38 of the 49 projects we received and we're seeking additional funding to build on last year's Dewsbury One Stop Shop model to reach more families in need. We've shared Leeds's learning nationally and are replicating Healthy Holidays in Bradford.

So what is our ask of you today. We want you to help raise awareness of the Healthy Holidays Programme, tell your communities about Leeds Community Foundation, the funds available and the chance to get involved locally. We'd love you to help us identify longer term resources for the Healthy Holiday Programme to help us ensure Leeds is a child friendly city for children most in need throughout the year.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Sorry Lord Mayor. To move the matter be referred to the Director of Children and Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Has to be quick. Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now we'll vote on that please. (*A vote was taken*). That's CARRIED.

Well thank you very much indeed for coming to see us this afternoon ...

SPEAKER: Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: and putting your proposals . The matter will be referred to the Director of Children and Families and that department will be back to you as soon as is possible. Thank you very much indeed.

SPEAKER: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you, thank you.

(Applause)

### **ITEM 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD – LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

THE LORD MAYOR: We go to Item 5. Councillor Lewis, Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Two Saturdays ago we had terrential rains in Leeds and for the first time the moveable weirs of the Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1 were put into operation and operated perfectly preventing any flooding. I think that just reminds us of the long journey we've come on over the past few years to deal with the threat of flooding within the city, we've gone through a fair number of ups and downs from the floods of the noughties, the cancellation of the flood defence scheme in 2011, reinstatement of the revised scheme and the works that were carried out, the Boxing Day floods in 2015 which caused huge economic damage to the city but which were, thankfully, without loss of life and we're now in the position where we're moving on with Flood Alleviation Phase 2 which is costed as you all know the £112m, the Government has capped its contribution at £65m. We're not however just sitting there and waiting for more funding in a pragmatic way we're getting on with the work that can be done while we search for other forms of funding to deliver the 1 in 200 year protection that the city needs and deserves to both protect its citizens and to give the economic impotus that the city needs. The Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 is as groundbreaking as Phase 1 was with a huge amount of natural flood management and a tree planting programme that will go well into other neighbouring authorities as far as beyond neighbouring authorities as far as Pendle and obviously covering a lot of Craven. We're talking about millions of trees being planted which will bring benefits to those areas as well as offering flood protections in this city. We are talking about large flood storage areas and again this project will be about not a traditional flood scheme with high walls that cuts the river off from the people of the city. But obviously important as Phase 1 and Phase 2 are not the totality of the work that we've been doing over the past decade, I'll just make a passing reference to the Linton Bridge Scheme which as people will know, who are in the east of the city, the bridge sank considerably and a major engineering operation was put into place to

bring that bridge back to its previous state and better to reconnect the Linton area with Collingham and the rest of the city.

We've also been carrying out innovative work over in the east of the city and I was pleased to be at the Killingbeck Meadows Scheme with Councillors Hayden and Dye are looking at the work that started there. Again we could have taken the easy way out of just simply carrying out flood attenuation whenever we were doing brown field housing in the area we didn't we went for a major scheme that would bring benefits for decades to come for the Seacroft area.

I'll quickly mention the Westfields Flood Alleviation Scheme Glebeland's, Ramsden Street in Kippax, Barleyhill Recreation in Garforth as many of the schemes that have progressed and we're currently working on Otley Flood Alleviation to protect properties in Farnley Lane. A number of other schemes up in the pipeline including Mickletown, Wortley Beck ...

THE LORD MAYOR: If you could draw to a close please Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: And with that I'm happy to recommend the report to Council. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gibson

COUNCILLOR GIBSON: Lord Mayor I welcome this report which seeks ways to mitigate the destructive effects flooding has on our lives, homes and communities. One area it considers is how we can understand the effects that climate change has on the impacts and severity of flooding. As sea levels rise the devastations caused by flooding will only increase. The reports make sure that we adapt to this changing world and prepare as best we can. It's timely that I discuss this today as climate change continues to loom large across the headlines. Indeed we'll be having a frank and hopefully positive discussion later about the climate change emergency we face and how we as a Council are doing our part to tackle it.

I was encouraged by the action taken across the country as young people demanded the Government do more to act on climate change. I'm sure many here share the frustration and anger at the failure of the Government to act decisively and firmly in tackling this problem, As most of us make changes to our lives to do our part the Government has been threatened with court action over its reluctance to meet its targets. The fact it's taken the threats of a legal challenge and huge public outcry for simple actions from the Government speaks volumes about its lack of leadership and

commitment in addressing this issue. In contrast here in Leeds we recognise the danger of climate change and we have a raft of initiatives to fight it.

We are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions we've already met our initial targets for reductions and are on track to reduce them further. We have been identified as an example of good practice in the UK after establishing an Independent Climate Commission. We act and we do what we can while the Government falls behind. We need a Government committed to helping us address the impacts of flooding we need that support to ensure the safety of the people of Leeds but we also need a Government committed to tackling these emerging causes of flooding, we need a Government that will take real sustained action on climate change and we need that Government that Labour Government now. Thank you

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carlill.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: Lord Mayor flooding is a fear I think we all understand, to lose your livelihood, home or worse to flooding is a nightmare that's been faced by many people including here in Leeds. We can all remember the scenes of 2015 I've spoken of previously of Kirkstall underwater, of Hunslet and Stourton battered by the elements. Between November 15 and Jan 16 the UK experienced the most ever rain for that period and saw some of the most extreme flooding for a hundred years.

With the risk of flooding only increasing because of the changing environment it's good to know that in Leeds we remain vigilant in preparing for the worst and reducing the threat to the people of Leeds as much as possible.

However when it floods the water does not consult a map or consider boundaries it runs where it will and causes havoc for people across cities and communities, it's because of this it's important that Leeds act as part of a whole with a vision that covers the whole of the River Aire catchment area and to achieve this vision I'm proud that in this report the Council are investing in a scheme of extensive natural flood management. Natural flood management makes up a huge part of the next phase of our scheme. It will see the creation of a new public wetland and the planting of 100's and 1000's of trees creating whole new woodlands. Not only do these trees support our aim of reducing flooding risk they bring positives for the environment, helping clean our air and provide habitats for our wildlife.

The use of natural flood management further up the catchment also means that we're able to reduce the scale of hard defences closer to the city centre reducing the impact these defences could have had on access and visibility of the river in Kirkstall and inner city areas.

It's also important in considering the impact of these works to include the way we work as well. At Harden Moor one of the pilot sites for our natural flood management works they're using Garm an 8 year old north Swedish

forest horse to help move very large trees around the site to construct natural dams reducing the need for heavy vehicles during construction.

It is however regrettable that although the benefits of natural flood management are widely accepted even by this Government, that same Government cannot be consistent in recognising these benefits. They don't see the further improvements to air and climate change in effect from planting trees as being important when considering natural flood management is a good idea and when funding this scheme. As we move forward it's important that we focus on not just protecting people from flooding but protecting them in an effective safe and environmentally friendly way and proud that is what we here in Leeds and across Yorkshire are doing.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wray please.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: My Lord Mayor I am speaking in support of the report. This Council has worked tirelessly to never see the horrifying scenes of 2015 again the result of which meant homes under water, communities disrupted and businesses literally swept away, many of those businesses and communities in the ward I represent in Hunslet and Riverside. The best of Leeds was on show on that day as People from across our city came together to help support each other whether it was in Kirkstall, Hunslet or Stourton to deal with some of those worst effects. But I want to see a city where the best of us is not about cleaning up the destructive power of nature but working for better and more integrated communities.

In 2011 we saw the first or one of the first casualties of austerity that was our flood prevention scheme, a scheme that had it been in place in 2015 would have limited a lot of the damage that we faced. We know that the risk of flooding is increasing and later today we'll be talking about climate change and things that we aim to do as a city to try and prevent this most devastating of international as well as national and local challenges.

It is the first duty of a Government to protect its citizens not just from external threats but also from the power of nature and our Government, this Government, because of ideologically driven austerity decided to forgo its responsibilities to our citizens and the citizens of this city and the wider North by cancelling that scheme. So what have we done to protect that investment in Leeds because investment is affected when there is flood risk, growth is affected where there is flood risk let alone people's homes and livelihoods. First of all we got the first phase of our flood alleviation scheme which as Councillor Lewis rightly said only within the last few weeks was activated meaning that many homes and communities that I represent were saved from even more extensive flooding than they faced. We approached the Government working tirelessly with the Environment Agency for funding for a second scheme for a 1 in 200 year protection which would protect this city from a 2015 type flood and yet again the Government failed to do its duty and it is the practical steps of this Council looking to do a 2 phase initiative, first a

1 in 100 year scheme and then looking for the fund that will do what should have been done by Government and putting the needs of the citizens of this city ahead.

The Government's lack of ability to protect the citizens of the Leeds is an indictment on its attitude towards the north, towards Leeds and what its duties to protect its citizens even from the power of our natural climate and it is this administration and this Council taking the practical sensible steps to protect the people of Leeds, its businesses and the wider region. So I reckon I absolutely support this report and thank you,

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I initially say thank you to the 3 previous speakers who the benefit of hindsight and a selective memory about the role of the last Labour Government seemed to blame the entire ills of the world on the current Conservative Government. They may be right about that. I'll come back to you in a minute sunshine.

I'd just like to raise one point and that's the comment you made about the 1 in 200 year flood. When we first discussed the Leeds scheme there was unanimity around, well no I thought there was unanimity around, the Chamber about our our idea that we go for Leeds 200 year scheme. The Conservatives agreed to that, the Independent's agreed to that, the Greens agreed to that, we agreed to that. Actually that was stymed by some of your members now I'm looking at Councillor Illingworth because Councillor Illingworth lobbied extensively to ensure that we didn't put in a 1 in 200 year scheme. I'm pleased to see that with hindsight you've realised that that might have been a good idea we're moving back to that direction and that's fine by me.

Can I just say Lord Mayor that having your home flooded must be one of the most traumatic experiences that any family can go through. This happened to 60 houses in Otley in 2015 and it nearly happened again 2 weeks ago. So I welcome a management strategy but without appropriate funding especially for defences, a strategy in itself will not prevent households facing the devastation of flooding. If you recall I raised this issue when Council discussed sending a deputation to Government to release more funding for the Leeds scheme and I asked if the shortfall in the funding for Otley, the Otley scheme could also be raised. Councillor Carter fully supported that unfortunately Councillor Blake didn't. Given the flooding near miss in Otley a couple of weeks ago could I repeat my request for the Council to actively lobby for full Government funding not just for the Leeds scheme but for the Otley scheme as well to protect my local residents.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor it is encouraging to see flood risks so prominent on a full Council agenda. Between the end of April last year and the beginning of March this year the weather was unusually dry and at such times flooding tends to slip down bureaucratic agendas and be subjective to budgetary cuts and pauses. There's been a fair bit of rain since the 3rd March even some localised flooding in parts of West Yorkshire perhaps enough to refresh memories. Harm to businesses and distress to householders caused by even a few inches of ground floor flooding cannot be overestimated. The fact is that especially in towns and cities that water isn't just wet and otherwise wholesome or harmless really it is more or less diluted sewage.

One of today's recommendations is that it be noted that subject to the strategy of been approved by Council on 27th March 2019 the strategy will be implemented by 30th of April 2019. If only it were as simple as that. In fact any flooding strategy will be a long term and expensive commitment always at risk from short sighted cuts and delays so we must be vigilant and never complacent. When I chaired the Flooding Scrutiny Commission in the 2005/6 municipal year our remit was to look at localised flash flooding in such places as Mill Shaw and on the Dunhill Estate but we did go on to draw attention to the risk of systematic flooding where the Aire and the Wharfe dealing with which would be well beyond the powers and capabilities of the City Council acting alone. Since then we've had the major floods of 2007 and 15 and some lesser ones. There has been progress on the ground which is what counts rather than progress on paper though not enough in amount or speed. Costs of many of the flood works are quite small when set against likely harm. Whitehall claims to be fond of cost benefit analysis but does tend to downgrade when it suits its short term budgeting. What the report does is underline the need for Couparation, co-ordination between agencies even small matters such as dealing with incidental occurrences of Japanese Knotweed of which there are large stems in flood risk areas such as Millshaw.

Looking positively the Leeds Metropolitan District is hilly so that not much of it is at risk of flooding possibly as little as 5% of its area and some of that's rural washland. So the problems are manageable though still divided and still distinct types localised flooding which might be caused by an intense thunderstorm especially after a few weeks of rain that's saturated the ground and systematic flooding caused by major rivers gathering water over their wider catchments. In 2015 actually mostly upstream from Leeds. The report is welcome but the proof will be in the implementation. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. As my ward colleague Councillor Gibson mentioned this is, as a connection with what we're talking about later. The thing is this is the climate change that we've already had, this is the damage that we've already had and we need to

mitigate against those events. Unfortunately as a nation we are not doing and I think that while I welcome the report and I welcome some of the actions in the report I feel the need to go further I think Government have to realise that this is not about affordability this is about something we have to do in the same way of dealing with the effects of climate, with the causes climate change what we have to do we have to do things to mitigate though the events we get from that. It is too short term and I just, it's not the present Government, only the present Government, as as Colin Campbell said previous Governments has been as guilty as this. What they do is some part of country gets flooded, oh they rush in, we're going to take all us money then and then what happens year after somewhere else does and they go rush off there. Well come on we've got a problem we've got to solve and we're supposedly a rich country so we should be able to solve that.

As I say in my own ward we have a couple of areas where we have problems which are mentioned in the report so on Wortley Beck and Farnley Wood Beck and I welcome the work that's been done. I will say though it would be helpful sometimes if Council officers who are working on that communicated with Ward members a bit more often I know my 2 Ward colleagues and myself have contacted people like the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water about the silting up at the compensation reservoir and things like that but any other work that's going on so basically unless you go and ask them for it you don't find out and I think whatever Ward we're in I expect people to be told what's happening so we're up-to-date and then when we do have our meetings with other agencies we know exactly what they plan. As I say others the report's welcome but we need more action and I've got to say I am not necessarily blaming this Council for lack of action I'm blaming us nationally. The resources have got to be put there whatever the cost because we've got to do it. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Barry Anderson please.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor can I start by welcoming this report I'm not going to get involved in the politics of it because I think the whole idea is we've got a problem in this city since 2004/2005. Successive administrations have been doing everything they can locally to do it, nationally I leave it to those people who went down to the recent discussion and without going into any details you know what happened down there and how we can move forward. But what is important from this report is that there is a pragmatic approach being taken by the Council to try and address a lot of the needs that we've got. We do have a lot of good quality officers but they are stretched to the limit in terms of the problems that we've got because it's not just, we've talked today about some of the major flooding that's taken place but locally there's a lot of flooding taking place that isn't being totally addressed in the report the way is just now and the officers trying to give us professional advice but they are finding it very very difficult to do so because of the lack of resources and it would also help sometimes in the way this report's been written do residents actually understand what is in

the risk analysis and what can they do for example the advice about the number of Beck's and streams at the back of houses that are being blocked up then subsequently lead to flooding, localised flooding problems not of the scale that's been talked about by some of my colleagues here and I accept that but there are issues around that and also the impact of some of the housing developments that are taking place we don't as a Council have some of the expertise necessary to be able to mitigate against some of these issues and we've got to rely on the developer's telling us how we should go about mitigating these things.

Now I did want to just briefly also mention how important it is that we need to, bearing in mind that it's going to be said in the White Paper led by the Leader of Council later on. We do need to look at future planning this, it's alright we've looked backwards but we need to start tomorrow working forward as to what we're going to do together and on this side we certainly will be their shoulder to shoulder with you trying to work out ways forward if you need our help and support we will be there in terms of what we're doing. So what I would say is you've made a good start there is still more work to be done, there's still work that probably scrutiny can add to in terms of the quality of the work being done as well but you started well let's continue to work together and yes there are problems but we do need to work together. Thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I'm afraid I don't have quite the stamina of Councillor Anderson to let the politics bit go. As you know you wouldn't expect anything less.

It's interesting isn't it listening to new members of Council talk about all the things that were happening back when I was probably about 20 so I don't know how old they were at the time with what was happening. But it's interesting as well looking at press reports from recent years because you can come across a comment from Councillor Blake in the Yorkshire Evening Post in 2015, we've known since 2007 the city's being vulnerable. That was a quote from Councillor Blake. Let's just think 2007 so who was in power in 2007 or 8 or 9 or the first half of 2010 when the Labour Government, when the Labour Government did not deliver the funding that this city needed and probably the reason that Labour Government didn't deliver the funding because they were too busy wrecking the economy to give us any money to invest. I'm sorry if you want to talk money if you want to talk money a £141b was the deficit in 2010 that you left behind 9% GDP so if you want to talk about all of the money that this city should have been getting that's the reason why and given those stats colleagues, given those stats it's quite incredible that the Government has managed to reduce the deficit getting it down to manageable levels and create the money to deliver the £112m for the schemes in Leeds. But just more locally the Harewood Ward is repeatedly hit by flooding and I'm grateful to Councillor Lewis for mentioning Linton Bridge.

I'll put on record again our thanks to Council officers who worked hard to get those repairs in place when the floods hit. Councillor Lewis is known locally because he's the man that turned up and said that the collapsed bridge isn't really affecting Linton which went down like a cup of cold sick Lord Mayor.

But the other thing I would say is that our villages are still very vulnerable to flooding it's not just the city centre that get's flooded and Collingham is a prime example because the flooding that happen there in 2007 where we now have houses being built on the flood field. In 2015 as well many of those areas were flooded and actually no investment has gone in around The Avenue in Collingham to actually repair the bund to a level that that flooding ever happened again at the same standard would not flood again so it would be useful for us in the Harewood Ward politicking aside they actually if we could have a look please, if we could have a look at Collingham The Avenue to get some extra funding into into the bund to make sure residents there are protected for future. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Oh Councillor Stephenson dear me. You know you must have the same same little card in your pocket that you drag out every time you speak and you say the same old thing don't you and you always, you know everybody else has been fairly collegiate and kind of spoken about the big picture not Ryan Stephenson could he ever do that, will you ever be as statesmanlike in any way, no course not. But you know your comments on my colleagues they're older than you they've just worn better ...

(Laughter and applause)

But enough of Ryan because he takes us away from the serious stuff that we should be talking about and I welcome most people's comments.

I think, Colin your splitting hairs, we're absolutely committed as you well know to the Wharfe and you do tend to like to get your stilleto out even though you kind of come across as avuncular most of the time.

So very much appreciate the comments of my young colleagues here who actually have kind of connected the kind of (inaudible) buses that I was talking about to the later debate that we're going to have.

And likewise David I think he was you know making the obvious connection about how serious the position is for all of us, not just about flooding but about what's happening to our planet and if we don't all engage with that, if we just think it's all about the nitty gritty we'll miss a huge huge opportunity for ourselves to benefit this city and future generations. Obviously Councillor Campbell will be aware of the Farnley Lane scheme which I understand is well supported by local residents who see it as a pragmatic way forward to protect properties that were flooded back in 2015.

(Inaudible)

No sorry I can't hear you Colin anyway your too quiet. But otherwise I point out to David that there's huge amounts of work that we are doing even in the Farnley and Wortley on the Wortley Beck scheme and it is about a lot of schemes all over the city, you know the ones I was talking about in Kippax and Garforth are about surface water there kind of really, there small scale schemes but they have huge benefits for people who suffer repeatedly from flooding incidents and I can't imagine anything worse actually than, you know been flooded more than once and having raw sewage, as somebody mentioned, coming into your house. Giving that protection in those small schemes is as important as the bigger schemes.

I think that, Barry by and large was cross party for a change so again I welcome his comments and with that I thank you Lord Mayor and I'll sit down.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Right we'll now vote to approve the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. *(A vote was taken)*. That would appear to be CARRIED.

#### **ITEM 6 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Right Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the notice Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR HARPER: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: *(A vote was taken)*. That is CARRIED.

#### **ITEM 7 – REPORT ON LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT**

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: Move in terms of the notice Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis, James Lewis.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: On this my final appearance before you all ...

(Applause)

I wish to raise the issue of licensing and the support of West Yorkshire Police in delivering our licensing objectives. The 2018 Annual Licensing Report makes multiple references to the partnership work with West Yorkshire Police whether that be alcohol licensing, gambling, casinos, outdoor events or policing that supports nighttime economy.

I want to celebrate the sterling work and constancy of West Yorkshire Police in relation to achieving this Council's inclusive growth and compassionate city ambitions and I know members of this Chamber will have examples in their own wards by the police's active engagement with our licensing policy has created safer communities. Armley Town Street is one such example and we have stopped the last 5 alcohol licences on Town Street because of the support of Licensing Susan Holden an Angel I tell you now all the Armley Councillors and our MP and West Yorkshire Police. But we cannot take the current involvement of West Yorkshire Police in Licensing for granted Lord Mayor.

Since 2010 West Yorkshire has had significant cuts of £140m with the loss of around 2,000 police jobs. The Police and Crime Panel was forced to agree a £24 precept increase this year and we know there is a pending £12m per year pension shortfall in West Yorkshire in 2020.

We have high aspirations for Leeds but we must work together as a Council to ensure we get the resources we need for this great city. In closing Lord Mayor I would like to say that I know that every Councillor in this Chamber loves Leeds and its citizens as much as I do and I have over 29 years even though our ideas of what might be best for the city sometimes are different. I want to leave this Chamber today in harmony with all my Councillor colleagues and I want to pay tribute to your passion, your dedication and your service to our wonderful city thank you all.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR HARPER: Lord Mayor thank you. Again this is my final speech to the Council and I was going to say some of the things that Alison said but there's no point me saying them.

Lord Mayor today I will be speaking on gambling and the action we've taken here in Leeds to tackle problem gambling. Not all gambling happens in traditional ways casinos, bingo halls and betting shops are what everyone thinks but online gambling is on the rise. Leeds City Council updated its Gambling Act, sorry Gambling Statement Act of Licensing Policy to prevent gambling from becoming a source of crime or disorder and to protect vulnerable people from being exploited through gambling.

Financial times has called online gambling a hidden epidemic and it's had disproportionate impact on younger working age adults aged between 25 and 34. We as a Council have a responsibility to tackle this along with the local NHS. The Northern Gambling Clinic and Leeds Problem Gambling Support Hub are been set up to tackle problem gambling in Leeds and across the North. It will be important to support carers and families of those affected as well as the people who have problems with gambling themselves. It's also important that other services such as mental health and money advice services are aware of the clinic and the support hub.

I was pleased to read the good progress that is happening here in Leeds. The Northern Gambling Clinic Problem Gamblers Support Hub services will both have a significant positive impact on the lives of the people who find themselves struggling with this problem. We must make sure that support is not just provided to people who gamble but to all the carers and their families. I'm told that this will be provided by the Gambling Clinic which is great news. The clinic will also develop links with relevant services across the board.

All this follows the Council's Beat the Odds campaign which has been launched as part of the responsible gambling week. It's clear that the problem of gambling is being taken very seriously in Leeds and I am sure the Licensing Committee will continue to balance the benefits of gambling applications with the need to mitigate the harmful impact it is having on Leeds. Thank you all very much and goodbye.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Maqsood.

COUNCILLOR MAQSOOD: Well I hope this is not my final speech.

(Laughter and applause)

Thank you Lord Mayor I am delighted to speak on the Annual Licencing Report for 2018 which shares a great deal of the fantastic work this Council has achieved over the past year.

In particular I want to speak about the successful introduction of a Cumulative Impact Policy in Harehills, I'm going to say CIP for short, I've got my false teeth in. It's been a real victory for the community living there and this Council. When I first became a ward Councillor for Gipton and Harehills in 2010 I was struck by the sheer volume of shops licensed to sell alcohol, approximately 70% of shops sell alcohol, 70% and while it's impossible to point to a single off licence as responsible is plain to see that the vast number of licensed premises has had a detrimental impact on our community in recent years.

To paint a fuller picture I want to share with Council some figures from 2016 to the end of 2018 there were nearly 200 incidents of alcohol related

antisocial behaviour in Gipton and Harehills. On top of this 150 domestic violence and abuse related incidents took place as a direct result of alcohol misuse in my area but of course these statistics tell only part of the story it was by listening to local residents, hearing their experiences through the consultation process that the true impact of excessive alcohol licensing was laid bare for all to see. Before the introduction of the CIP in Harehills, if someone applied for a licence to sell alcohol be that from a pub, off licence or late night convenience store all they needed to do was to make an application. The Licensing Committee then considered their application and made a case as to why the application, applicant should not have a licence. The recent CIP has turned this on its head, instead the Licensing Committee must now make a case as to why an applicant should be granted an alcohol licence. Of course the CIP is not a silver bullet and it isn't the sole solution to problems facing deprived areas such as Harehills. But what the CIP can do is give vulnerable areas of our city such as Harehills the opportunity to redress the current imbalance where premises licensed to sell alcohol have reached saturation point.

I'm extremely proud of what we've achieved in Harehills and I'm confident we will continue to see a positive change in the area as the CIP moves forward. This success would not have been possible without the commitment of Harehills community and the hard work of my fellow Councillors Arif Hussain and Salma Arif.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Maqsood.

COUNCILLOR MAQSOOD: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you Lord Mayor like Councillor Maqsood I hope this isn't my last speech either and I hope the good people of Otley and Yeadon will allow me to continue doing the work that I love doing and I was actually very fortunate to be the first ever Councillor in Leeds to chair a Licensing Sub Committee some, I think it's 14 years ago, and as such I'm one of the longest serving members on that Licensing Committee.

Looking at the annual report if you haven't read it I suggest you do it's a really excellent report and it shows that how Councillors have worked very hard together for the people of Leeds. It's quite a challenge and it's one that is done very much cross party, there is no party politics played whatsoever which is good because it because it is quasi-judicial.

We, as has been mentioned earlier, we we look at various things from alcohol and entertainment, gambling, large casinos, sex establishments, taxi licensing, outdoor events like the Leeds Festival, we grant that a licence but also a little one I enjoy doing is film certification. We get films for films

festivals that haven't been certified and as Councillors we have to do that and that's that's quite an interesting little job as well.

If I can just move back to something that's come up fairly recently in the gambling thing and Councillor Harper mentioned it and has concerns as do I. There's The Northern Gambling Clinic and the Leeds Problem Gambling Support Help has been set up which is great but one thing that came out at the last Licensing meeting which you may have seen in the local media is that the only way that somebody goes there effectively is by self referral and if you have a gambling addiction, if you have a problem and you're the only person that can solve it that's not, you're not really the best person to be starting that process off. We have lots of ways of doing local policies and we've had a great local policy for sex encounter establishments and for casinos where we've listened to the people of Leeds, worked together and worked up a policy which has been accepted. I think there might be some more work I'd like to see if we could do on this to try and help people with gambling addiction because it can be devastating to families.

And one other thing just to pat the Committee on the back is that as far as I can recall in the last 12 months we've had had one or two challenges to decisions made by the Sub Committee and I've sat on ones for Armley where we've refused them because of the Cumulative Impact Policy and it's been great to have that in place but the interesting thing is of all the ones that have gone to court, Leeds City Council has won every single case that I can recall and had costs reapplied to the city so we've had our money back so the decisions that have been made by the Sub Committee across all parties have been good sound decisions. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes please.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: My Lord Mayor I also welcome this Licensing report and in particular some of the things around reducing problem gambling and the ability to purchase alcohol. But I'd like to look a little bit about how it links to the Best City Plan as we heard earlier at least 2 of our deputations specifically made reference to our Best City Plan because it's fundamental to the importance of how we go forward as a city and our character as a city and to coin a phrase politicking aside to have a Best City Plan we do in fact need resources.

I'd like to commend this Labour led Council and indeed the officers of this Council for running such a tight ship. We know that resources have been stretched but we continue to deliver on our priorities. So where do our resources come from. The reality is most of our resources in absolute terms are determined by Central Government and that is just the plain reality, there's no politicking in that at all.

The second point I'd like to make on this issue is around planning. You can only plan to be the best city if you know how much money you're going to

get in and as we know our ability to plan is limited by how long we know our settlement is for and again at this time our settlement isn't known for a long period into the future.

So that moves me nicely on to the cuts. We all know the cuts have been pretty deep in local government 60p out of every pound across across the country, but what does that mean for us in Leeds. We all know in this Chamber that £1.5b has been taken from our budget since 2010. That is a remarkable amount and it is quite shocking that we're still delivering such good services and then, I'm sure we're going to talk about this later, but the future, the Fair Funding Formula where deprovation is looking like it's going to be taken out to my mind that is shocking and appalling.

And then we need to talk about the context, the context is these cuts are coming at a time of increased demand and in fact that is a real issue so our ageing population and increases our demand of our Social Services where 60% of our money is spent.

Indeed we've talked about police cuts, as well again this Council is propping up our Neighbourhood Policing Team because it is important to protect our communities. So I would like to just finish by saying this report is excellent and is part of our Best City Plan and I commend it to this Chamber thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Illingworth please.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I refer to paragraph 4.3 on page 200 and I'm advised this is an appropriate occasion to speak about the Best Council Plan. Our plan aims to ensure the health and well being of every citizen in Leeds but we know Lord Mayor that people in the richer areas of Leeds enjoy much better health and longer life expectancy than people living in the deprived areas. One of our ambitions as Labour Councillors is to try to narrow this gap. One important advantage in more prosperous areas is better facilities and physical recreation and specifically footpaths. For some unfathomable reason when public footpaths are being registered in between 1950 and 1980 or thereabouts most of the old Leeds County Borough was omitted. The consequences that most of our inner city areas have hardly any registered paths so they also miss out on signposts and general maintenance as well.

Lord Mayor we've learned in Scrutiny that the gentle exercise such as walking brings enormous cardiovascular and mental health benefits at negligible cost to the city and to the individual. In order to enjoy these benefits it's vital to have somewhere nice to go for a walk. Lord Mayor it's not that the inner city lacks paths it is more that the existing paths have not been registered or maintained. To give you an example Lord Mayor, Harewood has a 153 kilometers of registered footpaths and 50 kilometers claimed. Headingley has 3 kilometers of registered footpaths and only 1 kilometer

claimed. But most inner city wards do have significant unregistered paths. In Kirkstall we've got 4.8 kilometers registered, 11.9 claimed. City Wide there's 374 kilometers of unregistered paths that have been claimed but not confirmed. Many of these footpaths are on Council land, Lord Mayor I'm calling on this Council to use the legal powers at its disposal. The unilaterally register most of its inner city footpaths as public rights of way before the approach in registration deadline, I think it's 1st January 2026. This will ensure that they are signed, maintained and defended exactly like the public footpaths in the more prosperous outer suburbs. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood please.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Lord Mayor, comrades.

(Cheers)

I'd like to speak on the Licensing Annual Report and the link at paragraph 4.3 to the, sorry, the link to the licensing regime contributes to our Best Council Plan objective to build a child friendly city. Building a child friendly city has been a priority for this Council for some time, however this work has been severely hampered by national policy towards Youth Services and I would like to share some stats with you Council. By 2025 Children's Services nationally are facing a £3.1b funding gap while demand continues to soar. Youth Services have been hit especially hard by austerity since 2010, spending on new services in England has fallen by £737m equivalent to a 62% cut which has seen 139,000 Youth Service places lost nationwide.

It's widely acknowledged that Youth Services have a positive impact on the general life chances of our young people providing a holistic approach that enhances their personal and social development. Yet unprecedented and cruel cuts imposed by the Tory Government have left Youth Services a shadow of what they used to be impoverishing the prospects of many young people to the detriment of our local communities.

As colleagues around the room, oh sorry comrades around the room remember, in January this year we passed a motion urging government to replace Youth Services on a statutory footing and provide the funding that is so desperately needed to secure that provision in the best interests of all of our young people and children.

In Leeds I am pleased that we are investing in early intervention and are being recognised as a national leader in Children's Services, thank you Councillor Mulherin, bucking worrying national trends by safely reducing the number of looked after children. However like all of the Council's we desperately need sustainable funding streams from Government to continue ensuring that all our young children and, sorry all our children and young people get the best start in life and I am very proud to say that our latest leaflet in Bramley does allude to that. For the many not the few Labour

investing in children from the toddlers in the ball pools to our children in our homework club designing our street signs on littering and dog fouling to the list of youth clubs that we fund in our ward. This is all funded by ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood, Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Leeds City Council ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Not this Tory Government and I am so proud we are investing in our children.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Thank you comrades.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Actually I was trying to ask you what it had to do with Licensing but as you've finished we won't go any further. Councillor Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm glad you said that and not me, back to the Licensing Annual Report anyway.

First thing I'd like to do is to echo what Alison said before about the support we get for the police, from the police rather and not just with regarding to Licensing but in every aspect of our daily lives. I couldn't support it more.

Our main priority as Elected Members is the safeguarding of the public with particular emphasis on licensed premises where alcohol is sold and the taxi and private hire trade, so I'd like to concentrate on those today.

On licensed premises the Committee role is to ensure that the licensing objectives are met and as Councillor Maqsood said before the input of Councillors on this is extremely important and it's noticeable to people who attend the Licensing Committee's how rarely Members, Elected Members actually turn up and on 2 Licensing meetings recently they did turn up and was extremely helpful to their constituents and extremely helpful to the Committee themselves. We want to see more of you there.

Moving on to taxi and their private hire. I'm pleased to say that Leeds has excellent procedures in place for licensing drivers and vehicles but the same can't be said for other parts of Yorkshire and for parts of the rest of the country. With the introduction of private hire apps we've got to tens of thousands of private hire drivers working in Leeds but licence elsewhere where standards are much less robust than here. So I'm concerned that the negotiations by the Licensing officers covering West Yorkshire and York regarding the harmonisation of standards for drivers and vehicles are taking

so long to come to fruition. We are some way from having national minimum standards which will require primary legislation anyway which seems a long way away at the moment but that is no bar to, or should be no bar to local agreements.

The introduction of the Clean Air Zones may go some way to resolving this almost by definition. Poor quality vehicles will no longer be able to enter the city or if they do it's going to be very expensive for them. but this is at some considerable cost to our own drivers in alterations to their vehicles.

Finally Lord Mayor there is no evidence so far in Leeds of the abuse and grooming seen elsewhere and we can thank the high standards and enforcement applied here for that. But we can't afford to rest on our laurels. The quicker agreement is reached between Local Authorities the better and perhaps it's now time for the various Council Leaders to get involved to resolve this vitally important issue, but whatever is agreed the minimum standards must be those that apply here in Leeds. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland please.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: Thank you Lord Mayor. As Chair of the Licensing Committee I'd like to thank all the officers who've been involved across the service this past year. But I'd particularly like to mention Sue Holden who has already been mentioned in Entertainment Licencing and Andrew White at Taxi and Private Hire for their work in putting this report together. It's been really appreciated as I'm sure everyone in the Chamber will agree.

Licensing is often an overlooked council function but it's absolute importance to the safe running of our city cannot be underestimated. This was touched upon by Councillor Lowe earlier who shared the extensive partnership work we are doing to ensure the safety of our communities throughout all aspects of Licensing. More specifically 2018 saw the Council undertake major reviews to both Licensing and Gambling Policies.

As Councillor Maqsood as mentioned the Council undertook a full assessment of its cumulative impact areas, not easy to say, resulting in the inclusion of Harehills. While the nighttime economies have been very important to Leeds it's important that we keep the balance right between late night entertainment and respecting the needs and wants of our communities and tackling issues related to crime. We've also revised Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out a number of key objectives to prevent gambling from becoming a source of crime and disorder to ensure gambling is conducted in a fair and open manner and very importantly protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by it.

As Councillor Harper has already explained not all gambling happens in the traditional sense and we've seen a steady increase in online gambling

whenever whether that's in the family home or on the commute to work. That's why this Council recognises that they have a responsibility for tackling its negative effects, tackling gambling addiction is just as important as drug and alcohol dependency. Amongst a range of support measures we've seen the development of the Northern Gambling Clinic and the Council's Beat the Odds campaign. Councillor Downes I'm sure will continue to work to look at more ways to support.

Within Taxi and Licensing, Private Hire Licensing we've seen great steps towards support to improve passenger safety and public confidence proven by Council success in regaining its purple flag status late last year and work across a harmonisation across the WYCA and York districts is progressing all be it not as quickly as we in Leeds would hope.

As you have heard a great deal of progress was made in 2018 and I'm confident that the success will continue in the year ahead. I'd like to thank all members of the Licensing Committee for their continued support and for the positive contributions from Councillor Downes and Councillor Flynn today.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we'll now have a vote. Perhaps it should be the Licensing Footpaths and something to do with Children Annual Report.  
(*A vote was taken*). That is CARRIED.

### **ITEM 8 – REPORT OF THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor in case I run out of time I should like to start now with the Committee's appreciation of the support and advice which the Monitoring Officer and her deputy have given to us for which we thank them. Our thanks also go to an Independent Person for the support he has given. This year there has been 6 complaints against Leeds City Councillors and 2 complaints against Parish Councillors, all dismissed at stage 1 as invalid.

Our time has been taken up with a report from the Committee of Standards in Public Life, an independent body set up by John Major to report directly to the Prime Minister. 18 months ago it turned its attention to Local Government. The CSPL visited 5 Local Authorities including Leeds when it spent a whole day interviewing various people and I am pleased to report that Leeds has been mentioned in dispatches, ie. its report 3 times for our good practice. The report makes 15 recommendations for what it calls best practice and 26 proposals to Government for changes in the law. Leeds already has 8 of the its best practices in our code, 3 were not relevant to Leeds and 4 we recommended be included in the Leeds Code and these are:

a Prohibition on Bullying and Harassment, Prohibition of Trivial or Malicious Allegations made by Councillors against other Councillors, Gifts and Hospitality, the CSPL has recommended Leeds' practice of linking the £50 limit to that contained in electoral law. But it has also recommended that all gifts be collated and published in one place as well as listing them against the individual member.

And finally our Independent Person be consulted on the initial assessment of complaints rather than being informed of actions subsequently taken. Of the 26 proposals to the Prime Minister for a change in the law our committee believe that some are best practice and Leeds has already incorporated them into its code. I have not the time this afternoon to talk about all of them but the 2 which I think are most significant are these. Despite the government very recently allowing candidates not to place their home address on the ballot paper, once elected councillors must state on the Council's Public Register where they live unless the Monitoring Officer grants dispensation usually on the grounds of security or sensitivity of employment. I regret to state that 7 members of this Council have been threatened with violence and their home addresses had been removed from the public register. The Committee agrees that Councillors should be treated the same as Members of Parliament and supports this proposal. But of most concern to the Committee is the proposal that Councillors are to be presumed to be acting as a Councillor at all times when they are in public whether or not on Council business, but the dividing line between private and public life is a very thin one and is subjective. If we are not careful we could find ourselves investing a great deal of time and money investigating private squabbles in other organisations which have nothing to do with the good administration of the Council.

A High Court judge in an infamous case stated that the spirit of the Localism Act was to give public confidence that their Council is being managed in a fair and proper manner. The act was not concerned about the behaviour of individual Councillors when not carrying out Council duties. Since that time a Councillor's behaviour outside of the Council has been regarded as a ballot box issue. However there is one aspect of this which may have some merit in that those who use social media will be presumed to be making posts as a Councillor even if using Council equipment.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Downes, sorry Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Me, sorry. Formally second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Grahame.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am very pleased to speak in support of the Standard and Conduct Committee's Annual Report and to read about the collaborative way in which the Standards and Conduct Committee has worked during the year. As Councillors will have a

duty to maintain the public's confidence in what we do and how the Council operates I notice that the recent Committee on Standards in Public Life Report on the ethical framework in Local Government which a number of members in this Chamber contributed, recognised the role and impact that social media can have on their standards.

I am particularly pleased that Councillor Nash's committee supported my Scrutiny Board's recommendations that the guidance on social media for members be strengthened so that members don't just support the principles set out in social media guidance in their public role but also endeavour to do so in their private capacity as well. My Scrutiny Board also recommended that the Group Whips take ownership to support members of their groups in recognising the content of the guidance as well as ensuring that any concerns raised can be dealt with urgently and appropriately through group procedures. Again I am pleased that this recommendation was also supported.

Of some background to the boards recommendation I'd like to thank Councillor Al Garthwaite a Member of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board 2017 who asked if we could look into this issue, all members of the board, all parties all agreed and several experiences were expressed from past and present members. So I'd also like to thank Councillor Matthew Robinson, he's not here and Councillor Firth, new members this time who agreed for us to continue with this piece of work which I hope you'll all agree is an excellent outcome for all of us. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor the Committee for Standards in Public Life recommended that, well presumed that Councillors were acting in their public capacity as a Councillor when using social media. We are putting that into our guidance to social media users and the reason that there is merit in supporting this is that because you would not be contacted if you were not a Councillor. But I've always said and I said to the members of the Committee for Standards in Public Life, we are not pillars of virtue we are human. We are not Stepford wives and sometimes you can react to a nasty posting on social media but what the guidance does say is just pause a while and think about what you're saying.

However what I would have mentioned in my opening speech is that because of the Brexit debacle it will be several weeks before the Prime Minister or any future Prime Minister ...

(Laughter)

Can consider any further legislation, but it will give the process a pause to reflect on the suitability of the proposals and engage where and when possible in further discussions on them which includes social media.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we'll now take a vote. *(A vote was taken)*.  
That is CARRIED. Thank you.

**ITEM 9 – REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am pleased to be moving the first Corporate Governance and Audit Annual Report to full Council for a number of years following a resolution of the Committee to do so. We've had a very busy year and I'd like to thank all members of the Committee for their contributions towards the achievement of good governance and internal control within the Council.

I'd also like to mention and thank a number of key officers who have provided support, guidance, information, reports and responses to secure the objectives of the Committee. First Andy Hodson, Head of Governance, your expertise has been invaluable alongside your guidance and incredible efficiency and thank you for writing the report. Also Sonya McDonald Head of our award winning Audit Team for her leadership of a committed hard working Audit Team who has provided numerous assurances to the Committee and External Auditors throughout the year. Alongside this we have our fantastic Finance Team led by Doug Meeson and more of Doug in part 2. Richard Ellis, Bhupinder Chana and not forgetting Mary Hasnip who has led the challenging task of presenting at our committee and answering many questions. Mary also shared some of her expertise by providing an excellent training session on the Council accounts for committee members. As a result I've commissioned a book from a Council accounts for dummies so you'll all be getting a copy in your pigeonholes.

So a brief summary of our work this year. On Internal Audit as well as keeping an eye on the progress of planned audits and previous audit follow ups where low assurance was reported. We've taken a proactive role to help improve performance in the few areas which received low assurance. Notably on income reviews, housing disrepair, inspection of homes of multiple occupancy. Thankfully we have found Directors actually proactively seek internal audit views and often use the audit process to improve performance across the board.

On External Audits we considered the arrangements for the transition from KPMG to our new auditors, Grant Thornton, and provided support to the external auditor to ensure management was responsive to recommendations made and agreed. On internal controls we have seen the production and recommended the adoption of the Annual Governance Statement. It's a statutory document explaining the processes and procedures in place to enable Council to carry out its functions effectively. On the accounts we

received reports on and approved the statements of accounts and the opinion of the external auditor.

In the course of this work I've sent a number of letters from the Committee to the Chief Executive, Directors, Executive Members and Scrutiny Chairs and I do appreciate their swift consideration and result in actions which provided assurance to the Committee.

Finally we undertook a self assessments of the Committee's compliance with current best practice using a checklist from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and accountancy, CIPFA the acronym. While overwhelmingly compliant there were some minor variances identified, one of which is being completed as I speak namely producing an annual report to Full Council. The second variance which has seen a lively debate at committee is the lack of an Independent Person on the Committee. All committee members are proud of their independent and open minds towards committee business and therefore some felt it an unnecessary appointment. However taking into account the views of peers at other Local Authorities who value the contribution of their Independent Persons the broad support of Councillors Blake, James Lewis, Councillor Carter when consulted against the CIPFA Guidance. We recommended that the merits of an appointment be referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and we look forward to hearing their recommendation. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Formerly second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's a pleasure to speak on this Annual Report of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and if members have looked at it and seen what's in the report and seeing the sort of work we do you may be forgiven for thinking that this is a Committee for people who find stamp collecting a bit too exciting for them.

(Laughter)

And looking at the lack of speakers on the order paper I think maybe even this is too exciting for them as well. But good governance processes are the enablers of effective government whether it's Local Government or National Government and it is so essential that they are monitored and we do have assurance that there working properly. Governance is like the workings of a finely made watch you know, you only know they've gone wrong when things stop and things you can't see what's happening and the purpose of our of our committee really is to make sure that that watch carries on ticking even if you don't know what's going on in the background things carry on and I've been lucky enough to be on this committee, thanks Colin, for ever since I've

been a Councillor for the last 7 years. But I'm really pleased that there's some new members came on, newly elected members came on this year and they have added a new look to the committee and asking different sort of questions and it's always difficult when you've been on the committee a long time you tend to get too familiar with it. We've had a new chair in Councillor Ritchie who again has brought a different approach and a very welcome one as well so I'd like to thank him for that.

I'd like to associate the comments of the Chair about the excellent support staff we have on the committee and I'd like to pay particular to two people, one is to Doug Meeson who I know Kevin may be talking about that later but I'd just like to add my personal thanks and the thanks to this group to Doug for everything he's done. I hear that he was due to leave on the 29th March but this may now be the 12th April or it might even be the 22nd May, I'm not too sure when he's actually going and the other person I would like to thank, as Kevin's done as well is Sonya McDonald whose our Head of Audit, who has done tremendous work in giving us the confidence that processes are working, identifying problems, bringing them to us and dealing with them in such a professional way and they had a recent peer review which came out as their excellent performance and they've won national awards so I would like to echo Councillor Ritchie's comments on that. My only worry about the Internal Audit is year on year we have seen a reduction in resources there and although we're assured that this will not be a problem I think it's something we do have to keep an eye on. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Bentley for those words. I'm not sure I agree it's dull I find it quite fascinating however perhaps I should start collecting stamps as well in my spare time. I also agree with your comments about the new members and and thanks in particular to those, I think we've been a bit of a novice committee but I think we've done all right this year.

So I'd just like to talk about another couple of matters, not totally a novice committee Councillor Grahame if I hear a slight bit of descent there from you, for a change. So a couple of other in year matters we were delighted to welcome the Chair and Head of Audit from Cardiff City Council to our January meeting who were present to observe proceedings in Leeds as they were aware of our great reputation for Governance in Audit among other things of course and we're using the visit to ensure their committee function to best practice. Their feedback was welcomed and they helpfully contributed to the debate of the appointment of an Independent Person based on their experience in Cardiff. The committee also received a report into events at Conservative controlled Northamptonshire County Council where a Government Inspector found the Council had failed in its best value duty as a result of poor management and lack of budgetary control and a culture which discouraged challenge. We highlighted the importance, we highlighted the

importance of both officers and Councillors in providing challenge and leadership to the authority and never to become complacent in testing the assurances provided. So I'd like to commend the administration under Councillor Blake's leadership and our Exec Board members with their much touted open door policy alongside our officers responses in the main to challenge as previously outlined.

And now this brings me neatly on to Doug Meeson who I'd like to wish a long, happy and healthy retirement after I think nearly 40 years of exemplary service to this Council. I'm sure there'll be many more tributes to come and they are well earned. My own thoughts so that it's a testament to Doug that since the retirement of the highly respected Alan Gay it's been a, predecessor it's been business as usual at Leeds City Council with the accounts signed sealed and delivered on time and on budget despite the ever challenging financial position. Thanks Doug for all your work.

I'll finish with the findings of KPMG from the external, at the latest external audit report in 17/18 and I quote 'in all aspects, in all significant respects the authority has proper arrangements to ensure it has taken properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. We have concluded that the authority has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. I think that's a credit to this Council and this administration so thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: can we now take a vote on the report. (*A vote was taken*). That is CARRIED.

### **ITEM 10 – REPORT ON THE LEEDS AWARD**

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 10, Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to propose that the Leeds Awards panels nomination for Mr Tony Harrison is received to receive the Leeds Award as detailed within the report of the City Solicitor and that is approved Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR HARPER: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott, Judith Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: It is a privilege for me to be a member of the Leeds Award panel. When my colleague Councillor Bob Gettings heard that

the Awards Committee had supported Tony Harrison's nomination for an award he was very excited extolling the virtues of Mr Harrison. I'd like to quote Bob who is unable to be here today due to health reasons. Approximately 34 years ago whilst Head of sixth form at Woodkirk High School we were approached by the BBC producer of Play for the Day who were commissioning a Christmas production and who invited Tony Harrison to write it. This progressed and besides our pupils 3 National Theatre actors were to play the lead roles. Jim Carter who's been in Downton Abbey, Barrie Rutter and June Watson. The play set to music was called The Big age and was set in Leeds and was broadcast that Christmas. The pupils' names and school are printed in Tony's Theatre Works 1973 to 1985 and his work forms part of A level English exam syllabus and he has an international reputation end of quote.

Councillor Gettings found two books for me from his library regarding Tony. Theatre Works being the first the second being Tony Harrison Selected Poems where Harold Pinter commence and I quote a voracious appetite for language, brilliant, passionate, outrageous but also as in his family sonnets immeasurably tender. One of the consistent features in his work is a regular mention of our great city. Tony Harrison is a loiner through and through and he is obviously as proud of our city as we are proud of him. The Morley Borough independents believe the Leeds Award is well deserved and totally appropriate. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Tony Harrison arguably one of the UK's most important living poets, born in Beeston. Councillor Gabriel was only reminding me of one of his most famous poems about Beeston Cemetery only this afternoon but he's a great poet, he's been awarded lots of medals by The Faber, Unesco, he's got the PEN Pinter prize 2009, tons of achievements that really put Leeds on the literary map. So it gives me great pleasure Lord Mayor to propose that we put Tony Harrison forward for the Leeds Award.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now vote on that proposal. (*A vote was taken*). So that is CARRIED. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the notice Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: May we vote on this procedural motion. (*A vote was taken*). That is CARRIED.

### **ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 11. We now move into question time for a period of 30 minutes. First question Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Will the Executive Board Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning commit to looking in more detail at outer area town and district centres as part of the Phase 2 bid to the future High Street Fund to include areas such as Pudsey, Garforth, Horsforth, Kippax, Morley, Wetherby, Boston Spa, Otley, Farsley, Guiseley, Yeadon and Rothwell.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: On 20th March this year Executive Board made a decision to pursue Armley which is close to some of our most deprived areas of the Council's Round 1 future High Streets Fund, pardon me. In line with the other recommendations in that report it is now proposed to develop bids for up to 4 other town centres or high streets.

A detailed timetable for round 2 has not yet been announced but it is anticipated to take place some time next year. This would put a ward Member and wider stakeholder engagement across the Metropolitan District to identify further submissions for the round 2 funding opportunity. We will be writing to all Councillors to alert them of this fact as well as providing the criteria attached to the funding. This will involve an appraisal of all the eligible town centres and high streets across our 33 wards. However like Armley this appraisal will have to take account of the future high streets fund bidding criteria. According to the current guidance, town centres and high streets put forward for funding must be able to demonstrate that they are facing significant challenges. We must include a rationale with supporting evidence showing why we have selected a chosen town centres or high streets. This will most likely limit the number of eligible town centres and high streets but the funds, that as stated all town centres and high streets across Leeds will be initially considered.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson do you have a subsidiary.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Does the Executive Member whilst acknowledging the policy and financial commitment from the Government except that miscalculated policy proposal from this Labour administration on charging for car parking would have a detrimental effect on our local high streets and could even reverse the effects and benefits arising from this policy

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Yes as my colleague Councillor Coupar says why didn't you ask that in the first place. Barry what you could have done was actually said something nice about all the work that City Developments has put into Holt Park District Centre and its regeneration but I realise that that would be far too collegiate at a time like this and of course we didn't put any proposals for car parking in the budget as you well know. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member inform Council how many warnings and fixed penalty notices have been issued under the dog related requirements of the Public Spaces Prohibition Orders since they were introduced in July 2018.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I can report that from July last year to the present time we have received 36 penalty notices for dog related antisocial behaviour issues.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley do you have a subsidiary.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: I do thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank the Executive Member for that very concise answer we may even get some more questions in on the basis of that. Could ask him if he thinks that only 36 notices notices in a city of this size with such a problem with dog fouling as reported to us by our residents is appropriate and would you comment on what many residents are saying to me is what is the point of having additional regulations if they can't be enforced and what steps is he taking to increase enforcement resources.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor as Councillor Bentley has said, quite correctly pointed out the PSP was first implemented in summer last year with the intention of improving better dog control orders the period between July to December last year was used primarily to educate people on the new responsibilities. As well as keeping the dog on a lead and walking no more than a certain number of dogs at any one time, the new PSPO has provided the opportunity to introduce new measures. For example where dog owners must now also carry the means to clean up after their dog. Since July dog walkers not carrying suitable bags for example can be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice which can be reduced to £80 if paid within 10 days.

Fixed penalty notice for the new requirements only started to be issued from December, some 4 months ago. Leeds City Council will take a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling offences Lord Mayor, however the primary aim is to encourage good habits throughout the city with the co-operation of residents, visitors and businesses we hope to see a great improvement throughout Leeds resulting in a high standard. Can also point out that since 2012 and 2019 we have seen 26% reduction in dog related complaints from the members of public and can I also point out Councillor Bentley that the powers are delegated to Community Committees and the dog related fixed penalty notice can be issued by our Enforcement Officers.

If you think there is a particular problem you can always come back to me on that or you can take it through your Community Committee which obviously has the delegated powers. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. Please could the Leader of Council provide an update on Channel Four's plans to move to Leeds.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Councillor Bethell for giving me the opportunity to update Council on the very positive announcement as we all recall the huge excitement that was generated when Channel 4 announced their decision to move their new national HQ to Leeds. I can tell you that last week the Chief Executive of Channel 4, Alex Mahon, actually started to put out some detail about what the move is going to mean to the city.

We know that Channel 4 really have chosen to put a strong emphasis on the creative and digital in their new HQ and we're really pleased with this, it completely complements the growing sectors in the city and particularly will benefit the young and emerging talent within the city. We also really are anticipating a major boost to the creative sector estimating that around 1,200 jobs together with an economic impact of a billion pounds over the next decade coming into Leeds City Region.

And to further back up the excitement that we had with Channel 4 coming since the announcement we have already had a number of other TV and film sector organisations organising their relocations here to Leeds since October. They are UK TV, Wise Owl Films, Worker Bee, Simple Stream, The Garden and Pact. So we're working very closely with Channel 4, we've launched a Partnership Board with them including representatives from Channel 4, The LEP, Screen Yorkshire and ourselves and we look forward to supporting the growth of the Independent Production Centre in the region. The real excitement is around the new Digital Creative Unit also it will be

home to the Indy Growth Fund and many other creative departments will be coming into Leeds on the back of their announcement.

Also as well the other supply chain benefits coming in will be around the Advertising Sales Operation Team as well as key operations around personnel, audience research, data science, HR, finance, archives and corporate relations and really needs to emphasise just how much Channel 4 was influenced by the fact that we are a young and diverse city with 25% of our population are millennials coming from over 75 different ethnic backgrounds if not more. I would suggest.

Just to say some of you will have picked up last week on the back of this that the interest in Leeds we have been very pleased to announce that the British Library is also looking to enhance its presence in the city, many of you will know about the facility out in Boston Spa but we're now in conversations with them in terms of their aspiration to open a British, what they're calling, British Library in the North here in Leeds City Council  
(Applause)

So the million dollar question. Where is it going to go. I'm afraid you'll have to be just a little bit more patient, we will be I'm sure getting an announcement from Channel 4 within a matter of days. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell do you have a supplementary.  
In that case Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Does the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment believe it's important to send out consistent messages to young people about matters affecting them.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Cohen for such a broad question. It really is difficult to know how to answer that question without knowing the context, so when I read this question on Monday morning I tried to get myself into Councillor Cohen's head which was a slightly terrifying thing and I wondered what could he be talking about, what are the big issues in Education at the moment could he be referring to the £100m backlog in school maintenance repair, could he be referring to the £67m a year shortfall in schools funding across Leeds, could he be referring to the 8% drop in per pupil funding since 2010 and that's according to the IFS not Labour, could he be referring of course to 33% of new teachers leaving the profession within 5 years, I mean these are all massive issues in Education, I thought maybe he is leading to one of these, could it be about austerity leading to things like period poverty and leading to schools needing to act as care workers as well.

Perhaps he was going to ask about new school funding formula taking £15m last year and £5m this year from Leeds children with special needs and educational needs and disabilities. No I don't think it was that. So given Councillor Cohen was so keen to ask, you know it could have been any one of these massive issues and the reason why it's important to know the context is because there are many things where you give children slightly different messages at different times. If you take SRE for example what might be appropriate to teach a 15 year old wouldn't be appropriate to teach a 5 year-old so actually without knowing the context I can't really answer and it was just disappointing to see you just looking to play political games so let's have the real question.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR COHEN: I do Lord Mayor thank you and what a splendid, thank you for that answer I thought a very simple question clearly beyond you. Given that, so I'll narrow it down a little. Given that school attendance is one of our obsessions as a city and low attendance for vulnerable groups is noted as a particular concern in the most recent and somewhat error strewn standards report does the Executive Member think it sends a consistent message to young people that this Council and this administration suggested will change its policies if young people absense themselves from school to take part in youth strikes and perhaps he would comment on the remarks of a young person reported in the Yorkshire Evening Post who addressed one of the youth strike demonstrations after meeting with the Leeds Labour Group quoted as saying they said it's the youth strike movement and you guys out on the streets that has pushed this issue back on the agenda is that really the Executive Members idea of consistent messaging.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: So it's important to remember that these children are on strike. Now I know members opposite might not really know what on strike means but when workers are on strike of course you'd always want workers to be able to go to work but if employers make things impossible and make it so people have to go on strike that right is absolute. Now these children don't have employers they go to school so they are addressing the Government and you know the things that, well they are addressing the Government to do, what are the Government doing. In 2015 zero carbon home target was scrapped, in 2018 onshore wind has been effectively banned, fracking has been forced on to communities who've rejected it, the Government's draft environment bill is set to replace EU environment law and this is even more worryingly this draft environment bill doesn't extend to enforcing climate change policy whatsoever. Emissions from agriculture and waste have increased in 2017. So perhaps instead of whingeing about the children maybe you should think about what they are striking about because what they are striking about is a vital issue and actually I don't think Councillor

Cohen's really done his research because if I can quote Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, he says Dear school climate strikers we agree collective action is the kind of championing that can make a difference and a profound one. So Comrade Gove backs us and then the Education Secretary says but I would rather they be in school so if we're looking for some consistency we are not getting any from this Government.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie please.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Member comment on the lack of Government funding for road maintenance.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Leeds Highway Network represents a major and important feature of the physical infrastructure that impacts on all our lives. A highway network of some 2,900 kilometers as an approximate asset valuation of around £4.5b

We maintain our highways using the basic principles of asset management which enables us to use the resources available to target the right type of repairs at the right time depending on asset condition. That being said we know from our routine inspections of the highway there is currently a backlog of maintenance work totalling well over £100m. Our asset management approach is enabling us to maintain that network in roughly the same overall condition that the overall value of the repair backlog rose year on year due to (inaudible) resources inflation. The money provided from Central Governments is insufficient even to maintain this steady state approach let alone make any real improvements. Because of this the Council has for a number of years had to inject a significant amount of Leeds capital money a total of £46m since 2016/17 in order to help control the level of deterioration in the network.

The amount we allocate each year which incidentally also outstrips Government funding are set to increase as we tried to make up the shortfall in long term maintenance funding. We have also ensured by working collectively with colleagues in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with colleagues in the other West Yorkshire Authorities the way Government funding is available for maintenance such as through the DfT Incentive Fund (inaudible) as maximise the amount of money available.

Central Government is fully aware of the issue and that this issue is one which is present in all Local Authorities across the length and breadth of the country. Each year the independently commissioned alarm survey is presented to Central Government which clearly demonstrates the national maintenance backlog and that a significant amount of funding needs to be injected by Governments in order to halt the decline. Indeed the most recent report put out yesterday estimated that it will take £9.79b to properly reinstate

the country's roads back to a reasonable condition after so many years of underfunding.

The Government's, sorry the Government's response appears to be ad hoc interventions of cash injections under the banner of pothole funding monies. These injections are far too limited to make any strategic difference. Cash strapped Local Authorities are doing all they can to address the issue but without significantly more help from Central Governments the condition of our roads is likely to decline.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie, supplementary. Thank you. Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member inform Council how many customers White Rose Energy is currently supplying and if this is in line with targets or expectation set when the company was first established.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you Councillor Bentley. It was anticipated there'd be around 1,370 customers of White Rose Energy at this point in time we've actually reached 8,500 customers all of whom are paying a tariff consistently cheaper than the big 6 energy companies.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor and thanks again for a very concise answer. There has been speculation in the press that a Local Authority and Energy Companies are being financially squeezed and being bailed out by loans from Councils. I don't want Councillor Lewis to comment specifically on anything that is commercially confidential for White Rose Energy but can he assure members that in the event of financial problems with White Rose Energy, Leeds City Council has not got any financial risk or liabilities.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I thought Councillor Bentley might mention the 11 private Energy Companies that have gone bust recently but obviously he's just focusing on the public sector one. No we don't believe we have any risks and liability, White Rose Energy which is part of Robin Hood Energy, which is part of Nottingham City Council certainly made an operating surplus last year. We certainly receive a surplus from the

company, we believe the number of customers continues to grow we don't believe there is any risk there.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Please can the Executive Member for Communities provide an update on what we are doing to support Universal Credit claimants in Leeds since its full roll out in October 2018.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you Councillor Ragan for the question. I think this Chamber is well aware of my views of the continued roll out of Universal Credit and the Government's flawed policy on this and indeed this Council has supported a White Paper motion for us requesting that roll out to be halted. But nevertheless it continues to roll out and I think it's important to give Chamber an update on what we're doing to help our residents here in Leeds mitigate the worst of that impact.

So since Leeds went to full service in October 2018 of the 720 customers have been provided with intensive digital support within our community hubs and libraries. In addition to this support over 4,227 customers have been signposted to a self service computer within a face-to-face services to complete their own application. Assistance has also been provided to people who need help to manage their finances and received budgeting advice. Since full service was introduced the Welfare Benefits, Welfare Rights Team have had 874 Universal Credit related inquiries where advice has been needed and it is anticipated that these kinds of support queries will continue after April 2019.

From October 2018 to the end of January this year there was a 15% increase in applications relating to the same period as of last year and since October almost 3,500 council house tenants have moved on to Universal Credit full service. Prior to its introduction Housing Leeds trained all its housing staff to ensure that staff were able to confidently deal with tenants who were making Universal Credit claims and reviewed its processes. We now have enhanced Income Officers provide more intensive support and guidance to our tenants who need support in making their claim. Access in digital skills, training and to provide other wraparound support around income where needed. We introduce 3 different service offers that provide different levels of support to claimants with their claim and budgeting depending on their vulnerability.

It remains too soon to determine the long term impact of Universal Credit on arrears. However I am disappointed to inform the Council Chamber today that the Government have decided not to support the Council in all that excellent work that I have just outlined but to give the contract to the Citizens Advice Bureau. So from April 2019 Universal Credit support will be provided in Leeds by Citizens Advice Leeds and Citizens Advice Chapeltown. The council will no longer provide assisted digital support or personal budgeting

support. However the Council will still play a role and it has been agreed that support will be in the following way. That customer access will continue to provide the current level of support that is on offer for claimants for a further 6 weeks after D day, the 29 March. That seems to be D day for many things. This is to provide an overlap and support to customers ahead of the Citizens Advice Bureau becoming fully operational in delivering their help to claims and customers.

After the 1st April however customers who need to make a claim for Universal Credit can use the self service PC's at any of our One Stop Centres, Community Hubs, all Libraries across the city just as they do now. Customers who require intensive support to make their claim and require support until their first payment will be directed of course, quite rightly, to the Citizens Advice Bureau and Job Centres for this support. Customer access will still provide support on helping customers maintain their claim including the likes of money management support, helping customers update their journals, referral to the Job Shop for support with access in work and training, signposted to support with any other vulnerability issues they present with regarding housing, homelessness, mental health issues just as we have done so since the Government started this flawed policy. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan, do you have a supplementary. You don't. Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Children and Families please comment on the recent national increase in violence involving young people.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN:

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Hayden can I thank you for asking that question it's a really really important issue for young people in our city. Members around the room will no doubt be aware of the recent surge nationally in youth violence, it's been reported in the media where we have sadly seen an increase in the number of young people being seriously injured and in some cases killed across the country. This increase is largely being pinned on Government's funding cuts to public services including Youth Services in Local Authorities and police numbers which have been cut by 2,000 officers in West Yorkshire alone.

In January this administration called on the Government to place Youth Services on a statutory footing and provide dedicated funding for these vital services. Youth Services provide young people with the opportunity to engage in positive activities that support their developments and help them to thrive. They also have a huge role to play in keeping our young people safe and out of trouble.

In Leeds we will continue to fund both in house Youth Services and third sector Youth Services provision despite cuts been made to our core funding year on year by National Government. However that's not the case in many Councils up and down the country where Youth Services have stopped being provided all together. Amidst difficult decisions that Councils are having to make in the face of Government funding cuts we've seen a national increase in child criminal exploitation including , county lines and gang violence

In this year's Make your Mark Ballot thousands of young people here in Leeds voted to put an end to knife crime as their top issue demonstrating their concern locally and their desire to tackle this. While we may not be seeing an increase in new violence the same scales as other areas, thanks to the work that we do in partnership here in Leeds our young people still have concerns about threats of violence. Raising awareness of the issues and busting some of the myths that surround it is paramount in tackling violence amongst young people that leads to tragic consequences. I am delighted that young people across the city are being well supported by the police, by youth services and partners like the St Giles Trust to challenge some of the myths and learn more about these issues here in Leeds.

This administration is committed to listening to the voice and influence of young people and I would therefore like to urge once again for the Government to put the funding that is so desperately needed into our public services, into our Youth Services, into Social Care, into the Police Service and to our Youth Justice Services to name but a few so that we can secure bright safe futures for all of our children young people and help put an end to violence involving young people thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden do you have a supplementary. Councillor Stephenson

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would my good friend the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning agree with me that when the Council issues fines to utility companies who have run late at carrying out work in Leeds Highways the funds raised from such fines should be ring-fenced to be spent on the highway works in the communities that experienced the over-stay.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Lord Mayor. Where's Matthew, I was expecting Matthew not you. Ah well I don't blame him. Regulations associated with these charges specify that once the reasonable costs in running the scheme are deducted the remaining net proceeds are used for highways and transport related services. (Inaudible) fees, fines and charges within network management are included as income within the Highways

budget. Charges for over running street works are processed against the utility companies street work records.

We currently do not record this information by ward it is important to understand that we allocate funding for highways across the city on a basis of need against a background of chronic Government underfunding. It would be irresponsible to ring-fence money as suggested by Councillor Stephenson as it would take funding away from areas that desperately needs assistance and prevent the city wide systematic approach we take to Highways Maintenance.

If Councillor Stephenson looked into how we spend our Highways budget he would know that we cannot cover all wards at once and some years would see little funding followed by much bigger investments in later years. It's ring-fencing which creates an imbalance for other wards that would just create more problems further down the line.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The Executive Member, thank you for the reply, you failed to mention that the total sum collected is nearly £400,000 a year. In the Harewood ward there is a significant delay on Linton Lanes and Linton Meadows recently from Yorkshire Water Works which generated £20,000 in fines for the Council. Acknowledging what is said about funding where it is needed we have a lot of need in the Harewood ward at present so if you're not willing to ring-fence the total sum across the city perhaps as the Executive Member clears his desk in anticipation of the Local Election you could perhaps make your lasting legacy to provide that £20,000 to the Harewood ward so we can spend it as we please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I just refer you back to what I said to Councillor Ritchie and what I said to you earlier and that's what we've moved away from a system where we ring-fence bits of money and we actually look at the city as a whole and I know that's kind of quite difficult for you to kind of comprehend and you think that we should take £20,000 out and divvy it over there and have a kind of transactional setup where everybody gets a little pot. But what we're actually trying to do is see that every bit of the city gets treated fairly and certainly before we introduced the changes that we did a good few years ago when austerity started, to have the kind of asset management based approach to the problem, we saw some wards that had roads that were in very good condition and other wards where they were in the opposite and we need to, what we've got to is a situation where, actually people understand the fairness of the system we have all you would do would be to recreate a system of unfairness where some wards where we're looking at the others with envy rather than understanding with

confidence that we're doing the right thing for everybody thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. That's the end of minutes.

**ITEM 12 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to page 11 ITEM 12. Moving on to the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Councillor Blake.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

THE LORD MAYOR: You have 20 minutes now to consider the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Councillor Lennox.

COUNCILLOR LENNOX: Thank you Lord Mayor. I warmly welcome the Health and Wellbeing Boards review of the year which evidences the gradual improvement in public health that this administration has delivered. Since Leeds took control of public health services 6 years ago overall life expectancy has risen while factors such as smoking prevalence, childhood obesity and alcohol related admissions are consistently decreasing. What's clear from the statistics that we've tracked in recent years is that while we can always aim for more Leeds has got it right so far in investing in and managing our city's public health despite the national funding starvation that we know has pushed so many of our resources to the very limits.

So much of this Council's work focuses on our ability to support people in their wellbeing making Leeds a place where they can have physically and mentally healthy lives. Our teams know the importance of prevention services in this work and how vital it is that public health is in keeping pressure off are desperately stretched NHS and Social Care along with other services. To quote a previous public health report about preventative services and public wellbeing which was seen by this Council, they improve quality of life, life expectancy, educational achievement, productivity and economic outcomes and reduce violence, antisocial behaviour and crime. This is why it is so worrying and such a short sighted false economy for public health budgets for Local Authorities to have been the subject of further huge cuts in the upcoming year which come in addition to the £900m of real term cuts to these budgets that the Health Foundation estimates Councils have faced since

2014. That equates to the core public health grant falling by a quarter per person in 5 years.

The Conservative Government's sustained assault on public health funding serves not only to undermine the work being done on improving the health of our citizens but it will lead to much more significant challenges in the future, it will place constraints on programmes such as obesity, sexual health mental health and drug and alcohol services at a time when inequalities and the key indicators of health are causing concern. Leeds's last joint strategic assessment shows that life expectancy improvements have slowed and preventable mortality is on the increase in our most deprived communities therefore again despite the best planning and strategy from our departments evidently it's our deprived communities which will be worst hit if public health programmes are cut on top of the other strains and challenges that our people are having to navigate almost a decade into austerity and that is a discredited avoidable programme of austerity that Theresa May recently told us is now over. We see no evidence of that yet and neither do our communities in fact quite the opposite.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan please.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to welcome this very important formative paper I think there's a risk that given the limited powers of Health and Wellbeing Boards some can become talking shops without contributing very much to the experiences of patients and people who receive care.

Members of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board have clearly worked hard to make sure that board meetings have been useful and have led to positive changes. I was particularly interested by the board's work in preparing Leeds health and care services for winter entitled Winter is Coming has become a mantra in the NHS and not just in the North. The past few years of underfunding in the NHS have left it and many patients in need of treatment very vulnerable to sudden spikes in demand.

This isn't just a problem for the NHS Lord Mayor, there are things that Councils and others can do to help our Health Services prepare for and deal with winter pressures. There is an opportunity for Health and Wellbeing Boards to step up, for Councils and NHS Trusts and third sector organisations to work together to make sure that winter in our A&E departments and hospitals pass smoothly.

Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board and Leeds City Council has risen to this challenge. There are a number of initiatives listed in the review of the year which have helped our health and care services deal with winter pressures. These are the Winter Friends Scheme offering training to frontline staff and community volunteers to help vulnerable people over winter. The Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy, the System Resilience Plan which was

brought to the Board in September ensuring that an agreed system wide response was in place before winter started. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to addressing and preventing pressures on A&E.

My colleagues have spoken before in this Chamber of the Council's investment in health protection and prevention and intermediate care beds where people are supported to recover before heading home. These crucial initiatives and investments have, I'm told, led to big improvements in how our health and care services responded to winter pressures. Delayed transfers of care were a historical low in January 2019 as 27 people were delayed in Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust. On 3rd January again 65 average over the same time in 2018. This isn't just a success for Leeds City Council and our NHS partners it is a positive change that has led to better experiences for our frontline health and care staff and the people of Leeds they treat and support.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shahzad please.

COUNCILLOR SHAHZAD: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will be speaking on the Health and Wellbeing Board review of the minute 61, page 245. It is really encouraging to see in the review of the year how much progress has been made within the Leeds Health and Care system over the past year. I was particularly pleased to read about the expansion of mental health drop-in sessions, a real sign of our commitment in Leeds to promoting mental and physical health equally. Work been done to reduce any attendances reducing the pressure on our hardworking NHS staff. The dermatology project giving all these GPs the equipment to send electronic images of suspected skin cancer speeding up diagnosis and treatment. These are just 3 examples of great initiatives in a paper full of them. I don't think we would have seen as much action without the strong working relationships the Council has built with the NHS and third sector through the board. I look forward to seeing more progress in years to come.

While the Health and Wellbeing Board has secured these real improvements to health and care services in Leeds let's take a moment to think about the national picture. So few hospitals are meeting the 4 hour A&E target that they might be ditched. The Government's awful handling of Brexit has led to rising drug prices and worsening staff shortages and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care is on TV talking about Brexit every other day rather than doing his proper job and his only big idea seems to be getting rid of fax machines, I don't know how that's going to help health. Not only that but the government's Green Paper on Social Care announced a full two years ago in March 2017 has been postponed yet again. To some this might not seem like a big deal what difference does it make that the Government is taking its time and it really is taking its time, just like with Brexit. Well Aid UK estimates that just over 54,000 people have died whilst waiting for a care package in the days since the Government announced the paper. The longer the Government puts off this decision, like it puts off every big decision, the

longer the UK goes without a sustainable and properly funded Social Care service. I'm glad to see that Leeds City Council has got on with it regardless, it's clear that we are doing well, we are doing well all we can to improve Health and Social Care. It is shameful that we are being held back by our negligent Government. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Anderson please.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on minute 61 to 65 of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes. The Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board review 2018/19 sets out the progress towards the strategy over the past year and how the data gathered can be used to understand progress against the indicators. There are 12 priorities in the strategy and I'd like to pick out 3 of these. Strong, engaged and well connected communities, a stronger focus on prevention, promoting mental and physical health equally.

To enable communities to be engaged and well connected they actually have to be well connected I would urge the administration to take on board the fact that recent planning decisions in my ward particularly have created estates that are not connected at all. The development at Soggy Bottom in Cookridge is further from the rest of Cookridge than it should be in planning guidance for access to shops, schools and public transport and a recent decision to build nine properties well away from the village of Pool and again not accessible to local services except by car is a disgrace.

Next a stronger focus on prevention. It is absolutely essential that everyone has access to the information they need in order to help themselves to stay fit and well for as long as they can, but when they can't that support is in place for them.

The third one I've picked out is promoting mental and physical health equally. The awareness of the number of people with mental health problems has vastly improved. To admit you are struggling mentally no longer carries the stigma it used to but it still needs a lot more work, more transparency and more information to help people to recognise when they might have poor mental health. Part of this problem is that we are a nation who have historically been known for the stiff upper lip, carry on no matter what. Slowly that is being eradicated. Physical health is easy to garner sympathy and usually something can be done but mental health issues as we all know are not always visible. Obviously there is a waiting list for help and I am personally concerned as the chair of 2 pupil welfare sub committees on 2 governing bodies yet the needs of pupils in schools have risen vastly over the last few years. The 2 schools I am a governor on have wonderful pastoral care, great support mechanisms and teachers are well trained to spot signs that point to a plethora of potential problems. We need to keep up the fight for visibility of both physical and mental health equally. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you to all members of the Chamber who've commented on Health and Wellbeing minutes particular just to start with Lennox's points. Really thank her for her comments on public health. Investment in public health is necessary for so many reasons, it reduces pressure on Health Services, achieves savings in the long term, speaks to their prevention point that Councillor Anderson was raising and really importantly supporting people to stay physically and mentally healthy and we have services which don't carry a health tag but promote mental health and physical health, I visited one in Richmond Hill just the other day under our Public Health Commissioned Services Better Together, they're amazing. We need to do more of that, we've got a vision in Leeds to be a city where people are who are the poorest improve their health the fastest for that's because people who are poorer in the main in macro terms live fewer lives of health than our more affluent areas and I think we all know that.

We've had cuts to public health grants which are short sighted and irresponsible in that sense, you know we've just had the NHS Long Term Plan come out, talks about prevention but doesn't talk about more money for public health and in fact shed some strange concern about the future of public health so it sort of it recognised the need for prevention and yet cuts public health, it doesn't make any sense. So we really value the work of the public health aside of the Council, being in the Council.

Councillor Ragan just thank you for your comments on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Council's work on preparing for winter pressures with our colleagues. It is a really difficult time over winter in Health and Care Services and so I'd just like to put on record my thanks to all the staff in the Council and in our NHS Services for all of the work that they did this winter.

We had a winter that was much smoother than last winter and that is a testament to years of working and planning and reviewing and coming together to see how collaboratively we can make it better for people and to keep the wheels in the cogs of the machine and the huge system that we have in the city including our voluntary sector and preventative services all working together we've done a huge amount on that, it really shouldn't be underestimated thank you for your comments on that.

Thank you to Councillor Shahzad as well for comments echoing his concerns about the Government's record on Social Care. I'm told in the last 2 years when we've had 6 delays to the Social Care Green Paper that we've had 3 new managers of Leeds United and 39 resignations of Government Ministers and yet we still have no Social Care Green Paper and people are dying as a result of the weight for the future of the funding and actually remember the last time we had anything on Social Care from this Government was the dementia tax. Since then they've not talked about it, not dared to put anything out, I wonder why, you know they have no ideas plus they can't get

anything through Parliament so we need this future funding for Social Care. If you can do for public, for NHS for 10 years you can do it for Social Care as well.

Then just to come back to the planning comments that Councillor Anderson made, actually yes we would like to have more powers actually in getting health into planning decisions, we'd like to be able to say to developers you really need and have to and be able to use our planning. How it's a legally, that's very difficult, but we do try and we have actually got public health working with planning to do the healthy urban design and that's really exciting, I did a meeting with developers recently about that as well.

There's a lot going on there. Yes thank you for your comments on prevention and transport and the wider determinants of health that you agree with us we need to focus on to have healthier communities and have a healthy city.

Sometimes the argument with the NHS is quite difficult. We need to fund those wider determinants of health to create healthy cities and healthy communities and that's what we're going to try to do through the Health and Wellbeing Board and at the West Yorkshire and Harrogate level as well.

But I am really proud of the work the Health and Wellbeing Board does. Thank you to all the members who contribute and to keep pushing this really really important work forward. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We now have a procedural motion. Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Move in terms of the notice Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: In that case may we have a vote on this. (*A vote was taken*). That is LOST.

### **Executive Board**

THE LORD MAYOR: So we move on to Executive Board minutes. We've got until 4.10 to hear these. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Like the other old lags this is my last speech to Council so ...

(Applause)

But first let me thank you for your kind comments at the start. I knew it was the right decision because I had about 3 experiences recently. The first thing when I went to my last Labour Group my protege, Jonathan Pryor, on social media downloaded instagram presentation on the environment and I realised I'd taken the Labour Group as far as I could with the use of social media.

The other one. I was walking down the Headrow and I saw David Blackburn eating a vegan sausage roll from Greggs. Now frankly I can't match that sacrifice to save the planet (laughter).

The third one was watching Councillor Ryan using his satnav to get to Bardsley to oversee a civil riot in Bardsley there. And there he was in his normal Parliamentary pose overseeing this, the damage of this riot so I thought it's time to go. But on a serious note I would like to thank, first of all the officers of the Council over the many years and I mean the Dinnerladies, the Street Attendance right through to Directors and of course the Chief Exec who'd been incredibly supportive of whatever role I've done there.

The second one is as we referred to earlier about members here who when the big decisions comes Councillor Anderson said we got together and united. Do you know one of my first early memories, I wasn't on Council, but there was a Conservative Councillor who I did know, so would you, called Councillor Crotty and he stood up to his Party, to his Group so he could end that wicked unfair 11 Plus system and I'd like to see more of that in this Council Chamber. People going against their parties because they believe in something important and we have an issue in this Council

(Laughter)

We do have an issue in this Council, we have the issue of poverty and living wage and we know these stats, 164,000 people, more people since austerity now in poverty and deprivation. 40,000 children living in families in poverty we now have teachers having collections so that children can buy food so they don't starve over the weekend.

There is an issue we could unite on and I'd like to see more of that but the last Council was really disappointing because what we saw was actually an amendment from the Conservative Party that took £1.4m away from workers at this Council. Even worse as he contemplates going to Vincent Cable's job we had £1.8m taken away from low paid workers as well from the Lib Dem and I think actually they should be ashamed of themselves playing that kind of game when we have such a scale of a challenge in this city ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you bring it to an end please Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I'm proud, can I have the last sentence your honour.

(Laughter)

I'm proud for what this Labour Council did was put £13.5m since 2015 on a living wage. I'm proud ...

(Applause)

That this Labour Council calls out to other Councils and other organisations to make Leeds a fair and compassionate city and I'm proud actually that we work with trade unions ...

THE LORD MAYOR: That's a long sentence.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: To make sure that we treat our workers with respect.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: So again many thanks for your support, many thanks for the debate and I look forward to May when the people of Leeds will continue to give us a mandate to tackle poverty and to represent Leeds in the fairest possible way. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gibson.

COUNCILLOR J GIBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Wow well top that. So I am speaking on minute 181 Funding for Early Years. Council austerity has had a devastating impact on our society but there is one area in particular where the ideologically driven budget cuts served to highlight just how out of touch successive Conservative Governments have been. Of course talking about our schools. There is no single budgetary item that is more central to the continued success of the individual or the community than education. On this side of the Council Chamber we believe passionately that the long term benefits of education are so substantial that the very concept of cutting national education budgets is unthinkable. But for the Tories and for the Lib Dems the opposite seems to be true. The Institute for fiscal studies said that per pupil funding has fallen by 8% since the Lib Dem/Tory coalition of 2010. New figures show education spending has been slashed by more than £7b since 2011 and we are now being warned that schools could be facing insolvency and that Council is in stark contrast to the Labour's successive Labour Governments of 1997 and 2007 where core pupil funding rose by 48% in real terms. Funding for schools has been squeezed so much by the Conservatives and the Lib Dems that in addition to classes being cut, job losses and class size increases some schools are actually looking into closing on Friday afternoons. We can now find ourselves in a situation where schools in some parts of the country will operate almost a 4 day week and what's worse as the school cuts have come at a time when education leaders attest that schools have now become the unofficial fourth emergency service for

children and families who have been hit hardest by austerity. These school leaders have said that they are increasingly in a position where they are helping with food parcels, equipment and shoes. One headteacher said she sees too many children with no heating in their home, no food in the cupboards, washing themselves with cold water and walking to school with holes in their shoes. Through the good stewardship of this Labour ran Council schools in Leeds are performing well and our Children's Services are rated as outstanding but this Tory government must wake up to the reality, the political decision to cut school budgets and is having a measurable impact on the future of our young people the government must reverse the cuts to schools. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wray.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to speak on minute 181 which is aptly named the Fair Funding Review, I don't think there's very much fair about it if you stand in an urban city like Leeds. So the Government's Fair Funding Review will see that potentially significant funds will be lost to this Council as deprivation is taken out of the equation which calculates those funds as we move from a system where deprivation is removed and rurality seems to take greater precedent. We live in a city of extreme poverty in some cases with 164,000 of our citizens living in poverty. 60, sorry living in the 10% most deprived communities, 65,000 households living in poverty. I have some of those communities in my ward and trust me they're not rolling in cash.

Having this formula change will have a drastic impact on the wellbeing, not just of the citizens in our poorest communities but as a city as a whole and every member of every party in this Chamber should understand the impact that this will have on us all. We survive and succeed as a city via our combined efforts and if these funds are cut it will impact all of us not just the poorest but of our services across the entire city. The idea that some of the most deprived communities in the country should get less than some of the most wealthy areas in the country just because they are slightly more rural I understand the argument that if there is greater distances there are greater costs, for we have hundreds of thousands of people that would be affected by this change. It's completely, some of these stats are frightening you know we have 86% of welfare cuts hitting women, you know some of our poorest paid people in our communities, our women. Are we going to have more service cuts, we've heard today about the the vastness of what these cuts have done to this city, up to £1.5b cut, further funding cuts on its way the impact on schools for other budget cuts that the health issues we have. We have been good as an Authority at prioritising what is important, we've been good at making sure that we do what is right even in difficult circumstances and yet again this Government has decided to hit the poorest, the hardest. If we do not know what we can spend post 2020 how are we to protect our citizens, how are we to increase our economy and grow the jobs of the future, how are we to be that city that is the best at providing for its citizens that lives up to the

standards that we certainly on this side of the Chamber aspire to, to the best city that we can for all of its citizens no matter their background, no matter where they started from and this fair funding formula is a slap in the face, the hard work and determination of the hard working people of Leeds and to this administration who have done it's damnest to protect the most vulnerable at every turn and cause.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dye.

COUNCILLOR DYE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking today on the Executive Board minutes and I'm speaking on this Financial Health monitoring report and depressingly I'm also speaking on cuts and we all know in this Council that part of our Best Council Plan commits us to providing many services for example housing, for example minimising homelessness through prevention strategies, keeping people safe from harm, protecting our most vulnerable we know that as a Council we're responsive to local needs and we have an ambition to be a compassionate city and we're constantly trying to tackle poverty and to reduce inequalities.

So it makes me desperately sad to talk about cuts in the way that plenty of people have been talking about them today. With continuous cuts to our funding as mentioned here in this report we can't guarantee the future of the vital frontline services that address our priorities and this regardless of the political party that you're in should absolutely horrify all of you. These services are vital for our residents and we all know that. There are safety nets they're the things that protect people and it sometimes feels like as a city we're continuing to be punished as what we do is just trying to protect what's right for the people that we all represent. What really saddens me is sometimes I think that if our government saw the impact that these cuts are having on families that I honestly don't think they would reverse them and that in my opinion is absolutely tragic. In the middle of this continued austerity that you've heard plenty about today as a city we're making our own plans and we're trying our best and we're trying to ensure that families are grown up in the community with the reassurance that we're listening to them and that we are showing that we care.

As we continue to see the cuts and under investment in our cities I want to make the point that it's absolutely not OK and it's not just me, it's not just politicians you'll know from just watching TV reports that charities and other organisations are all highlighting the danger the cuts to services, increasing poverty, increasing in housing crisis. I know that we're doing our best as a Council and I'm really pleased that we are doing things like in my ward providing extra care houses. However with further budget cuts to come we can't assure that these things will be safe in the future and I need to continue to make sure that I'm trying my best for my community but it makes it really really difficult without the funding to do so. So in conclusion I absolutely despise the devastating cuts that we are having to endure but I do support the excellent work that we're doing as a city to try and tackle these and to try and

make the best that we can for our residents and I'll continue always to fight against the detrimental impact that this funding has on the people in our city.  
Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Truswell.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Thank you Lord Mayor it is absolutely galling to think that since 2010 this Government has slashed Leeds Council's grant by a staggering £1.5b. It's even more galling that they've cut the spending of councils in the most deprived areas by £228 per person since 2010 while the richest councils have lost only £44. Now they play an even bigger raid with their so-called Fair Funding Review Dr Goebbels could not have devised a grosser distortion of language and to add further insult Theresa May croaks that austerity is over while inflicting a further £1.3b cut to Council budgets.

Now at the last Council meeting Councillor Lamb trundled out that old chestnut of Liam Burns no more money letter. Now I hold no brief for what I regard to be an arrogant and inept Comrade Burn. But personal prejudices to one side where did the money go. Well I'll tell you, it went on protecting this country from the worst excesses of a global financial crash. A crash born in the USA where banking spivs sold mortgages to people who could never repay them. And I remember before that crash that David Cameron called for lighter regulation of the banks and bankers, conveniently forgotten.

Now what I most remember is David Cameron's pledge to match Labour Government spending before the crash. Correct me if I'm wrong and I'm sure that the party opposite will do but I never remember the Tories saying that a Labour Government was spending too much on Young People, the NHS, Adult Social Care, Policing and uplifting the incomes of poorer pensioners and then along came Cameron and Osborne the Eaton spivs who said swingeing cuts were needed to balance the books by 2015. Well 4 years later and unnecessary Tory austerity continues. Now I also fear, I caught a whiff of spivonomics in the Tory budget proposals last month, our finance officers attached some caveats and pointed out that their vote catching proposals were not sustainable without further annual savings, as Councillor Wakefield said presumably that includes shamefully picking our staff's pockets and pandering to public prejudice that they somehow over fade. It all started to feel a bit like the Northamptonshire School of Local Government finance had arrived in Leeds.

The distinguished 19th century Tory Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli once described his party as an organised hypocrisy, how right he was. Today they act like arsonist's who having created an inferno, blame the firefighters for not putting it out quickly enough. So you play your games, try and rewrite history and meanwhile we'll get on with making a real difference building Council housing ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Truswell

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Running outstanding Children's Services, paying the real living wage and focusing resources on vulnerable citizens ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: That is the Labour way.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor, I'm not speaking.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Ragan for that. So, thank you very much.

(Laughter and inaudible)

I do indeed. So more seriously colleagues and comrades. Often this Chamber has talked about the interconnectedness of public policy and how we find that in our lives as well and we're going to touch on that theme today.

So really, what I'm saying what we decide to do in one area, what laws we enact, what policies we make, where we spend money, where we don't, what organisations we open and set up and indeed those we close down and cut they all affect everything else. Who gets what, how, where and when you know those fundamentals. To govern is to choose, it's often been said, but really that's only an option if all those choices are open to you and the financial report in the minutes definitely shows that we have a city Council who is manfully trying to deal with the issues that face our city but is so often, so often and brutally constrained by Central Government, or we can spend, the powers we have.

We are still the most centralised state in the EU and the OECD still after 15 years of talking about devolution. So perhaps the shorter version of all of that would be that since 2010 this Government as the Central Government has been committed to a policy of austerity unto death for Local Government. I see Lord Mayor, I used to say that and I used to think that the unto death bit was just a rhetorical flourish and one that's been well used. But I think that situation is really changed hasn't it of late. Let me explain, climate emergency. Later today through our White Paper this Labour Council will declare a climate emergency and rightly so. The science is clear, climate change now passes the gold standard for scientific research. A Chemist friend of mine once told me that actually technically we now know more about climate change than we do about gravity, as a force, how about that and hopefully you'll all have heard of a UN report last year that set out we have 12 years to save the planet from catastrophic climate, not mildly inconvenient climate change, not somewhat annoying only one foreign holiday a year but

no no catastrophic climate change but that was last summer so we're down to about by 11½ years so what have we done, we need to do things like we are doing today and luckily for Leeds, luckily for Leeds we've already made a good start with the climate Commission haven't we and the policies that we are putting in place and the actions we're taking that colleagues later on will talk about. But fundamentally, fundamentally this is all about changing almost everything we do isn't it, you know fundamentally everything we do, how we make things, how we distribute things, the places we make, how we get around those places, real hardcore fundamentals and that's going to take a lot of effort and a lot of money, this is the work of a generation but it's a generation that's only got 11½ years. So how do we do that. We do what we're doing in Leeds, we're doing it well. But what we need is national leadership that will, like we are, place to decarbonise by 2030. That is herculy a project colleagues. We need that, we need a new green deal for all our citizens in this country. Think of the task ahead of us, the insulation, the physical changes, the energy changes, the transport changes but that will be given as climate justice but what would it also gives us, it will give us economic focus ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: One last sentence is that those two things

(Laughter)

It's the theme of the day colleagues and those two things are actually the handmaidens of our salvation. So as I said at the beginning Lord Mayor everything is interconnected thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. It often feels when the Financial Health Monitoring Report comes up as my minutes for discussion in Council that because it covers everything the Council does in terms of spending any issue can be raised so I commend Councillor Walshaw for bringing the laws of gravity into the Council's Financial Health Monitoring month 8 report though it does feel the way that the Tories, you know, the graph of Tory funding for our Council is like gravity, it just keeps falling.

I think, I just want to say a couple of things. First of all I can't let it pass without saying a few words about my ward colleague Councillor Wakefield who I've worked with him over the last 16 years and I think again we saw in that speech there the passion Keith has always had for the poorest and most vulnerable in our city. It is actually a belief, I think it's a belief that brings us all into this Council Chamber and all the other things we do as a Council that actually by getting elected to this Council and by putting our beliefs and policies into place we can make an actual absolute difference and I'm sure like everybody else on the Labour side Keith would have been preferred not to

have been Leader at a time of austerity but again you look at what we achieved as a Labour Council under Keith's leadership at that time in terms of introducing a real living wage, never shutting a children's centre and all the those things we've done in the city actually it shows even in the worst excesses of Tory austerity we can put our values into principle. I think it's what's drives us all forward and again you know some people, certainly in our group, will know there's nothing Keith likes more than to talk about driving people forward nothing Keith likes more than leafleting at 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning and if you know if there's any more commitment, anymore commitment to the Labour cause than people like going out on a Saturday night to be up and leafleting at 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning. You know it's there and I'm happy. Like I say, you know me, Keith and Mary, before Mary, Keith Parker worked together in Kippax and Methley ward and I think that since Keith announced he's retiring the number of people who've said to all of us about Keith's contribution to the ward I don't want that to go unmentioned here tonight. I'm prepared to say in a Council meeting where everything's recorded now by a computer onto the verbatim that I'm happy to buy Keith a pint.

(Laughter and applause)

To mark he's leaving and then I'll wait for him to get his round in.

And again another couple of comments about people who are leaving as well. Doug Meeson's been mentioned already. Doug is the second section 151 officer to leave since I took over the resources portfolio.

(Laughter)

I thank him for all the advice and support he's given me over the years as we look to, like I say we'll come, looking to moving onto the third section 151 officer fairly soon and working very closely with her. And also I don't think she was here earlier, Lorraine Hallam, who is leaving as a Chief HR officer this week as well. Two very competent and professional officers while I think have always been very generous in support to Councillors from support and advice to councillors in all parties.

Just turning on to the contents of of the minutes and again I spoke about you know Keith and the other 3 Labour Councillors leaving, have all spoken about their, or in Micks case we'll speak about, what they've achieved and what they've done over the year and I think when you hear those Councillors newly elected less than a year ago in Councillors Gibson, Wray and Dye we know that that commitment in the Labour Group to continue whatever happens whatever comes out as Councillor Truswell said about the idea that deprivation is nothing to do with the amount of money we need to service but how rural an area is been somehow or other fair which I still don't understand myself but, you know, however bad things get we know we've got members of this Labour Group who are committed to continue to deliver on our values and continue to deliver on our priority so I move the minutes.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4 which is winding up of business and before the Leader of the Council sums up I would like to invite Councillor Cohen to formally move his Reference Back Amendment and Councillor Stephenson to formally second.  
Councillor Cohen

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Formally move Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Formally second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much Councillor Blake to sum up on the minutes.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Yes, there's nothing like a good procedural motion procedure to get you off to a good start in summing up the minutes. Thank you Lord Mayor. I just feel that I need to put a bit of clarification and you will recall back in the early part of the meeting Councillor Campbell made some reference to flooding in Otley. He of course failed, it's quite hard to really understand what he was alluding to but I do want to reassure you that Otley was specifically mentioned in the Government's Autumn statements in 2016 and has a dedicated amount of money over £2m specifically earmarked for that scheme and it's also a dedicated line in our medium term plan, in the medium term plan produced by the Environment Agency every year which also puts that allocation against it so you know he knows that that's there and I'm sure he's aware that there will also be an outline business case around the scheme proposed for Otley coming to Executive Board in June. Just for any avoidance of any doubt that we are completely committed to all of the sites across the city that have experienced horrendous flooding and quite rightly as has been mentioned the levels a couple of weeks ago were up again. The bridge in Otley was closest as urgent work and I'm delighted that we're stepping up to the plate and moving it on.

I hope Lord Mayor you allow me the indulgence as Councillor James Lewis's already summed up on the minutes under his portfolio just to talk a little bit about the different people that have already been mentioned today. I do want to mention former Councillor Platt he was a ward colleague of mine an enormous character for those of you who were on the Council with him and we do really miss his wit and unique sense of humour I think for those of us that knew him well could say and as the Lord Mayor says we will be organising some event for him in the Civic Hall and I hope his family will be able to come and join us at that.

I've already mentioned in my budget speech are huge appreciation of Doug Meeson and again at Executive Board but I'm going to do it again just to cause him the maximum embarrassment and I know he doesn't like the

attention but Doug you have been a star and you know we really do appreciate everything that you've done for us and of course as we always say all the things that you're going to continue to do for the people of Leeds I know you won't be disappearing and you have many other roles outside of the Council and also if we could make sure Lorraine Hallam has our comments in our recognition of the work that she's done.

Now it falls to me I think to have a little bit of a mention of the 4 members who are leaving the Council at this election. We tend to talk about them as retiring members but of all 4 of them I think, shy and retiring is the least appropriate term that you can possibly come up with but what stalwarts of the Labour movement in Leeds as a whole not just in their representation on the Council, absolutely phenomenal commitment together a staggering 118 years of service between them. WOW, it's absolutely amazing but you know with all 4 of them don't they just show absolutely shining through that you know that for us the real core values that we really want to see in our members. Passion, commitments, incredible sense of humour. You know that they have conducted their business you know in terms of supporting communities of Leeds and Mick I think it's right to refer to you as the father of the house still, but can I ...

(Inaudible)

Oh dear what did I say about humour. I have to acknowledge that when I first came on the group I was scared stiff of you but when I got the job of being Chair of Planning having Mick sitting on that side of the room on our side of the room you know with some of the stuff coming from the opposition, my goodness you were an absolute rock and I'll always remember that Mick and your advice and your sound guidance that you know has seen me through many a moment.

Gerry. We shared our first, well certainly my first, political campaign together. Interesting on the tenor of the conversation today fighting Tory cuts in Education and the assault on Local Authorities from a Tory Government it just happens to be the previous previous Tory Government going back to the early 90's. Gerry and I both spear led the campaign to keep Benton Park and Prince Henry's under Local Authority control and since then Gerry you've just been an absolute, such a friend to me and a real inspiration so thank you for everything you've done and I think we all look back on Gerry's time as Lord Mayor with real affection you really did capture the hearts and minds of the people of Leeds and all of us were so proud when you came to do events in our wards that you were there standing up representing the very best of the Council in Leeds and are you all aware that Gerry is getting married in the summer, let's hear a bit of applause.

(Applause)  
So thank you.

And Alison. First black woman councillor on Leeds City Council and do you know I've been to several events with Alison recently you know when

people have known that she's stepping down and even events where she's not actually present I have to say. That happened to me last night where you know so many people step up and just talk about the contribution that you have made for around diversity, around equality not just for women across the whole spectrum and your contribution will be with us forever and you know it has made such a difference and she's looking at me as though she's going to burst into tears so I'm not going to keep putting her through the agony but you have been an inspirational leader Alison and so many people and I'm sure we're all in same boat have come up to me and said do you know the reason I'm here, the reason I went forward is because Alison Lowe said "for goodness sake of course you can do it, get on with it, don't sit back and think that you can't".

So the last of the 4, I was going to say musketeers but I think there were only 3 of those. Dartanian.

(Inaudible)

So Keith. Extraordinary service that you have given this city. You know 6 years as Leader obviously, you know huge disappointment when you became Leader in 2003/4 that we weren't able to hold the city in the all outs that year but I saw it first hand the absolute dedication going into opposition didn't stem your work rate one little bit and I have to say I think you read every single paper that came before Executive Board you were absolutely on every issue and you made sure that in a very very difficult time for us that we all kept the faith and we knew we'd be back and you made sure that when we did come back we were ready to hit the ground running. So 6 long years of being in opposition and it was tough and I think you carried yourself amazingly well and I'll always remember your saying to me how proud he was that you could step up to the plate and just keep going. So again all of that drive, that passion incredible contribution to the whole agenda of putting people of this city first and I think it's down to your leadership that we actually now are a stand out city and we have recognition in very difficult times for actually staying true and protecting people on the front line and protecting people who work for the Council. So also I think we must acknowledge the work that you did around devolution it didn't go as far as we would have hoped but it was under Keith's leadership that we got the biggest growth deal in the country and to the Combined Authority and the Leeds City Region that Keith was instrumental in setting up. The red light has gone Lord Mayor I would actually like ...

THE LORD MAYOR: I was incredibly indulgent Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: To turn to this side of the Chamber and ask you all to rise and show your appreciation of these 4 extraordinary members who have given so much of their lives to the people of this city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you we'll now have a vote. First of all on the Reference Back Amendment. *(A vote was taken)*. That is just LOST.

The motion to receive the minutes. *(A vote was taken)* That's CARRIED.

Right it's exactly 4.30 we'll come back at 4.55 by that clock so that's teatime.

### **ITEM 13 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we now have the Report on Devolved Matters. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to take this opportunity, if I can, just to bring you up to date with where we are around the whole issue of devolution to Yorkshire. We spent quite a lot of time at the last Council meeting before the Budget Meeting discussing where we were. I think you'll all be aware that the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, sent a letter out initially just to Dan Jarvis but then he corrected his error and wrote to all of the leaders around Yorkshire saying that they didn't feel that the work that we've done on the Yorkshire model fitted their criteria. I have to say there's been several attempts since to actually find out what their criteria actually might be but we haven't had anything definite coming back. Having said that I think as a result of that he did agree to meet us for the first time. So the Yorkshire Leaders went to meet him at the beginning of March out at Fountains Abbey and we had actually a good discussion and we were able to reinforce the message from the Leaders from cross party, from across Yorkshire that in spite of his letter we are still committed all be it it might be longer term towards moving towards a One Yorkshire model and I have to say that we've had the support not only from the Local Authority Leaders but from the Peers who were working on the One Yorkshire Committee, business representatives, trade unions in terms of recognising the support and we had the One Yorkshire Conference on the 8th March talking about the positive aspects of Yorkshire, devolution and the economics and up to 250 people actually attended on that day, so a lot of interest.

So since then Sheffield City Region have actually got together the 4 Authorities down there as you know that was something of a stumbling block and they've agreed and there's a letter gone out with the pack that they will actually work together as the 4 Authorities just for the length of the term of this Elected Mayor and they've written to Government asking for them to agree that when that term is up those that want to leave will be able to leave assuming that there is another alternative arrangement available and I can tell Council that tomorrow myself and the other leaders from West Yorkshire are going down to meet with Robert Jenrick who's one of the Treasury Ministers and as a result of meeting James Brokenshire a series of meetings have been set up particularly between our officers and civil servants to look at the different aspects of how we move this forward.

The other issues that have been really centre stage and I think has been around rail in particular, on transport and I think the, you know we've taken a report on Brexit in the same way that we took a report to the Executive Board and I think you know the whole experience that is unfolding in front of our eyes every night on the television is just reinforcing all of us knowing that actually the sooner we get a devolution deal, get the money, get the powers, get the resources out of Westminster down into the local area so we can make the decisions with our partners on behalf of the people in our area the better. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor James Lewis.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb. I'm giving Council Lamb a small margin here as he wishes to pay tribute to those leaving members and officers.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I thank the Leader and the Chief Whip and yourself for just indulging me a couple of minutes on behalf of the Conservative Group to pay tribute to those who are retiring and entirely echo the comments that were made previously. If I can add our thoughts around Lorraine Hallam first. She's been an excellent HR officer for this Council. I've sat on numerous appointment panels with her most of which end up in hilarity at some point and she's been a real stalwart for the city and she'll be missed.

Like the Leader I pay tribute to Doug when I moved our Budget Amendments last time but like the Leader I'd like to do it again. He seems to have gone actually but I think again what a fantastic officer, what a tribute to Leeds and I am sure he's going to enjoy his retirement with Fiona in the fantastic part of the city that he lives in.

Turning to some of the the retiring members. So the ones that we know about anyway. We'll be trying to help a few to retire a little earlier than they planned but we'll see how we go. Gerry Harper is someone when I first got elected to Council he wasn't here, he had been previously when he came back he came with a bit of a reputation as a bruiser which I was interested to see when he took on the role of Chief Whip but actually I found over time, and particularly in his time as Lord Mayor, to be an incredibly warm and caring person and not at all what was sold to me in advance and someone I've come to admire and respect deeply with some of the challenges he's risen to and some of the issues he's taken on in Council as well he was a fantastic Lord Mayor and we wish you well in your retirement Gerry.

Alison Lowe has been said what an inspirational woman to so many people across political parties for the work that you've done. With all of you we disagree many times but it doesn't change how much we admire and respect you and wish you well going forward too.

Turning to Mick Lyons as Councillor Blake said she was slightly intimidated by him, I had the ...

(Laughter and Inaudible)

No no it's not going to be the same without Mick interrupting everything you have to say.

(Laughter)

The first Scrutiny Board I chaired in this city contained Councillor Pauleen Grahame, Councillor Keith Wakefield, and Councillor Mick Lyons so how do you keep control of a Labour Group meeting I've got no idea because 3 of them was quite something but again with Mick what an incredible ambassador for the city and for the communities that he's represented and again someone as the Lord Mayor said earlier when you agree with something you couldn't have a more fierce friend to help you fight for it and when you disagree then you really don't want to be on the other side of things and we've come to admire and respect you and we hope you enjoy a well-earned retirement as well Mick.

And then finally turning to Councillor Wakefield as conciliatory as ever in his in his final remarks and quite right too is his service and the combination of all your service to this city has been remarkable. Keith has served for, goodness knows how many years Keith, but your time as Leader and Leader of the Opposition and we've clashed personally many times and with Councillor Carter particularly I'm sure he would have wanted to pass on his good wishes in person. But we'll miss you. We've disagreed many times but your points, I agree with actually, that we should be prepared to speak up and speak out whenever necessary just for what's right for the people of our city and and the communities we represent. I'm sure Councillor, I saw the look on Councillor Blake's face when you are encouraging people to speak out against the party and not sure she entirely agrees with you but I'm not sure you were entirely talking to your colleagues on that side anyway. But as always we would never wish you luck electorally but now you're stepping down we absolutely wish all of you well and say on behalf of the Conservative Group despite all the disagreements that we've had with all 4 of you we've all on this side come to admire and respect and we know you're here and always have been here for the very best reasons. We wish you all well moving forward.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Can I talk about devolution.

THE LORD MAYOR: You've had 5 minutes on that.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Well I'll be very quick.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we have a very very quick devolution in about a minute please.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well can I thank the Leader for her comments on devolution. Interesting updates and I think the view I would express from our Group quite quickly is it's clear at the moment One Yorkshire is not deliverable in the short term. That's clear from what Dan Jarvis has said, it's clear from what Peter Box said and in fact it's always been the case that Conservative Party policy is against Regional Government but in favour of sub regional devolution and it's surely time now that we focus on what can be done now. It doesn't rule out anything in the future and we would do anything that we possibly can to support you either with West Yorkshire, although I think that's probably limiting our ambition but if that's what we can do let's do that. The preference would be, I think for Leeds City Region within the business community would embrace that and the offer we would make is, if you need us to really lobby the Government to sort out the issues North Yorkshire have with being able to come to the table we will gladly help that if that's the direction we're going down. So let's try and focus on what can be delivered now and try and get some level of devolution and then let's work from there. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on on the report on Devolution and matters regarding WYCA. I note that paragraph 311 of the report there is a reference to the budget and business plan of 2019/20 of the combined Authority. Lord Mayor I wonder if I could seek an update from the Leader of Council on the issue of the Combined Authority and funding of the Cycle Superhighway Scheme. On 16th July 2014 the Leeds Executive Board gave authority to incur expenditure in round figures of £22m comprising works costs of £19m and design and supervision costs of about £2m funded by West Yorkshire Combined Authority City Connect Programme budget. Now crucially Lord Mayor that report to Executive Board noted that the scheme risk allowance / contingency fund would be held at programme level by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Members may be aware that there has been some dispute between WYCA , the Council and the contractors about the scheme and that there are additional costs associated with this. There is also a disagreement it would appear between WYCA and the Council, this Council, about who is liable for these extra costs. Given the resolutions of Executive Board when funding for the scheme was agreed can the Leader reassure me and the Chamber that

the outcome of discussions on the Cycle Superhighway will not result in this Council incurring costs over and above what it has agreed to. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor trawling today's papers for a peg on which to hang Brexit led to the paragraph 3.9 headed Brexit Update which seemed convenient enough. A correspondent in last Wednesday's YEP described the country's current position of Brexit as been a dictatorship. Perhaps life would be easier for Theresa May if it was but it isn't. Anarchy might be a suitable description but not dictatorship. As I reminded everyone in February Leeds voted remain in 2016 and I find it astonishing that I'm still about the only member to reflected that openly in this Chamber. Members must show leadership, Brexit cannot be in Leeds interest and they should say so. When you become frightened of your electorate the time has come to get out of politics. Dependent on urgency that might mean retiring to grow delfinians in the Cotswolds or fleeing from the Civic Hall roof by helicopter. Mr Harrison's gained his Leeds Award too easily. He should have been made first to write a play, the plot would explain Brexit to the man or woman on the Cleckheaton omnibus.

If civilisation collapses it will not be under the weight of single use plastics it will be brought about by the lack of understanding that goes with trying to grasp complex matters in the weightlessness of tweets and ten second soundbites. We've fallen to an extreme, 150 years ago, tens of thousands of all sorts would turn out to listen to the likes of William Gladstone if he spoke for less than 3 hours on the political problems of the day they would complain about not having their money's worth. Laura Kuenssberg and Katya Adler are both very good but summing up the day's Brexiteering in a couple of minutes before being blotted out by the weather forecast is an extreme challenge though they've had far more airtime recently than they were given in the run up to the referendum. It cannot be right to say that we are in a democracy therefore we are stuck forever with the 2016 national referendum right or wrong. There can be no doubt that if they had lost within a day or two of the Faragists will have relaunched their leave campaign carried on regardless. It is just possible that a crust might begin to form on the Brexit morass strong enough to bear the weight of ordinary humans and to support someone of sufficient stature to lead us out of it. Perhaps Hilary Benn for instance or even Keith Wakefield thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: I don't think I'll go there with Brexit. I've got to say i'm disappointed about the progress and we have been for a long time with how we're going on and I think that's no fault of this Council and the other Council's in Yorkshire.

You know if you're trying to create something that's going to last you want something in the locality that people agree with, not trying to impose something on and particularly when we're in this time now where a lot of, there's a lot of indecision. Those powers need to be here at a local level so at least we can carry on. Government might not carry on but Government might keep on talking about what Tom was on all the time and do not not much else but we've got to carry on and I think we need that.

I know I was troubled when I saw the thing about South Yorkshire although I had a chat yesterday afternoon with the Leader when we bumped into her and it seems that the other leaders aren't as concerned about that and there's an opt out. What you might call a Barnsley one, you know, well I hope that's more successional than Northern Ireland like but as I say I hope we can make progress. I think what we need to do is press on with One Yorkshire but we've got to get some kind of devolution soon. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. 3 different things if you'll indulge me. The first one is just referring to Councillor Blake's response to the letter from James Brokenshire. I have to say Lord Mayor I think is one of the most patronising things I've read from a Government Minister. One particular paragraph starts off with the sentence 'The One Yorkshire concept is novel'. Well Yorkshire has been around a lot longer than James Brokenshire has and we certainly don't find it a novel concept and then goes on to talk about how we have a widely varying rural and urban areas with competing needs and that's why he doesn't think that there should be a deal for that particular area. Lord Mayor England is a very varied geographical area with lots of competing Towns and needs that's why devolution was set up, but he doesn't talk about how that means that England is a dysfunctional and novel concept. So the thinking behind it is irrational and I do wish Councillor Blake luck in getting hold of those criteria by which he judges One Yorkshire not to work.

The second thing Lord Mayor is about the trains. I was at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority discussing the trains and we had the train operators in. One thing that was quite explicit from the discussions with them was they don't know what they're doing, even in the very short term they don't know what they're doing, so we were talking about the new stock that these rail companies are meant to be bringing onto our rails. All these marvellous new trains that are going to be delivered the only trains that they could actually say were going to be operating in the Yorkshire region were on the Leeds to Doncaster service some time later this year and when we asked them, well can you please let us know what the other lines that you are responsible for have as their scheduled introduction of this new stock, they were unable to deliver anything not even some kind of forecast over the next

2 years as to the services that we rely on actually getting some of the stuff that they were promising a long time ago.

And the third thing very shortly Lord Mayor because I'm on Orange. The WYCA response to HS2. Unfortunately the response to HS2 is an officer led exercise and it is exemplified by the fact that the WYCA response was cut and paste from the Leeds City Council response and was only brought into a paper after I pointed out that they hadn't actually expressed an opinion on it yet and I have to say that the opinions of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority were not fully expressed in that, given that both the Labour and Conservative Leaders of Wakefield groups called HS2 a load of rubbish and it was the only thing that the two groups have ever voted together on this year. So that's just my comments. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Matthew Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I realised as Councillor Wakefield stood up earlier that I was going for the Keith Wakefield combo today of blue suit, white shirt, red tie and imitation being the sincerest form of flattery on this but I just wanted to say thank you to Keith because unfortunately I didn't know some of the other retiring members as well but Keith was always very welcoming, very kind to me when I was a new member and since I've served on this Council. I turned to the devolution matter recently and I say recently, meaning November, we had a Scrutiny Board inquiry into this and the Leader very kindly came and give some evidence to that Scrutiny Board and I was asking questions around looking at the alternative options for a fear that One Yorkshire might be rejected by Central Government and what consideration had been given to those other options and there was no other consideration. It was we will plough ahead with One Yorkshire and my worry now is that while the penny has dropped in South Yorkshire and they've realised that they're going to grab the £900m devolution deal that's on the table we are going to persist in flogging the dead horse of One Yorkshire. I actually think in the long term as a vision it may well work, it may well be something that we wish to pursue but clearly in the short term the numbers are not there to get this through as many other things are, sometimes politics is the art of the compromise and you have to realise just what we can get through and I think it's very clear from Peter Box's comments recently that something like Leeds City Region stands much more chance of finding favour, much more chance of actually delivering for people. I've heard members opposite talk about the poorest communities being hit hardest. If we pig headedly keep pursuing One Yorkshire and keep getting knocked back we will actually miss out on vital funding and I think that together working as different groups in this Chamber we can put a really sensible business case together, we can put a really sensible business case with all the Local Authorities across the Leeds City Region, we can work out some of those problems in North Yorkshire and we can actually deliver.

So what I would ask is that we consider every single option that might be available around devolution that we have a really really honest debate around this, that we actually make sure that we weigh every possibility up and see what we can do and what we can't do. My worry, as I've said, is that we pursue One Yorkshire to the detriment of the people of Leeds and it's clear that our goal should be bringing cities and communities together to deliver  
thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I start with that last comment. There's just one problem with what you've said Matthew we spent months and months putting together a deal for Leeds City Region only for it to be rejected by your MPs and your Government. So what on earth are you saying, that you know what have they changed, so that's what, if they're talking about Leeds City Region we'll go down and talk to Treasury and talk to the Secretary of State for Local Government and ask what exactly has changed that they would change their mind on that. You know you can't have it all ways. The amount of effort that went into exactly that footprint you know you had to be there to believe and you know soundly rejected and that and that is when they told us to come back to Yorkshire and look exactly at what would work on the ground, we went and talked to all the different authorities and that's why we came up with One Yorkshire to get above all of those local issues that seemed to put you off agreeing it last time. So you know I find your comments deeply frustrating and irritating that you're asking us to go round the same loop again with absolutely no guarantee that we'll get where we need to be and the clock is ticking. We have a growth deal, it's coming to an end, we need to get from Government a commitment that they will give our region, our people the resources that we need to make sure that we can continue the very successful programmes that we've been running through the the growth deal that we negotiated in 2014. You know and thank you actually for your offer of help but you know you need to understand exactly the full extent of the journey that we've been on and I'm sure if Councillor Carter was here he would say the same and I understand he's actually written and said you know will you consider Leeds City Region again but we wait, I don't know if he's had the courtesy of a reply to that.

Councillor Leadley in terms of Brexit I think the most important thing that we have to focus on is what happens to the money, whatever happens. What will happen when you know, the end of the period and so that's why the talks on the shared prosperity fund is so important that the money that comes back comes straight back here and doesn't go through Whitehall and get fudged on the way.

And thank you David for your support and you know we're obviously working on the One Yorkshire Committee, Martin is on there now so we'll keep going forward.

Councillor Buckley I'm really at a loss to know why you have raised this issue in this Chamber, it just is extraordinary to me. You know I'm sure that Councillor Carter has been in conversations about the issue and I'm sure when he's back he'll be able to bring you up to speed with where those conversations have gone. But what I want to reassure Council is that we are working full on on this to make sure that we get from government the money and the resource and the powers that we know we deserve and we need.  
Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move to the vote. *(A vote was taken)*  
That is CARRIED.

**ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – EXTRA CARE AND  
SPECIALIST HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move on now to White Papers. Item 14  
Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. My Lord Mayor we need more houses for older people. The Strategic Housing Market Assessments tell us this, residents tell us this, but we must do more. There was a workshop that recently hosted by Councillor Coupar across in the Carriageworks where a number of the partners there quite rightly complimented the Council in what they were doing but equally said we need to go further. We need to do more we also need to look at ways of making planning applications more acceptable locally. If we actually put and asked for more older people's housing in these planning applications it would be a lot easier to go back to the community and point out the benefits that those planning applications are going to have but at the moment the vast majority of them are for larger houses that we don't actually need. I mean we need to start grasping that particular nettle, we need more bungalows, that is what older people tell us in our areas that's the sort of thing that they want.

The older people are demanding these houses, they want to downsize, they want to release the family housing that can then be used. They are what I would call capital rich revenue poor. They've got large houses but the upkeep of them is proving very very difficult so we need to do something to help these people. We need houses to buy because these people as I said do have the capital so they can buy houses they don't then need to go into Council properties necessarily they can release these Council housing properties for those that are in desperate need of Council properties.

We need houses to rent, not everybody necessarily wants to purchase so we need to make sure that we're putting houses in to rent. We need housing for shared equity and a lot of older people would be interested in looking at that model. We need all of life houses, we need to start insisting that when developers are coming forward that they are bringing forward that

type of house. So how do we go about doing this. Well we've got Council land that we could use and I'll explain how we could do that. There's a lot of land in public ownership owned by the railways, owned by the NHS, there is more we could be doing with that. So what could we do. Well one thing we could do is defer taking the land value until X number of houses because that way the money that we've got can then be used for building the houses and we can then recover the land value afterwards as a Local Authority that's something that we should be looking at doing. We could also, if we're going to get the types of housing we need get less than best value for some of that, the land that we've got because it's meeting a need and one of the things we should all be doing as Councillors is meeting the needs of our residents, not having any other views we should be doing these sort of things.

Now we would also suggest on this side that we need to look at the housing company model so far it's not been precluded by your administration it's just we have a greater propensity to try and go down that line and strike up a partnership with a certain company, I'm not going to go and advertise some of them, but there are some good companies out there that we could partner up with. We also need to start, and this is addressed to my colleagues who are on Plans Panels, we need to start being more stricter when it comes to the housing mix policy. We are not as strict as we could be on it and we get advice by saying 'Well you should let it go' or 'we've tried our hardest', so we need to start looking at things. We need to free up family homes, we need to give people the independence that they want, we need to give elderly residents the chance to remain in their localities where they've got the support mechanisms, where they are happy and they do want to remain. Please support my motion thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shemilt.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to formally second the motion and ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Reserve your right to speak.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: That's the word, all those words are in there. I reserve the wish to speak. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor and I wish all the retiring Councillors a nice retirement.

Thank you Lord Mayor I welcome Councillor Anderson's White Paper and the opportunity to discuss this very important subject. Everyone in this Chamber recognises that one of the major challenges facing our city is an

ageing population. Age UK predicts that there will be a 44% rise in the number of over 65's over the next 20 years and it is expected that a girl born today in the UK has a 1 in 3 chance of living to 100. With so little time to speak I'm going to concentrate on 3 specific concerns. These are funding, how we keep residents in their homes longer and how when the time comes we incentivise older people to downsize.

Firstly it needs proper funding from Government and why because we know that volume housebuilders, banks and investors shy away from investing in specialist housing. They see no money in it so we therefore need more help from Government. But we also need a less centralised system of funding and we need to eradicate the postcode lottery of funding. Give the money to the Local Authority as a pot and stop making councils compete for funding through Whitehall. And it is this competitive tendering process that manifests itself in the slow progress this Council has made that has led to the only extra care facility in the city which just happens to be in my Ward in Yeadon. Wharfedale View is an example of what can be achieved if funding is made available and it is a great place to live. But it isn't just about Central Government funding it is about the choices this administration makes. It finds huge amounts of money from its own resources for what some say are vanity projects. Investment in a hotel here, a playhouse there, a cycle race or 2 are just 3 examples. All whilst closing its own care homes.

Secondly we need to keep more people in their homes and we need to do that with a mix of excellent social care, technology and home design, all backed up with family and community support. Indeed lifetime homes, an umbrella organisation for housing and older people which include Age UK have commented this Council, commended this Council on its policies and practice to provide suitable mainstream, intergenerational and intragenerational living. Designing all homes whether they're a 1 bed or 5 bed with the 16 design criteria that the lifetime homes recommends should be our baseline. We need to build into the design of every new home to meet the needs of residents from cradle to grave.

Thirdly we need to incentivise older people to leave their homes, to downsize and open up their larger properties to the generations that follow. We know that these homes hold memories but we also know many do want to downsize but cannot find homes that are suitable. We need, as Councillor Anderson said, to build more bungalows, more 2 bedroom houses and more extra care facilities.

But supply isn't the only problem demand is minimised by fear of paying extortionate stamp duty, poor returns on investment in bank accounts compared to returns on housing and death taxes that put downsizing off and so we should be looking to use tax and stamp duty breaks, council tax rebates, subsidised utility bills and other means to encourage movement .

Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Following on from Councillor Lay's introduction the Council has put forward an amendment which points out all of the significant investment that it is making in extra care and indeed in wider Council owned development. However Lord Mayor one of the issues around the extra care is that we are in danger of delivering a two speed city when it comes to the delivery of facilities for our elderly population. One of the characteristics of those communities that find themselves on the outer rim of the City is actually their share of population and their share of democracy is older. There are more older people living on the outskirts of the city than in the centre of the city, however the response of the Council in terms of their extra care delivery is that those areas in the outer part of the city actually receive a lower proportion of affordable rented accommodation under their extra care scheme than those in the inner city which it goes against the logic that you should be providing low-cost accommodation where the highest demand in the highest need is. I'm afraid if you're on the outer area accommodation is more expensive and therefore the need for affordable accommodation is greater.

We have asked for greater flexibility in this response but unfortunately the extra care £30m scheme that we were all told we were all going to benefit from, indeed Rothwell Councillors were told 'you're going to benefit from a £30m scheme it actually turns out that the scheme involves for our area the sell-off of a piece of Council owned land to the private sector so that they can develop an extra care facility that we get one third of the accommodation for low affordable rent and the rest is for the more luxurious end of the market.

Meanwhile all of the £30m get spent on developments which are associated with land the Council already owns and that tends to be in the inner city areas in places like Armley which is a great deal for Armley getting 100% affordable rented extra care accommodation but it still means that there is a two speed city in terms of the delivery of that accommodation throughout and the Council needs to recognise that we are a very varied city and that their centralised approach is not delivering what is needed in every part of the city and one of the issues that Councillor Lay also raises is how do we widen the availability of housing which is attractive to older people when we know that the volume developers that the Council's Site Allocation Plan and Core Strategy depends upon delivering their quantum of housing don't like age related housing. When we talked to a developer recently in our ward about a development we wanted to build they had about 80 different designs of detached and semi-detached houses with really great names like Cotswold and Avebury or whatever, then you ask them where's your bungalows and they say we've got 2 but we don't tend to include them in our developments. The flexibility that for this Council to deliver some of that and widen the delivery of such accommodation is to actually invest in their own housing company we brought it to this Council, we brought it to the Council before that simply to rely on your Housing Revenue Account based investment in affordable housing means that you're always going to deliver more of the

same and if you want something which is more varied and more appropriate to our varied communities then you need to invest in a housing company.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes, thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to move our amendment supporting our vision for housing in this city and actually our vision for building Council housing at scale for the first time in many . But I do have to say when I read Councillor Anderson's White Paper I did think what's this all about because he knows, in fact they all know, how well this Labour administration are delivering on houses in this city. But then I remembered this is the last Council before the elections isn't it colleagues.

COUNCILLOR: What elections.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Mmm. And I also thought that if the opposition want a debate on the housing crisis facing this country then I'm happy to have it. But I'm sure we've talked about housing in this Chamber at every single Council meeting throughout the year and indeed Councillor Anderson really struggled to make any negative comments about what we're doing as an administration.

Councillor Golton however managed to because he calls his a two-speed city but he forgets to mention the investment that we're having in our ambition for 1,500 Council homes a variety of all accommodation including bungalows and flats and apartments and and all the rest as well, but he fails to mention that when he speaks.

But we've got an ambition to deliver in 1,000 extra care units by 2028 and were already well on the way and Councillor Lay mentioned Wharfedale View and aren't you lucky to have Wharfedale View in your ward I've got to say because it's state of the art facilities are really popular, not only with local people but also its winning awards.

Together these schemes delivered and planned overall we will be almost half way to our target of 1,000 extra care places in Leeds by 2022 not 2028. This shows an extremely rapid growth and urgent response to the extra care needs of our city. We will continue our flexible approach maximising our assets and building on our partnerships with registered providers to ensure further units can be delivered. To me it is more than numbers we are building, it's how we work together in partnership to offer mixed tenure housing and ensure it is the right outcome for the residents in that area. We speak to our residents, find out what kind of housing they would like to live in and what would be suitable for their needs. We don't just stand here and speak about it. It is not just bricks and mortar it is crucial that the community remains at the heart of housing developments and yes I am pleased that the Government removed the HRA cap which allowed for progression, but in my eyes it was way too little and way too late. And no Government activity until this point

and the oppression of austerity has meant that in order for housing targets to be met we've had to do it ourselves. As a city we maintain the importance of providing the right housing options to support our older and vulnerable residents to remain active and independent throughout their life. Our priority throughout is that the needs of our residents are prioritised for each and every development we provide and I'm really proud to stand here and say that as a city we are a national leader on this but don't take my word for it, I was in London yesterday meeting your Housing Minister, your Government's Housing Minister, Kit Malthouse, who was impressed by our vision for housing and praised our work so far. I've actually got a photo you might want to put that in your leaflet. Thanks Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood please.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor I'm seconding our amendment. A bit like Councillor Coupar it is a bit, what is this White Paper about because actually this is really good news for this administration to have a target of building 1,000 extra care units in the city and delivering a huge proportion as council housing and affordable housing and having them in places where we've delivered them you know in an efficient way but to deliver those numbers to the people of the city for care that is so desperately needed in a modern way we're absolutely proud as punch about that you know so I look at this White Paper and I think what on earth but like Councillor Coupar says it's obviously ahead of the election and trying to look at your own ward and say well why can't we have one in my ward but as Councillor Lay has said he's got one in his ward. He's also got Suffolk Court in his ward and he was talking about closing, you were talking about closing, no but you were talking about closing the more traditional and older form of care, the residential care that we had a couple of years ago. I have to say you know those services, our modernisation of care in the city has had to happen for a number of reasons. We've got, people have personal budgets so they can choose where they spend that money in their own care facility and people were choosing elsewhere than in Council old, you know a more traditional model of care and what we have had to do after 9 years of austerity is look at a modern care offer.

Also taking into account the fact that over the last 20-30 years we've moved away as a society from more institutional state provided care for people in hospitals or long-term care into having much more independence and living more at home so we've invested, and I'm so proud of this, invested in home care to make that better for people with invested in reablement to get people up and about and keep people in their communities and at home, we've transformed our in-house services that people were not choosing to go to recovery units to get people out of hospital which Suffolk Court in your ward is one of them and we're putting £30m into extra care so that people can live in their own home, have their own dignity and privacy, not have to live in a you know communal care home and have care on site in a modern way, you know this is a huge achievement after 9 years of austerity that we face so we're

absolutely proud of that we really are and I'm proud of that because I think people can live the types of lives they want to live, they can live better lives that's our strategy better lives, better lives strategy and much of the things that have been said like Councillor Anderson said about you know people live in large houses and want to downsize well frankly if the private sector wanted to put in a planning application to put extra care unit in your ward they could, there's absolutely nothing stopping them from doing that so why don't they, you know you could encourage them to do that. People would then move out of their large houses, free them up for families, not everybody lives in a large house certainly not in inner city areas and so I think you know a little bit of perspective on that I think would be welcome and actually the planning laws need to change, you need to lobby government to change the laws on planning to get more bungalows, to insist on more older people's housing because the law doesn't allow us to do all the things that you've said that we should be doing so I'm really proud of the work we're doing and I will move the amendment thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Kidger.

COUNCILLOR KIDGER: Lord Mayor I am speaking on the White Paper on Adult Social Care and the confirmation of the need for additional extra care accommodation. The Morley Borough Independents are great supporters of extra care accommodation having visited 2 different extra care complexes, one at Sheffield and one at Wakefield it is clear to us that this type of accommodation is desperately needed for all our communities and especially in Morley to offer residents accommodation that can adapt to their changing housing needs over the long term. Extra care schemes can provide accommodation to older residents who are entirely independent and require no help or support from homecare staff, it can adapt as their needs change and they become more dependent on others for care and support. This may be across a broad spectrum of care needs and disability from those who only need a daily welfare call to those who need intensive 24 hour care of and support through to those who require the end-of-life care. It is this diversity of residents and their needs that offer a real sense of community, a village type of environment that sustains close personal relationships. The concern we have is that no such accommodation exists in either of the Morley wards. We have overwhelming demand for such accommodation as we see in demand for our solitary sheltered housing scheme at The Grove in Gildersome but that scheme is already looking outdated and does not offer support to residents rightly expect today.

When Siegen Manor was closed despite the best efforts of residents, their relatives and a community campaign led by the Morley Borough Independents opposing closure we lobbied hard for a positive alternative to the demolition of the building and for an extra care scheme to be brought to this site. We are heartened to receive regular updates showing our ongoing campaign for extra care accommodation for Morley is meeting with some success with proposals for an extra care complex for people with dementia

being fully considered. But this can only be the start of a comprehensive scheme to bring significant numbers of new extra care housing units to the Morley area. It is clear to us that provision of extra care will provide a virtuous circle where communities benefit from providing better accommodation for older people which often leads to council houses returned to accommodate families on our housing list as older tenants are offered new and more appropriate accommodation for them to move into. We did move a new programme for Council house building in Morley in our budget amendment that would have brought a modest additional 100 council houses to both Morley wards to address the 2,000 residents on our housing waiting list. This economically viable plan was rejected by this administration and Morley is left with the inevitable record of not having a new council house built for over 35 years. A pledge to provide extra care accommodation for Morley would be warmly welcomed and to start to address the imbalance on some areas having a significant number of extra care units while Morley has none. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I would also just like to say that I hope that the Councillors that are retiring all 4 of them have a good retirement. I've got to know, some perhaps more than others, over the years and worked with them and for instance there's Alison in the next ward in Armley that's done a lot of good stuff and of course Keith and so I'll be sorry to see them go.

Anyway the White Paper to do with housing, extra care housing. I will think most wards, though I don't know all 33 wards that well, but we all have people that's getting older. I know in my ward I have families or elderly people that's come to us that will give up a family council house if they could get a rented bungalow, they've said that to us. We do have a handful of Council, well no tell a lie, there's 2 or 3 Council ones and also there's some Housing Federation ones which we were involved in getting a few years ago but it's not enough. We have the Westholme old people's home which we tried to keep in the ward. We were told the land there could be used for extra care housing but no developers were interested so we've got private family housing on there now.

So the thing is yes we will need to look at that and I know there has been some schemes in Leeds including the one in Armley but I think we need more of them and that's the thing and I do see where Barry's paper is coming from but certainly just to state Wetherby, Pudsey etc it isn't just there, it's other places because as I've said before in this Council we're living longer that's providing climate change doesn't come and finish us all off in a few years of course. But yeah we're living longer so we got more old people around than we used to have years ago. I'm not quite there yet, got a few years to go hopefully but you know, so we've got to bear this in mind, so we've got old people that are saying yes give us rented housing, you know

give us bungalows as don't want to be in high rise, most of them don't necessarily want to be in flats at all. Give us bungalows then we'll move and we know that they'll queue up for them without more of that. But yeah it takes room up as well so you say do I do that, do you build new housing for families.

I think we've got to take into line the bungalows as well, I really do and so I see where this is coming from. I want rented property more than you know private but I think that it's got to be for everywhere that needs it, cos as I said if not the elderly people just stay. I've got one in a 4 bedroom house in my ward, I mean isn't that ridiculous but you know we don't want to throw them out we want them to go but they've got to go ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: OK then so anyway.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shemilt.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: No it's not that I'm pushing in. Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll let Sam have his turn I promise.

Councillor Anderson's motion calls quote for a new approach to this agenda to start with a report to be brought to Executive Board examining how the delivery of extra care and specialist housing could be enhanced and accelerated. I think we all recognise in the content of the report and it suggests that some progress has been made on provision of social housing and looking at housing for the elderly and those who need more specialist care but it needs to be accelerated. We are a very aging ...

(Inaudible)

We are a very ageing population and ageing it is becoming skewed and all the evidence that we've compiled through the Neighbourhood Plan and through anything else it points to the fact that there is a great desire for this type of housing and to enable people to downsize if they could they would get out of rattling about in 4 bedroomed houses and downsize. So I believe that what we need is an overarching report on the provision of extra care and specialist housing potentially via housing companies. At the moment we're all wanting the same thing but we're not examining the options to deliver the correct mix of housing that's required because we've got Council ownership on Council land, Council ownership on other land we've got shared ownership on Council land or public sector or other land.

We as ward Councillors have been talking to the developers of a site, a fairly large site in our ward which is being developed by a company that specialise in shared ownership. The site that they have planning permission for at the moment is looking at 2 to 3 bedroom houses with gardens and garages which is ideal from one point of view but they are very much tunnel

vision in terms of focusing on that as families and that's where their marketing kicks in.

Despite the fact that there aren't any additional school places and it is causing concern in terms of the amount of traffic and the lack of school places. So we suggested to them that actually you know a 2/3 bedroom house with a garden and a garage is no different if you sell it to a young family or you sell it to somebody who's 70 or 80 or 60 who wants a smaller house because it's very near the shops and they immediately went into, they went from what they were trying to market as love's young dream into specialist care homes, we're not a specialist care home, you're looking at extra care homes. Their website actually pointed out that they would be available to do that but wouldn't entertain it and mention the bungalow word and it might as well have been an expletive word I'm afraid to say.

We also discovered that they are of course restricted by the type of funding available and they are only going to get subsidies and backing for this providing they do shared ownership so they don't have a choice to build houses that people can buy outright. But times are changing and not necessarily do older people always want to buy outright, they, like a lot of people, are doing equity release which used to be a bad idea they want to release funds for their children, they want to do inheritance tax planning or whatever, but nobody's explored that. So I think it would be useful to ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Shemilt.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: I think it would be useful to put that together. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Firth.

COUNCILLOR FIRTH: Thank you very much Lord Mayor and may I just say that for those members that maybe don't have as booming a voice as maybe I think I have then I think it is a bit discourteous for people to be speaking about it behind them so that nobody can hear especially for those beyond the cameras and even though we are in election period I have to say that this amendment Councillor Coupar seems to be amendments for amendment's sake and unfortunately sometimes suggestions coming even from opposition parties might be good ideas in the end that could be then transpired and a good win and a good win and a good win for the administration so ultimately we have to say going forward yes there are weeks going ahead but this is about something more profound and it isn't saying in this report that actually we don't agree that the Council is making steadfast approaches to improve and actually ensure we've got more extra care facilities but actually that we could do more, that we could do significantly more and the reason for that is what I outlined very quickly over the next 3 minutes or whatever I've got left.

People in our ward, Harewood Ward probably the oldest average expectancy in terms of life across the whole of the city, people want to feel safe, they want to have supported care and friendship networks around them and they want to have amenities on their doorstep. Now fundamentally what we think with this idea of extra care is the fact that those individuals that aren't able to look after themselves as easily do have those opportunities. A constant suggestion as we've talked about today across this side of the Chamber is the creation of a dedicated housing company wholly owned and managed by this Council because expert innovation is not the enemy of progress and at the same time a bit of innovation in the Council is not a bad thing. A dedicated provider could deliver more ownership for everybody not just sort of people across the city and also opportunities for rent to buy in the end and also it would mean that by setting up a company you'd have more opportunities to acquire available and unused public land from other public bodies as mentioned by Councillor Anderson but also potentially cheaper than it would do otherwise. But you have to do your research and you have to be prepared to actually do that and have the will, the funding and the land. The demand is clear by 2021 Leeds's population over 50 will increase by almost 25,000 that's only 2 years. In the same period those over 80 will increase by 8,000. In that same period has mentioned by Councillor Coupar this Council is only aiming to create a 1,000 new properties by 2028. There was a mention of a 9 year period that this Government has been in power or the Conservatives have. Well that's 9 years away so overall it's not unreasonable to suggest that the supply will be vastly outpaced by the potential demand for more diversity in housing options, especially for those who need more support. Funding could be welcome from the additional flexibility on the Council's HRA borrowing cap that was introduced the lifting of it last year and the current package aims to provide the chance to build those stronger communities that those need more importantly. Families like mine, Councillor Grahame, families like mine have actually got to consider and we are definitely not alone in the fact that we had to consider that whether a residential care home, a residential nursing home or an extra care property was actually the best option for my mum after a 9 month stay in hospital just before I was elected. With all the equipment, a multi-functional bed, a wheelchair or manual hoist, a tracker hoist and all of the other equipment that you need it's not easy to suffice. Not everyone is necessarily willing or able to access or even care. Sorry access a care or even a nursing home be it finances or be it other means and they necessarily don't feel at been at home all the time in their family home which may be bigger or may not be but they feel that they can't look after themselves, the extra care housing could be better. So let's cement it, a better vision for the future. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington please. Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: My Lord Mayor. I want to commend Councillor Anderson's White Paper. It's fairly clear that Councillor Coupar

thought we were having a hit at the fact that you weren't providing more houses, all we're saying is that we think that we could do more than just a 100 per year on that scheme that you have, it's not insignificant but it's not massive either.

As far as, somebody's mentioned earlier on, about consultation with the public and about how we actually get to know what they want to do, well when all of our ward areas have been doing their Neighbourhood Plans they've been consulting with the public about what they wanted to see for housing in their areas and I can categorically say that as far as Wetherby's concerned with their draft plan and Boston Spa and Clifford and Bramham and those areas and possibly also the ones in the Harewood ward of my colleagues behind me that people were wanting smaller houses to downsize into and yes we've heard the bungalow word several times this afternoon and that was one of the initiatives and we have been also speaking to developers who have come to talk about plans for our area and again they're saying 'oh well you know we can't get many on there', but if they cut down the number of 5 bedroom houses then they could get some more bungalows on and they would be able to sell them. So we accept that you, the administration, is doing the best they can at the moment but we just think that we could do more and we would obviously support you in trying to do that.

On the wider housing initiatives the Government has got a solid record indeed the Council is currently in the throes of the housing infrastructure bid for £85m to unlock the development of the 10,000 homes in the city centre. It's hardly a sign of Government inactivity on the housing crisis and one that Leeds could well hugely benefit from in the short to medium term and the Government has also had significant success with the Help to Buy scheme and other measures to increase home ownership through shared ownership models. I'm not suggesting that everybody wants to buy their own house, I know that's not the case and another issue for people in my ward is that they can't find rented property that they can afford. People who are coming up to retirement age who are in private rented accommodation at the moment can't, won't be able to continue to rent them and they're going to need lower rented properties so we all need that and all we're asking is that it's equitable across the whole city and isn't just located in the inner city areas. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dye.

COUNCILLOR DYE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well I am wanting to speak in support of Councillor Coupar's amendments and I have to say having spoken once today it gives me great pleasure to be speaking on a good news story rather than the cuts that I was speaking on before which is not a good news story and again as Councillor Coupar and Councillor Charlwood have said I am frankly amazed at what this amendment, what this White Paper's all about because extra care housing is a good news, that the extra care housing that you've heard in terms of Wharfedale View and things like that are a real good story that's there, the extra care housing that's

coming to my ward in Seacroft is a good news story so I'm at a loss to know what the issue is. I have to say it seems a bit rich really to be lectured by Tories on council housing, on building, on plans. We've now had the HRA cap lifted but it took you a long time to do that and now that that's happened we're making massive plans to make big differences and myself and Councillor Jenkins this morning were talking to residents in our area not about housing actually it was about something else but we stood watching new houses being built while we had our conversations and so naturally the topic turned round to housing and people are delighted at our plans to build housing for them, it's going to make a huge difference, they were really excited about the extra care plans because people want to be able to live independently and people who thought that they weren't going to be possibly living independently and might have to go into a home were really pleased that they were going to be able to be supported to live in a way they want and people who were of a younger generation or had children who were looking for housing were also really excited to hear our plans that in our ward we are going to be building houses for them and it's nothing but good news, so I support the amendment. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. What a peculiar debate it was as if half the people had read the White Paper and the other half had been briefed on something that was never actually said in the first place anyway, they just, anyway. Turning to what Councillor Lay says, totally agree we need to look at how we're going to devolve some of this funding, how we're going to get it so it goes where it is needed. We need to start making sure we get money where it's going and also keeping more people in their homes. If I ignore somebody it's not because I've nothing to say it's just I've got to try and fit all the contributions in. But to turn to Councillor Coupar, You obviously we're expecting a different type of debate than the one you actually got we were complimenting you on the work that you have done all we are doing as a responsible opposition is to try and increase your level of ambition, trying to push it a bit further like any opposition should be doing. If you want everybody to lie down and get our tummies tickled then this is not the place to be. You have single handedly missed the mood of what this White Paper was about, it was about being consensual, we were trying to point out the good work that you had done, we all made comments to say, acknowledging the work that you've done and you should take the compliment when it comes along. Nobody has criticised anything you, as the administration, has done not one person criticised it. You've chosen to take it and as far as Councillor Dye, when I'm up on my feet again you misrepresented what we were trying, we were actually trying to be helpful, as has been said we've got the outer area who have , we've got the inner area who have a different set of needs and at the moment you are doing a brilliant job at meeting the needs of the people in the inner areas. I am not disputing that but you are not addressing the issues that we've got in the outer areas with our ageing population who have different demands. They already

own their own house so they are looking to try and maintain that if they possibly can. It's up to us as a , a whole Council to represent every single citizen in this city not just a certain section of it. We are here, we should be doing a job as a city Councillor not just as a ward Councillor. We're sitting here today as city Councillors. We should be debating what's best for the city, if people are listening in to this debate they can see one half who have got ambition for people to improve and to get the quality of life we've got. We've got another side who only seem to think everything begins and ends with Council housing. Council housing is important but it's not the be all and end all we've got to look a mixed economy in the way we are doing. Look I don't know what more you expect people to say to you, yes you've done a good job but you need to do a lot lot more because there are thousands of people out there who are not meeting the needs. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right we'll now have the votes please. The amendment in the name of Councillor Lay. (*A vote was taken*). That is LOST.

The secondment amendment in the name of Councillor Coupar. (*A vote was taken*). That is GAINED.

So, we now go to vote for the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Coupar by the way. (*A vote was taken*). That one is CARRIED.

(Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: So, he's not doing anything. Right we'll go to White Paper Number 2 in the name of Councillor Blake. Councillor Blake.

Oh I didn't see you standing.

### **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Sorry there is a procedural motion. I'd like to move in terms of the notice please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Oh I didn't know I was seconding. Second.

THE LORD MAYOR: I don't know what you're seconding.

(Laughter)

Sorry I'm so anxious to get on with the next one I'm missing an item out.

OK so we'll now have a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's CARRIED.

(Inaudible)

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Sorry to interject on the flow of the order paper Lord Mayor but a point of order and reference to procedural Rule 23.1 to seek your guidance. In an earlier debate on executive minutes we heard Councillor Truswell say that or infer that conservatives were somehow similar to Dr Goebbels. Given that we're now in a situation where the Human Rights Equality, Human Rights Commissioner investigates in the Labour party for antisemitism. Given that the University of Leeds ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Just listen for a minute we might find out.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Given that the University of Leeds Student Union have recently been in bother for not accepting this. I would like to seek your guidance Lord Mayor in terms of what actions members can take to bring an apology from Councillor Truswell or at least for him to withdraw his comments.

THE LORD MAYOR: Notwithstanding the fact that if Councillor Truswell wishes to say something and make an apology and then by all means that would stop it here. How do you feel about that.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: I don't wish to make an apology I just wish to make a personal explanation standing ...

THE LORD MAYOR: I haven't asked for an explanation thank you.

So, I do have to make it clear that what you're making is a complaint about Members Conduct and this Chamber has no

(Laughter)

Can I finish. This is a matter for the Standards Committee and therefore you must make a complaint in writing to the Monitoring Officer. OK.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor.

### **ITEM 15 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 15. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Getting back to the White Paper motion on declaring a Council emergency. I think it's important to recognise the interest in the Chamber and the fact that we've moved a Standing Order so that we get an extension as more people want to speak on this. I think it's testament to the general interest, it's already come up in many of the contributions in the Council today and I think it's fair to say that what we know is that there is a relentlessly growing body of evidence that tell us that

climate change is happening, that it's happening now and it is set to continue and we have to take further action right now.

So the the evidence is telling us that we are around 12 years away from the cut off point where the damage the environment being done to our climate will become permanent and irreversible. We know that the UN is warning that global temperatures should not rise above 1.5 degrees, beyond this even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people and of course we know that the UK is not immune to these horrendous effects and many of you will have noticed Sir James Bevan, just last week, the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency warning that the country could run out of water in 25 years due to the rising demand and falling supplies of a result of climate change. If we carry on we expect that by 2040 more than half our summers are expected to be hotter than the 2003 heatwave leading to 50% to 80% less water in some rivers in the summers.

I don't think it's any surprise at all that so many of our young people chose to come out of school, come out of college and take to the streets. We reckon that around an estimated 3,000 of our young people joined the 1.4m across the world. Most recent strikes took place in a 128 countries and in 2,233 cities and one of the messages that resonated most from the young people is that they felt compelled to act because elected politicians have for too long ignored the climate crisis. This is at a time when we know to our cost that our Government is absolutely consumed with Brexit and is impossible to engage with on matters of this urgency.

I have to say all of us in this Chamber recognise just how difficult our ambition is going to be to realise and we know we cannot do it on our own but cities like Leeds have the potential to make a big difference and we know that as a Council we can lead by example to encourage others to follow and I'm very proud to say that we are recognised as one of the leading Local Authorities in the country for our record in this area. The scale of innovation and funding we have prioritised is unprecedented and just to mention a few of the things that we're doing. Leeds Pipes our flagship District Heating Scheme using heat from the RERF to supply low carbon and low cost heats to tenants, businesses and new developments. We're investing £52m in the scheme with a further £10m from external sources which will play a key role in reducing our carbon emissions.

The shift from landfill to energy from waste to save an estimated 63,000 tonnes of CO2 each year. We have the largest ultra low emission vehicle fleet across Local Government, were making age energy saving improvements in private and public sector housing and we're the first large city outside of London to implement a clean air zone and we've been focusing on our Council houses to improve in terms of solar power and efficiency and I think we estimate in total at the Council's use of carbon has reduced by 40% since 2005.

We know this isn't enough we know we have so much more to do and what we have to make sure is that every single decision that we take across

this Council in all of the different departments be it transport, health, housing, planning, poverty reduction for example that we embed sustainability in our decision making process ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: To move this agenda forward. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Firstly can I thank the Leader and Councillor Bentley for bringing this motion forward. I might be amending it but the general gist and direction I think we all can agree with.

The purpose of my amendment is I believe we need to tighten things up, we need to give ourselves target points along the way. I am not questioning the commitment that the Leader's putting into this but things do come along and the misdirection in different ways and you don't do things at times you should do and the point there is we need to start doing things now hence I believe we need all reports from July actually saying what effect we are having on climate change and as soon as possible we get things in place and we're going in that direction. Clearly when the motion was been drawn up because I was involved in some discussions particularly with Councillor Bentley if I hadn't have been down with flu I might have tried to talk you round to actually changing the motion. But this amendment is not challenging the basic concept of what you're doing it is trying to improve things because we've got to do summat, we owe it to our people. Those people out there, or their children and their children's children are heading for disaster if we don't do something and we've talked for too long. It's now we need to do things.

I sort of read the other day, I mean there's been a 2.3% increase in globally in fossil fuel use over the last 12 months That's not down to UK it's down to other places. But it's my one belief the only way we're going do that is people themselves and Councils like ourselves in our country and across the world actually saying we need some sense here, we've got to do something.

When I joined the Green Party which was 30 odd years ago now, that was one of the things we used to talk about acting locally, thinking globally. Well that's what we need to do now but not only act locally but act globally but that's together.

There are many of the other authorities who have passed motions and as I say I'm glad it's coming to this one. Had it not been brought by the 2 movers probably in July I would have attempted to bring it but I'd rather have it now and whatever we end up with we are going to commit ourselves to doing something about this. As I say I hope you will support my amendments, they are not there as an obstacle or anything there just there to try and improve things.

The other thing I'll mention is the Green MP Caroline Lucas is putting an early day motion to Parliament, now a lot of MPs on both Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Greens, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Labour have all signed up to it. As far as the information I got last night there was one MP in Leeds and that was Alex Sobel that signed up to it so can I ask you all to talk to your MP's and get them to sign up with it because we want Parliament to do this as well. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes Lord Mayor. As David has already mentioned we go back with the Green Party a long way. We joined in 1979, I remember going on the doorsteps and we were talking about then global warming now they call it climate change but the same thing. And I remember then it was more the older people, particularly the ladies that were concerned about their grandchildren. They saw, you know, they understood it, some of them got their husbands, talked their husband's round as well. But I remember some of our members going back in those days, they joined and there was the older people particularly the ladies because they could see even then that a problem was coming along and you don't want your children and grandchildren coming to a sticky end do you, I mean nobody does. So as David has already mentioned Caroline Lucas has put an early day motion, it's actually early day motion 2177 calling on the Government to declare a climate emergency and to release the necessary funding including to Local Authorities to enact a Green New Deal that would rapidly decarbonise the entire UK economy and so I think we all want that regardless what path we are on or I think we do, I would hope we do and yes many many councils I think it was 40 I think the last time I looked that were doing motions of a similar ilk but we think that we've got to make sure that we dot the i's and cross the t's on this because it's OK us coming here and passing motions but then they go away and yeah come back in 6 months and whatever. We can't play about with this, we really can't it's so serious we talk about 12 years but actually things are going to be very very uncomfortable before we get to 12 years, all around the world not just in Leeds so we've really got to all work together and I do applaud the youngsters who have left school and taken a day off and gone to show their concern as well because at the end of the day it's gonna be them that bear the brunt of it, it really is and I don't want my son who's in his 30's and my step daughter but also other kids you know I care about kids, I don't have any grandchildren but I do care about the children. What on earth are we doing to this world and it's not a new thing it's been

going on for years but people have stuck their heads in the sand and some times you know think oh yeah you know **it's not going to happen, it's not going to happen, it's not going to happen** and we'll wait till last minute and if we're not careful we'll wait until it does and then we'll all have a damp sticky end.

So we've got to work together now and I ask you to support our motion just to tighten up what's already been put in the Labour motion because we've got to see, we have an action plan and we've got to have reports every time there's an Executive meeting and come to Council saying what have we done

...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN:

It can't be kicked under the carpet we've got to act now.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Please support ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Ann.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Our amendment. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Now this is a climate and environmental emergency and looking at that lot you'd never get the impression it was and the way the speech was delivered by Councillor Blake I have to say there was no emergency in that at all. What we need on this is serious cross party action now not next year. But Labour, they can't resist it can they, have to make it political. The youth strike in the first paragraph and I have to say, I have to say out of school on a week day no safeguarding, no lessons, no safety, no supervision, what kind of example does this set to young people it's absolutely entirely the wrong thing to start off this with and they say they have an attendance obsession. Really, I don't think so it's complete and total hypocrisy.

Now politics therefore matters more to them than the climate emergency or the exam results, they've just shown that. Now this is an emergency the targets of Paris must be met. People have all watched Blue Planet and the other documentaries and this has galvanised public opinion, there's no doubt about it people's minds have been changed. The Labour motion says society needs leadership at local level, well we're not seeing much are we. There doesn't seem to be much urgency about this at all,

people out there they want to be nudged forward about this as Councillor Blackburn said they want this agenda, they're on board with this, businesses are on board and they want to join in with the same thing.

Now there is some good news and it's been referred to already, the clean air zone and I think in particular I would like to just thank some of the officers who've done some work on that, very impressive, they've worked very hard. Energy from waste, district heating, solar panels, the new fleet of electric vehicles, all well and good, but only 39% of household waste is recycled. This misses the 50% DEFRA target by 2020. There's no recycling of glass waste no recycling of food waste except in one place and not meeting last year's resolution of phasing out single-use plastics by the end of 2019. Now because this is a climate and environmental emergency we call upon the Leader of the Council to show some leadership here and to take a matter, a report should be brought to Council which outlines progress towards addressing the action plan as a standing item of business in this Chamber and to take responsibility with her portfolio to deal with this matter personally.

Now we also urge the Government where necessary and where possible to make available extra funds in order to give us the funding to make this city carbon neutral by 2030 and that the Chief Executive should bring an urgent report to the next Executive Board setting out milestones and actions that the Council should take followed by an interim draft action plan before the end of 29. We should also continue work with the Leeds Climate Commission and others. But I think it is so important to emphasise that the Leader should take portfolio responsibility on this and have an emergency action plan as a standing item in this Chamber and it is time to stop playing politics with this and just get on with it. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. Second and reserve the right to speak which I will be exercising.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you my Lord Mayor. The Morley Borough Independents are pleased to have a White Paper on climate emergency. Carbon emissions are going to have to be reduced worldwide. We have before us on the White Paper and the amendments, information of the dire situation Planet Earth is in with statistics to support.

Indeed the television programme Blue Planet as no doubt being a real eye-opener for the problems we face in our oceans too on climate change. If the planet is to survive the whole world will have to take on responsibility. Leeds City Council to its credit has along with, and David has just handed me this list of, 50 other authorities who have signed a declaration for climate emergency. But we have to keep going to show leadership in this field. This

White Paper is bringing to the forefront the importance of dealing with climate change but will be a long and difficult road but essential that measures are put in place however uncomfortable for our citizens. It's good to know that our young people who no doubt through their school education are aware of the problems which face the world and they're prepared to try to make a difference for it is their future we are debating today. Politics must be put on one side for the better good although the disgraceful behaviour in Westminster over the last weeks from all political parties leads our electorate to wonder when they vote if it is for the elected members own good or for our communities.

We in Leeds must show the latter and make sure we deal with climate change as far as Leeds is concerned. We will be supporting the amendment in the name of Councillor Neil Buckley . Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Before I get into the meat of this debate Garforth and Swillington Independents would also like to thank retiring officers. We've not had the opportunity to do that today and give our congratulations for many years hard service to retiring members and I'm going to pick on one person in particular my old boss when I was on the Exec Board for 4 years, Councillor Wakefield. Because Councillor Wakefield's biggest gift to me when I worked under him was to actually give you the elbow room to make some difficult decisions. He also acted as a firewall when things like, I won't call it a RERF it's the worst acronym ever it's an incinerator, it burns things, when I met quite hostile resistance from my former group on that one. we knew we had to persevere with it and it's nice now it's actually nice that some of the issues it's delivering on now around eradicating landfill diversion from Council waste and what it will achieve in terms of district heating are starting to bear fruit. So I think that you know we all learn and we all move on but it's interesting how that has actually shaped part of this debate and certainly I think it shows that in many ways this Council was ahead of its time on this agenda and continues to be so and I say that for all members I think there's been lots of good work done on this agenda over many years and it hasn't always been easy.

But climate change. Yeah I never as a rule speak on national politics, never mind international politics but I think that the absolute disgraceful disregard from this agenda from across the water in terms of the President of the United States has been a travesty in terms of how the world could potentially look in 12 short years and years and years of collegiate international good work has been unpicked at a stroke. But for a city like Leeds a leading international city that must not knock us off the ball and it must not demoralise us in what we believe are the right things going forward in terms of tackling climate change. But apart from the horrendous situation where very arid countries not only will starve and people will die it's happening now, that's already been spoken about. Members who have wards that flood

will have seen the absolute devastation when you've been literally hip deep in water with residents in their homes, it is heartbreaking stuff, we've had one guy in our ward who has been flooded out completely 3 times in the last decade and you know we have to do our bit, and it is a bit, but we have to do our bit and be seen to be doing it to address that.

In terms of the White Papers this afternoon the amendments we will be supporting Councillor Blackburn's for one simple reason it adds a time frame and a time scale and we too would like this to be a standing order at Council. It's that serious but that does not mean to say we will not be supporting the Labour Group White Paper. In terms of the young people who've been spoke about a lot, I don't want to go over old ground but you know long after our relationship with the EU we sort it one way or another. This will be the issue on which we will be remembered and if we destroy our planet now there'll be people, and they'll be our great-grandchildren, grandchildren whatever, there will be people who will rue the day we all stood back and allowed this travesty to happen so we will be supporting Councillor Blackburn and if that motion falls we will be supporting the Leader of Council's White Paper. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you just before I call the next speaker I'd like to make it clear we have about 30 minutes left and a heck of a lot more speakers than 30 minutes so those who have reserved the right to speak we can't tell you when to speak but you do need to bear in mind there's not as many as you think, OK. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: You're just emphasising that the clock is ticking and the clock is ticking on our climate and I'm aware that my party is co-sponsoring this White Paper. What I will say to the administration, there isn't a great record on the Labour Party's thwarting an idea that's been put forward by the Liberal Democrats and you've taken on board the concept. It was 8 years ago that when your administration was in its infancy you accepted a White Paper that was put forward by the Liberal Democrats and it was to introduce a low emission zone in the city and we just heard how amazing it was and what a great record it is for Leeds to be the first big city to introduce one but the fact is you promised to do it 8 years ago and taking 8 years to do something like that is too long in a climate emergency. So it's great that we're all sat here and we are all going to sign up to a climate emergency but one of the things that we do have to agree in is that it is an emergency and requires very quick action.

It was pointed out earlier on environmental issues my ward is still the only ward in this city that has food waste collection. It's a pilot that is over a decade old. Action needs to happen, purpose needs to be had and that needs to happen across our environmental commitment. Luckily the Leader of Council is a resident in a part of the city which has a Town Council run by Liberal Democrats and they were apparently the first Town Council in Yorkshire to actually pass a climate emergency motion, was it yesterday,

Monday, but one of the things that they were very keen to do was to point out to specific initiatives where they would commit to making a change to getting us on that movement, that progress to becoming the best that we can be in environment and they've introduced Street vision 2030 which I'm assuming Councillor Blake is completely behind to make sure that Otley is going to be one of the best places in the city and the region for walking and cycling. But that's where we can make the difference here Lord Mayor we need more forward thinking, we need a commitment to delivering on our recycling for instance we are going backwards in this city and it is due as Councillor Dobson pointed out to the success of one of our environmental initiatives. Once again though that was an environmental initiative that was started by the joint administration not by this administration.

Please show us your ambition and produce something which is ambitious and forward thinking and deliverable now because your waste strategy already, even after the Government Agency WRAP was brought in to help you to develop it and bring it along. They've been here over a year and you're still no nearer to actually coming forward to what you think is your vision for the waste stream in this city which is the primary service that this Council delivers on an environmental basis and let's not forget the anaerobic digestion that you could have had if you'd have taken on board the food waste collection that this group has been putting forward in our budget year after year. Because you didn't do that you didn't have a facility that could produce the gas that could have powered your waste vehicles which your now having to purchase as part of the low emission zone as diesel. Now that's just an opportunity that was lost because there wasn't that forward thinking so please join us to have that ambition to make a difference.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors I'm proud to speak in support of this White Paper on an issue that affects us all. It's one of the most pressing scientific, political and ethical challenges of our time. In autumn last year the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change reported that we have just 12 years left to implement radical action to prevent catastrophic and irreversible climate change. It's unsurprising therefore that this important issue is one of significant public interest and at the heart of a global political youth movement begun by one 16 year old girl in Sweden. No one actor can tackle climate change alone, it is imperative on us all to take collective and individual action to tackle it and I'm delighted that Leeds City Council is stepping forward to do just that today.

We often talk in this Chamber about the inequalities in our city. A key challenge in the fight against climate change is thinking about how we decarbonise the global economy in a highly unequal global society where there are huge geographical disparities with regards to carbon emissions and energy use and the devastating impacts of climate change for example in extreme weather events, in floods, drought and food shortages in the developing world. Richer countries like ours needs to bring down emissions

much more rapidly than poorer developing nations which paradoxically need to increase their per capita emissions to meet their basic development needs.

This marks the ethical challenge of our climate change challenge and our quest to lower emissions, can we really deny the developing world the rights to develop as we have. This is not just an issue of environmental justice but one of social justice too which is why those concerned with climate change are now reframing this issue as one of climate justice. Broadening our understanding of the wider issues around this problem and inviting more voices to the table to agree collective action to reduce carbon emissions, to develop energy futures equity and social justice.

I'm incredibly proud that Leeds City Council is pushing its way to do all it can to reduce carbon emissions locally and to help lead the way to tackle this climate emergency. As Executive Member for Children and Families and as a mum and Aunt I know many children and young people who are passionate about this issue which is gaining traction and growing as a youth political movement worldwide.

Climate change affects their future and the planets that they and their future children will inherit from us. I am passionate about us showing that they have a healthy, happy and prosperous future where they have the opportunity to thrive in healthy environments. I'm passionate about climate change and recognise the pressing need for radical action. Over the last year children and young people all over Leeds have started to make their voices heard on this and related issues. We've seen that in deputations to this Council meeting from youth groups calling for an end to single use plastics that are devastating our oceans and killing wildlife. The young people who took part in last year's youth summit who wanted to campaign for cleaner oceans and cleaner air. Our shortlisted Children's Mayor candidates who were prioritising the care of our environments and the amazing students have taken part in the recent youth strikes here in Leeds.

I am overwhelmed by the sheer number of young people who are actively participating in democracy and exercising their rights to have their say and make their voices heard to ensure that we all have a future. This city's children and young people are making noise about this important issue and Leeds City Council is listening, Leeds City Council is responding.

A final thought to leave you with in a recent video the inspirational Greta Thunberg highlighted that if your house was on fire you wouldn't leave it to burn. So I ask you will you support us in taking action now. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carmel Harrison please.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The imperative to reduce our carbon footprint has never been greater and some of the initiatives that Leeds City Council already undertakes to be applauded. But

where the environment is concerned we have to do more, quite simply we're running out of time. The UK is due to run out of water in 25 years at projected levels. Deaths linked to respiratory illness caused by pollution are affecting ever younger people as well as threatening the elderly and frail and even the unborn. While today a report highlighted that teenagers are susceptible to the psychotic experiences due to inhaling polluting fumes. Species are dying out at an alarming rate 60% of global species have died out in our lifetime and once lost we never get them back.

While the evidence is compelling and this White Paper enjoys cross party support some measures fly in the face of this White Paper. Not a mile from here market traders face losing their livelihoods so that we can have more car parking, it's hardly environmentally friendly is it. I applaud this White Paper and completely support it but if we are going to succeed in our ambitions than we really do have to walk the walk. It's difficult to take residents and businesses with us when our actions conflict with our ambition. Simple small measures make a difference on the environment. I'd like to see us follow the lead of other major international cities and look to have breathable lungs in the centre of the cities where we have green spaces, not just in the city centre but in the district centres as well so that all of our citizens can share in the benefits and we must also press for a devolution deal so that we can have a greater say over finances and how we spend them to promote our climate changing policies.

Perhaps we could even look at a tourism tax so that we could make sure that the centre of the city was always clean for the benefits of residents and businesses and key to a lot of this is better public transport that is reliable and affordable and benefits citizens and businesses. We've been given Government funding to improve it let's not waste that but genuinely invest in real measures that give everyone in the city, particularly those most at the margins of society, the chance to share the economic growth and environmental benefits and the improved health that could come with it.

I'm continually being told that the A61 improvements will benefit Rothwell well they won't really because the improvements on the A61 go right past the outskirts. It skirts on the border between my ward and the neighbouring Middleton Park, sorry, leaving residents of both wards an average 500 metres walk to the nearest bus stop. The real beneficiaries are the commuters in the nearby commuter belt of Wakefield so we're not really given our own residents the chance to benefit.

Speaking as a mother of a teenager this climate change and this climate emergency policy is absolutely vital. It's vital for their future and our legacy. Whatever we choose to do future generations will judge us on the next few years. Let's not be found wanting. I'm very happy to support this.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Goddard.

COUNCILLOR GODDARD: Thank you Lord Mayor. We're on track to hit a rise in global average temperature of around 2 degrees celsius by 2050 massively overshooting the Paris agreement's target of 1.5. It looks all the more impossible when the global economy and production is expected to increase threefold by 2050. This means we must (inaudible) down on our efforts to become carbon neutral as soon as possible.

Whilst climate change is a global concern is largely a problem to be solved by Governments internationally we in Leeds can play our part and are already leading the way relative to Local Authorities. Carbon emissions in this city have fallen by 48% since 1990 against a national average of 39% in the same period. The Council is currently constructing a district heating network which will reduce carbon emissions by 22,000 tonnes per year by providing low carbon heat with energy from the Leeds recycling and energy recovery facility in Cross Green. We've upgraded our Council housing from an average energy efficiency rating of D to C and are looking at ways to improve further.

In 2017 the Independent Leeds Climate Commission was set up to advise the City on making policy choices on issues relating to climate change and monitoring progress towards carbon targets. Councillor Blake co chairs the UK 100 which the network of 87 Council Leaders look into devise and implement plans to move to 100% green energy by 2050.

We now also have nearly 100 zero emission electric vehicles more than any other Local Authority at present this is part of the ambition to fully transition the Council's fleet to zero or ultra low emission vehicles by 2025, but colleagues we must ensure that our commitments are met and the opportunities are not being missed. We must work further towards a circular economy in Leeds and to work with partners to exploit all measures for energy efficiency and low carbon development, doing so could save the city over £277m a year and get as much nearer to our target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 which is 20 years earlier than the national target. We must continue to be a leader amongst Local Authorities sharing our best practices and learning from others where there is opportunity to do so but the people of Leeds need to be with us on this journey and is for every single member and officer in this Council to build that consensus. A consensus is important because no matter which party is in power this work must continue in the years to come. At this late stage Council warming and the effect of that warming are inevitable for the extremity of it and the impact that it will have is down to us.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. The first thing I'd like to say is there's an awful lot of members who want to speak on this and our group will be perfectly open if you want to move the appropriate motion to change Standing Orders to allow all the members on the order paper that

wants to speak on it but we'll leave that to you. We'd be happy to support that.

This is the most important issue, the most important issue Lord Mayor. I've had the privilege in recent times of meeting an awful lot of young people at different youth groups as part of our Scrutiny Inquiry and this issue is right at the top of their list of priorities and the one thing they would say to us to all of us in every party and they say it on many issues but this one in particular, why can't the politicians work together to find solutions on these issues. They would say that to every one of us and there right, why can't we and it's disappointing on this most important of issues that when Councillor Bentley originally approached everybody with a perfectly sensible motion that we could easily have worked on and all supported that that wasn't taken forward and to this day we have not had any communication from the Labour Group to ask us if we would support their motion or what wording we would have to put in to support it.

The reason we put an amendment is exactly the same as Councillor Blackburn because we think to address this most important of issues if we're about to seriously stand here and declare, as we rightly should, a climate emergency in this city we should be putting in the actions and the teeth to back that up and it is quite right and proper that if we are to declare a climate emergency as we should that the Leader of Council takes the lead on that it's quite right and proper that if we're to declare that emergency as we quite rightly should that it should come back here to every single Council meeting for an update about how we're doing on the targets that we've set. We cannot have another motion where the rhetoric is not matched by the actions and our fear and the reason we cannot support your motion is that that is what this does and to all of those young people in our city who look to us there is a simple way, there are 2 amendments. We will support the Green amendment because it does what we think we should be doing it doesn't take anything away from what Councillor Bentley set out to do in the first instance and what Councillor Blake has set out to do and we could actually genuinely take some inspiration from what Councillor Wakefield said in his final remarks to Council and do the right thing on this occasion and accept either amendments. We're perfectly relaxed if there's a consensus when Councillor Blake stands up for Councillor Blackburn's we'll withdraw ours and let's all support that one. It does the same job but it gives this Council and every Member in it the teeth to actually make things happen and that is what we have to do we have to show those young people who will be disproportionately affected by this that we can come together, never mind what they see on TV in national politics when Councillor Mulherin and I jointly spoke to young people at the youth summit a few weeks ago I said don't believe what you see on TV this is real politics, we can do real politics today, now. We can join together without anybody losing any face and pass a motion together that will send a message to every citizen of this city and especially to the young people of this city that we take it seriously and when it's the most important issue we will put our political differences aside, we will come together and we will take the action that is necessary to deal with this most important of issues. So I'd urge you please support one of those amendments, whichever one you choose we'll go with

you but let's do it, let's work together and let's show the people of this city and most importantly the young people who will be most affected that we do take this seriously and we will work together to deliver. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am pleased to second this White Paper in the name of Councillor Blake and very pleased that the seriousness of it is being indicated by the fact that Councillor Blake is leading on it herself. Councillor Lamb is absolutely right and Councillor Blackburn. This started off to some extent by the Liberal Democrats wanting to put in a paper on the climate emergency but wanting to get cross party support we didn't want it to be a single party's paper and my naivety in thinking perhaps that it would get that across the board were shattered a bit and we are where we are but I am supporting it, I am seconding it on the basis that I don't want it to be simply a White Paper from the administration and seen as a Labour Council White Paper, the Labour Council resolution, I want it to be cross party and on that basis I think the amendment both amendments we can support. I would like to see one of the amendments accepted but if not we will support obviously the substantive motion that Councillor Blake has put forward. But the point about it being cross party is this hasn't come from politicians it is coming from everybody you speak to out there. Real people, residents, young people they are concerned and they are frightened and it's taking on their concerns and we should be saying as a Council a whole Council we are doing something about it and we mustn't underestimate what we are proposing here, you know an emergency. I think somebody said earlier about the first responsibility of Government is the protection of its citizens well you can't get more important than protection of our citizens from the impact of climate change and you've only got to look at a local level as we said before about flooding or the recent devastation in somewhere in Mozambique where 40 miles, 40 miles of plains have just been covered in water with cost of many many lives and I'm not going to get hung up in the world because I think it's more important now we understand about reporting back and everything but it's more important we understand the scale of what we've got to do.

About 20 years ago to 2 guys called James Collins and Joey Portus wrote a book called The Habits of Visionary Organisations. I'm sure it's never far from your bedside table but in there they describe something they call a Behag which stands for a big hairy audacious goal and that is a long term goal that changes the very nature when organisations existed, it's a single vision that transforms and it's not about the process it's about having that vision. And an example of that if you recall some of you will be old enough to recall John Kennedy making that vision of saying in 10 years, just 10 years we are going to put a man on the moon and that captured the imagination and the skills of people that they they focused on that and even though they didn't know how they were going to do it they had the confidence in themselves and in their skills to say we will be able to do it and that's what we have got to do

as part of this and I would commend this White Paper to the Chamber. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Taylor.

COUNCILLOR J TAYLOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I speak in support of the amendment brought by my group. I welcome the view across this Chamber that action needs to be taken to protect our environment. I am however quite cynical that this administration is capable of changing their policy to match the words spoken here today.

I'll be discussing Leeds Bradford International Airport today. Councillors Blake, Groves and Richard Lewis in the never ending pursuit for the photo op recently launched the Council's plans for a link road to the airport that will cut through my ward of Horsforth and Rawdon. The favoured route will rip through the Green Belt, displace families losing their homes to compulsory purchase and destroy businesses. The cost of this project to the taxpayer will be in excess of £100m. These families and businesses were not notified by the Council before the consultation started with some learning from Facebook and Twitter that the Council intends to have their property and demolish it. The drop-in meetings run by Connecting Leeds have left many residents horrified at this project and can see no benefit to either the airport or the surrounding areas.

A report commissioned by the Council in 2005 conducted extensive traffic surveys and found traffic from the A65 to the airport was negligible and Rawdon Parish Council completed surveys earlier this year confirming this is still the case. The outlay for this project heavily outweighs its need. What we do need is real action on the Ring Road to ease the congestion that causes such harm to our environment and fix the problems that we have in our roundabouts. We don't need a link road to nowhere which will be used by no one

A 2014 report looking at options for the Ring Road which we believe the Council are using as the basis for these proposals makes a number of assumptions on traffic flow anticipating that up to 40% of traffic from Bradford would use this road without providing any supporting evidence to suggest why this would be the case. The report also woefully underestimates the cost of these proposals by over £40m.

Further suggestions that all traffic towards Leeds from Bradford should be diverted at Greengates Junction down through Calverley and dumped onto the already heavily congested Ring Road between Rodley and Horsforth roundabout should render this particular report ridiculous. Regarding the airport itself many of my constituents want to see the airport succeed myself included. With the climate emergency anticipated to be passed by this Chamber today a serious conversation on the future of the airport needs to be had. This administration is relentlessly pursuing growth at all cost with the

airport looking to double the number of passengers from 4m today to 8m by 2030. Quite how this fits with Leeds becoming carbon neutral within the same timeframe I'm not quite sure. Perhaps the Leader of Council would address this when she sums up in a few moments.

Lord Mayor our amendment and the Green amendment also are an opportunity for us all to hold this Council to account. Members on all sides of this Chamber, the thousands who marched the other week, the many more that care about the actions that we take will watch to see if these actions will match our words today until then I fear people will see this unamended White Paper is nothing but political hot air.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gibson.

COUNCILLOR GIBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: If you want to speak Councillor Gibson do it now.

(Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry. OK so Councillor Smart.

COUNCILLOR SMART: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am delighted to be speaking on this White Paper to declare a climate change emergency. I'm going to be talking about the national picture and what our asks are of Government on this important issue. Since 2010 this Government has built a bonfire out of the measures and designs to cut emissions. Back in October 2018 as colleagues have said the UN Intergovernmental Panel on climate change released a vital report warning that we have only 12 years in which to limit the global temperature rises to 1.5 celsius otherwise risking fast catastrophic consequences. Despite this only a fortnight later The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, set out his budget. Nowhere in this budget did he mention climate change. In 2015 the zero carbon homes targets were scrapped by the Government, plans which were first introduced by a Labour Government back in 2006.

In 2018 onshore wind has been effectively banned and fracking has been forced on communities many of whom have rejected it. Back in December the Government's draft environment bill announced in December that the Government's draft environment bill is set to replace EU environment law after Brexit which Michael Gove has called world leading. The bill falls far short of what we were led to expect, it contains more warm words with no substance to underpin it. It is frustrating that their proposed Office for Environment Protection lacks teeth, it cannot enforce fines on Government unlike the EU currently can and it is not directly accountable to Parliament. Even more worryingly the draft environment bill doesn't extend to enforce in climate change policy whatsoever.

The Government energy is focused on constitutional matters while our current environmental crisis remains overlooked. So what do we need nationally, the national Government needs to declare a climate emergency. We need strong leadership and ambitious targets, we need to enshrine in law the goal set out in the 25 year plan with a robust framework to deliver them and hold Government accountable. Environmentalism can no longer be viewed as a luxury item by Parliament it needs to be dealt with as a separate policy issue which is embedded in every single area of Government and in every single economic decision that we make.

Labour has recently published its green transformation plan and proposed an environmental tribunal which would better enable civic society to hold Government to account and safeguard against an inadequately funded Office for Environmental Protection. We have to tackle climate change in a really radical way, the evidence as we know is crystal clear. The state needs to be the key driver for a decarbonisation of the economy which would also create hundreds of sustainable green jobs in struggling towns and cities across the country. So looking closer to home the Government needs to put resources in place to enable Councils like ours to help reduce carbon emissions. We need more investment in public transport so we can see less polluting cars on our roads.

The North of England currently receives a fraction of the funding that the South does from the Department for Transport to modernise public transport. We need funding in place to protect ourselves against the devastation climate change and rising water levels may bring to our city. We need the full funding we've asked for to fully develop the second phase of our Flood Alleviation Scheme. Our environment is ultimately a priceless investment in the future of our country. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's a pleasure to speak on this White Paper especially as one had only one speech prepared and has had the opportunity to speak twice. That's always an excellent opportunity in Leeds City Council.

First of all just a few remarks then really. I mean I welcome the collegiate nature of other contributions during this section, I think that's very welcome. I think we should try to demonstrate a better politics than perhaps we've seen as colleagues have mentioned is going on in Westminster at the moment and that's according to my social media feed in full flow as we speak.

So colleagues have talked about how we bring people with us on this, it's really interesting we go back to air quality. For years we've talked about air quality as an environmental issue and some people are really interested in that and rightly so, I am for one. Then we suddenly started talking about it as

a public health issue and the light went on in another huge section of the population and we bring those together we've made air-quality front and centre in this city and rightly across the country. And indeed we need to learn how to talk about climate change in that way which is why the climate strike and the climate emergency really caught my eye as someone who's been talking about climate change for over 20 years now it was good to see that this change of emphasis has really brought things up the political agenda and I think what particular helps obviously is the very well mentioned this afternoon the the UN report and that was an excellent, excellent piece of research and really brought things home to World Leaders across our planet.

So we need to take people with us and Councillor Smart and a few others have mentioned some details on how we do that. And other members have mentioned about economic justice been linked inextricably with climate justice and they are, think about the opportunities that we could garner throughout for the people of the city. Those people are faced with rapid technological change, their faced with automation, their faced with changes that could remove in a whole swathe of good white collar jobs from our economy. Jobs that actually in Leeds have been a real root to success for people. So how as a city do we replace those jobs. You linking climate justice with economic justice.

Think for a moment, we're still a city that in transport terms is still trying to come to terms with the 19th century let alone the 21st century and that's before we even touch on the lunacies of the motorway city in the 1970's. But we can do this, in terms of transport, we can do this. It will take 10 years but we can do this.

Let's turn to housing, think about our housing stock. I mean we've got large amounts of brick back to backs, we've got enormous numbers of stone properties, how we're going to make those carbon neutral. These are huge opportunities for innovators in our city and for us as City Council to lead. How are we going to get an electrical carbon infrastructure into inner city Leeds, a charging infrastructure into inner city Leeds. Big thinking is needed but these are huge opportunities.

And then just finally I think how we do this will be incredibly important, how we choose to operate as a Council, how Government chooses to operate and Government needs to learn to lead on this. I'll take for example the Government's announced it's going to rule out the sale of diesel cars by 2030, actually no it's 2040 isn't it. That means there'll be diesel cars potentially running round Leed's roads in 2060 given how well cars are made these days. The Government has to lead. Car companies are already suggesting that they'll cut out diesel manufacture by 2022/2023, I think Volvo are. Members might correct me on that. The Government needs to learn to regulate and it needs to show again an example through that. If the Government said for example no more straight diesel and no more straight petrol cars by 2025 how would that car company shift. I think there would be a stampede to change. Government needs to learn again, relearn really, that it needs to lead properly

and not listen to business lobbies who are hidebound in not wanting to .  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blake. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Sorry Lord Mayor. I am at a bit of a loss to know where to start when they start saying that we're not treating this seriously, were not taking it seriously when one of our key points is that we want to take it to April Executive Board which is within a matter of 2 weeks away to actually start setting this off in motion and actually we don't need to take any lectures on this but you know I just, I listen to Neil Buckley with great interest when he starts talking about, you know, having a go at us and then trying to say that it shouldn't be political.

Well I agree with Alan Lamb actually, yes let's get together and work with it, let's all get together and work with it. I think it's absolutely crucial, but you have to acknowledge, your group has to acknowledge, as Councillor Smart said just how obstructive your Government actually is. Now it could be if there was another Government in place that would be the equal issue but I just want to know from you today are you going to join with us, to work together to make sure that Government supports the cost of carbon capture so that we can move ahead with our proposal to move Leeds to hydrogen gas and thereby reducing emissions by 30%. Are you going to come together with us to lobby for the changes in the planning system that are woefully inadequate, all of the Planning Chairs know just just how reduced they are in being able to put forward, you know the really robust measures that they would like to do. Are you going to join with us to support the extension of inland wind farm, look at what your Government has done around producing energy from wind and what are you going to do. Are you going to join with us, we have a Council resolution that we are against fracking, are you as a group going to join us in arguing against Government, who it seems to be hell bent on pushing fracking schemes through overriding the rights of the planning system in Local Authority.

And are you going to work with us around transport. For heaven's sake look at our transport system at the moment and I would look forward to working with you to actually talk about how we get the devolution that we need for transport and in our view that means moving towards buses returning to local control and bus and rail becoming renationalised. Now let's really see where you are at this.

(Applause)

So what we're going to do from April we're going to come together and we're going to talk about how we go out and engage with people across the city of Leeds because you don't seem to really put things together in terms of what you're saying, what we have to do is get to the hearts and minds of people in this city if we're going to get the radical transformational change that we need. We will need to change behaviour, we have to go out and make

sure that people understand and there on side with us. You know, so that involves convincing your constituents that they need to give up road space on their roads so that we can get our clean busses into the city centre easily for example.

I just want to say Council we are ambitious, we support what the young people are saying to us and we want to make sure that environmental sustainability is linked to social justice to deliver the seismic change that we need to today to achieve our ambitions

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Blake. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: For this city thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move to a vote. It's a vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Blackburn (*A vote was taken*) That is LOST.

The second amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. (*A vote was taken*).

I'm sorry, recorded vote on the substantive. We have a seconder for that

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Second that :Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Right so that that vote was LOST.

So the substantive motion. We'll now take a recorded vote. The motion.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Absolutely thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: I was merely repeating the Chief Whip's ,,,

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I was just checking it's the motion, not the substantive motion. Would all members please ensure they are in their allocated seats

THE LORD MAYOR: To be fair the Chief Whip asked for a vote on the substantive motion.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes. Members ...

THE LORD MAYOR: As long as she's getting what she wanted.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members have requested a recorded vote on the motion in the name of Councillor Blake. All members should refer to

the desk unit and press the button marked P, then press the plus button to vote in favor, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.

(Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: Now then settle down. The result of the recorded vote and I just wonder whether there might be a lot of people who have decided just not to vote but only 77 votes are recorded. Is there anybody who thinks that's odd or not. No, OK. 77 present, in favor 75, no abstentions, none against so there's 2 that's disappeared somewhere in the ether. So I just wonder whether, Gerard, are we totally happy that those 2 aren't ...

(Inaudible)

So that's CARRIED.

#### **ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – HS2**

THE LORD MAYOR: So we move on to the third White Paper.  
Councillor Harrison.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Given the late hour and the subjects matter there were 2 key reasons why I would like to put forward this White Paper. Firstly the eye watering amount of consultancy money that has been spent to date on research for HS2 and we've not even had any rails or any rolling stock dug or delivered. £600m at the last count which was at the beginning of last year and I put in a Freedom of Information request earlier this week to ask what the updated figure was. That £600m worth of tax payers' money that could have been spent on delivering carbon friendly public transport systems regionally.

The second reason I have put forward this White Paper is the environmental impact that HS2 would have on my ward in particular specifically Woodlesford and Oulton and the neighbouring areas of Methley, Swillington and Garforth and Rothwell, I said that in the beginning, don't be pedantic.

While I'm very happy that any economic benefit will impact positively on the South Bank of Leeds and the rest of the Liberal Democrat Group are, you have to look at the bigger picture as I've already mentioned £600m plus has been spent and we've got nothing. That could have gone on directly helping some of those people and then we've got the environmental impact as well. By its own admission the work will start in 2024 and it will last for an 8 year period. HS2 in its own environmental impact admitted that 600 people would be needed to work out of the Rothwell ward on a stretch of road that is really not suitable to take the traffic that 600 people will generate. It's 600 extra people on a stretch of road that in the rush hour can't cope with existing traffic, that's going to create more pollution that's going to affect the flora and fauna some of the species will be lost for ever. It's going to lead, and these are all HS2's figures in their own environmental impact. It's going to lead to

an increase in cardio respiratory illnesses and even negatively impact on unborn children. We've not fully investigated this and we need to do an awful lot more digging.

Similarly the tunneling work that will be undertaken will disrupt many chemicals that they haven't fully investigated the impact of. Many will be carcinogenic and that will further impact negatively not just on the immediate area but on those people who pass through and on the wider area. We're talking about a ripple effect that will expand outwards spreading out towards places like Castleford, Wakefield and Bradford.

Work on HS2 predates a successful conclusion to Crossrail we don't even have a finish date for that. The continual pumping of money into Crossrail takes money away from HS2 and similarly it takes money away from investment in public transport in the north. It's time that we should seriously consider this whole white elephant of a project, some people are already admitting that the HS2 will not come further North than Birmingham and we need to lobby very very hard to ensure that we divert money away from HS2 and the consultants and put it more directly into regional public transport networks that will benefit people who desperately need it here and now for the economic good of the local area. I move this White Paper. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Let me just say straightaway I support HS2 coming to Leeds it will be a great thing for this city and I'll come back to those remarks in just a second.

Now big infrastructure projects have to carry the population with them and Councillor Harrison she actually missed some out. With HS2 you've got Woodlesford, Oulton, Rothwell, Swillington, Garforth, Aberford, Micklefield and Methley and in those areas looking after those people, might not or the danger is, that might not quite happen. But Councillor Harrison doesn't have to go to Doncaster in her paperwork there to find an MP who supports these residents. Alec Shelbrooke in Elmet and Rothwell has already been on the side of the residents and has called for any inquiry into HS2 to include the role of the city council in deciding the configuration of the terminus. So today we also call on the administration to carry out an economic and social impact forecast on those communities affected by HS2 construction with published recommendations of the suggested type, level and quality of mitigation which any project of this size should be expected to deliver. But let's get this straight the benefits to Leeds of HS2 are potentially enormous and let's not kid ourselves if this is cancelled and let's just say the costs are £80b we are

not going to see a penny of that £80b it'll go somewhere else it will end up on Crossrail Seven or the Bristol Channel Crossing or some other such thing, it won't come here. But if it comes to Leeds in 2033 or whenever it is we'll have a world class rail terminus, Southbank transformation HS3 Northern Powerhouse Rail, and massive city centre improvements. But the people affected must be brought along with proper levels of mitigation.

Now I sometimes wonder whether Councillor Lewis ever speaks to Councillor Blake because in his comments, in his comments on the order paper he seems to have gone wobbly on the scheme, he's been very keen on this but he's gone a bit negative all of a sudden and he's almost suggesting it should be cancelled. He even says it was instigated by the coalition, well it wasn't it was started in January 2009 by Gordon Brown and Lord Adonis so he can't even get his facts right on that.

Now Councillor Blake agrees with me she thinks it would be great for Leeds and she wrote to the Guardian to say so. She said we need HS2 and we need to think bigger so perhaps she ought to tell Councillor Lewis that he ought to think bigger and not smaller and on the comments previously on nationalisation, so let's get this straight on nationalisation they want to pay for the whole cost of HS2 and then double the whole bill again by buying back the entire network. It's complete madness and incompetence on a grand scale as usual from that lot. It's back to the 1950's with Labour. Lord Mayor we should support HS2 but ensure that all these residents are treated in the proper way.  
I move this amendment

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Second the amendment Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak but I would like to speak later on.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis, Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Oh dear I had to read and reread the original White Paper because I couldn't quite get to the point of what the Lib Dems were really saying. Was that against HS2 or were they for it and I kind of in the end after about the sixth reading I realised that they were firmly in Lib Dem territory sat on the fence. That you know, yes they don't like, they like this and you know I will have to agree with Councillor Buckley about some of the things he said. HS2 is a hugely important project for this city, it's not just about the South Bank, it's not just a vanity project that will benefit in terms of a few hundred jobs on the South Bank it will affect the whole city. This is about thousands of jobs, many thousands of jobs, massive increase in GVA and it's not just about Leeds, it's not just about West Yorkshire it is about the whole of the North and the North's connectivity and people who barely raised an eyebrow about the spend on Crossrail 1, Crossrail 2 and all the projects you see in London and the South East need to kind of think or perhaps we need to have some investment in the North and

this is the start of it. This is a project that actually makes things like Channel 4 make sense. It raises the position of this city as the capital of the North and you know really offers the potential to rebalance the national economy and to kind of think 'oh it's just about minor changes' no it isn't and the Lib Dem Group really need to get to grips with that.

Now in terms of what Councillor Buckley was saying, I do occasionally talk to Councillor Blake, it might come as a shock for him to know that, but we did want to point out that talking as he does in his amendment about effectively the route is all the fault of the Labour administration and the Labour Party is not true because I can remember very precisely those original meetings that we had with HS2 when there was a straightforward, there was a Tory, Lib Dem government and we weren't even allowed to look, were we allowed to look at the route but we weren't allowed any maps with the route on it. So our officers had to go into a secure room with the civil servants, look at map close their eyes run out and kind of draw it on a map outside so they can come back to the politicians and show them what was proposed. So we didn't have a say on the route and I think it's a bit of, kind of misdirection by Neil to suggest that we did.

Look we are all concerned about what happens in Rothwell, it is important and all those parts and there's no point in just kind of shaking your head but you know it is such a scheme of such importance we have been talking to HS2, to the politicians at national level about this particular element all through the scheme from 2013/14 onwards to the environmental impact assessment that has just been done and we will continue to raise it because Leeds' role in this whole thing will just grow as the hybrid bill gets closer. Our role will be far more important than it has been up to now so we will be still arguing when you know this White Paper has long been forgotten we will still be raising the case of the position of the people who live in Rothwell who live near to the tunnel entrance, Stewart. and all of the residents of those those communities we will still be fighting for them. But let us all embrace the fact that HS2 must come to Leeds, it must come to the North and let's not shilly shally about on that. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I wish to second. They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery so I have to thank Councillor Harrison for her flattery, it came as no surprise to my colleagues as we all know Liberal Democrats like to claim the credit for the work of others. As she knows it was in January I first supported Ed Miliband's call for a Select Committee. I also wrote to Alec Shelbrooke but it took him over a month to reply, that's how important it is to him.

I know we have a diversity of views on HS2 and indeed as time passes and we all learn more that views change in light of new circumstances and evidence. As a local Councillor it's clear to me HS2 doesn't care about its

devastating impact on residents in my ward. Health, pollution, noise, vibration, flooding, subsidence and more. It doesn't have any viable ideas about mitigating the massive disruption during the construction phase with road and station closures. Residents have been misled and mistreated from the start, I don't know if it is deliberate or incompetence although I suspect it's both. The Conservative, Lib Dem coalition government has bungled HS2 from the start. Even in 2013 which is when it came out when you were in coalition. Many experts were questioned in the government's handling of HS2 then but their concerns were dismissed out of hand by the then Lib Dem Transport Minister, Norman Baker. It is wrong and means residents can't trust the government or HS2 to deal with them respectfully, fairly or truthfully. At every step I've stood up for my constituents listening to their views at drop-in events, holding my own event to listen to residents' views and putting in my own submissions at each and every stage. I've arranged meetings with the Leader of Council both previous and present with the campaign group, So What HS2, and it's disgraceful how residents have been treated.

Information and communication is abysmal, compensation a joke. I don't want HS2 tearing through twin tunnels under the villages of Woodlesford and Oulton being blighted by huge viaducts but it is the government that decides. It is because of the diversity of views included in this Chamber and in all the parties and because of new evidence I back the call for a Select Committee Inquiry. It must be far reaching and comprehensive, it must look at the conduct of Ministers in the coalition government and how they contributed to the current mess. It must look at the costs, the predicted benefits, the alternatives, the Select Committee must look at the economic and social impact on local communities like mine in Woodlesford and Oulton and nearby villages of Methley and Swillington, Garforth and even the knock on effect in Rothwell. We need absolute confirmation on the viability of HS2 and to know that everything possible is been done to protect our local residents, that's why a parliamentary Select Committee is the best way to get answers and hopefully action for our residents so that we can look after them.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well I look forward to Councillor Bruce's support for our motion because everything that you've just pointed out shows how dysfunctional HS2 is. We had Councillor Lewis earlier talking about the dysfunctionality when you went down to London and wanted to talk about the original route and yet this administration put's complete trust in HS2 to deliver a significant level of mitigation for the residents that we represent. Now that just doesn't show any kind of rationality to talk about how dysfunctional it is, to talk about how their behaviour is just not up to scratch and then in the next breath go but it's all right I'm sure everything will turn out all right and as long as we warn them that we want something that's decent mitigation I'm sure they'll deliver it. That is either naive or complacent it can't be anything else I have to say.

Lord Mayor just to clarify why this White Paper was brought forward for the benefit of Councillor Lewis, Councillor Harrison and I and Councillor Bruce have had very close interaction with HS2 through the fact that it's going to plough through our area and it is through that knowledge and that constant interaction for several years that we know that this is a delivery of high speed rail which is not fit for purpose but we also recognise that the administration is in favour of HS2 and that the official opposition is in favour of HS2 so we're not going to bring a White Paper that is just going to get voted down, what we brought was a White Paper where people could recognise that something is probably going to happen but there is a particular responsibility for this Council to stand by the people that it's supposed to represent and make sure that they get the best deal possible. Councillor Blake sent a letter to the Guardian telling the paper off for printing something from rail experts which said HS2 is not going to deliver as much for the North as a northern people think so, in fact it's going to benefit the South more than the North and when she told them off she said as far as we're concerned this is a 1 in 200 year event. Now Lord Mayor did we talk about 1 in 200 year events earlier in this Council meeting we did because we talked about it in terms of flooding and the effect that flooding that we've experienced in this city on Boxing Day in Kirkstall, that kind of effect, that that kind of disruption, displacement and pollution can have on a community. Lord Mayor HS2 is bigger than that. It's going to be like a new industrial revolution arriving in one spot over 8 years delivering the longest viaduct that we're going to see in the British Isles and also 2 tunnels bored through the heart of a community. Councillor Harrison mentioned a road, it's the road to Methley. Councillor Wakefield knows this, it's the only road to Leeds from Methley. That road is going to have 4 construction depots coming off it with 600 workers working out of those depots for a period of several years. That might have some effect on our bus services coming from Methley into Leeds, it might have some effect on the ability of people in Methley to interactivate with this marvellous Leeds economy which is going to benefit from this HS2 delivery into our South Bank.

What I'm saying Lord Mayor is, and what this motion is saying is, if you are going to be chief cheerleaders for HS2 and if you are going to be chief partners with that organisation in the hope that they will deliver a quantum of economic growth in this city then you need to stand by the slogan that you put forward which is strong economy, compassionate city and you need to demonstrate that compassion to the communities of Rothwell, Oulton, Woodlesford, Methley wherever in that area which is going to bear the brunt of that construction activity and you need to make sure that your saying to HS2 this is the level of mitigation that we want and your amendment shamefully misses that out, talks about politics, mentioned my party 4 times ..

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: And that's the expunges referenced to your own politician that we included specifically ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: So that Councillor Bruce could support this.  
Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor. HS2 is a national project so any review which looked only or mainly at affects on villages to the East of Leeds would be unlikely. The reality is that property standing in the way would be bulldozed supposedly for the common good if more searching questions weren't asked. Sadly if HS2 was stopped it would be stopped mainly by escalating costs not because of its effects on communities. It is clear that searching questions must be asked and are beginning to be asked. London Crossrail, a high speed railway from London to Birmingham and HS2 Northwards seem to share accounting organisational and cultural assumptions which should alarm any taxpayer. Crossrail has been allowed to spin out of control into a cost plus bonanza in which the Treasury covers costs whether grudgingly or not and then a percentage of properties added at the end. All that that proves is that given an unlimited budget engineers can do almost anything and that they put men on the moon 50 years ago.

HS2 does look as if it might develop into the most astounding of all vanity projects if we're not very careful and that wouldn't be a good thing because it wouldn't reach Leeds, the proof of it running out of financial control would have taken place long before it ever got to within 50 miles of Leeds so something needs to be done about it now and I think that the best way to do that is to look at it again through the Commons Select Committee Inquiry which has been suggested by Mr Miliband. It needs to ask a number of simple questions. Is HS2 necessary, will it be beneficial to the travelling public. At what point would project cost and collateral disruption outweigh benefit, would Birmingham to Leeds be more beneficial than other routes, current traffic flows on railways, M62 and M1 lead me to believe that HS3 or some other new or rebuilt railway from Liverpool to Hull through Leeds and Sheffield might be more beneficial. But that's something obviously that the Select Committee would have to examine very carefully and work out for itself. And finally we need to work out a way of drawing up contracts so that they can be applied in such a way to prevent cost overruns and failures to meet deadlines without simply making contractors walk away or go bankrupt because obviously that would lead to the failure of the scheme as well.

We also need to find out how much control if any Leeds City Council would have over any length of high speed railway with it being built within its boundaries. It seems probable to me that HS2 would have parliamentary powers to make its own way or even build at its own discretion and that the City Council would be a consultee without real power to vary what HS2 want it to do and as for the problem of what happens to the money if it isn't built, well

for some years I suggested that when NGT was under pressure that we should negotiate that that money be brought to Leeds for some other purpose which indeed it was eventually it was brought to Leeds for the Old Road public transport improvement. I mean earlier I suggested that the same money might be used for flood relief but it wouldn't necessarily mean that Leeds would miss out if it wasn't built. But obviously the best solution would be to make sure that HS2 was built in a proper way that was affordable and was properly controlled with properly scrutinised finances and properly scrutinised deadlines for completion. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've always been an HS2 sceptic I still think it probably won't ever take place and I think it's just a sop to North of England but is it right way to invest money, no it isn't. Our railways in the North of England are in a mess and that's what we should be looking at, that's where investment goes. Talking about Liberal Democrat motion, I mean I know the area they're talking about, I've been taken out to to where that goes and it would absolutely destroy part of their ward. You've got my full support in opposing that. It is not on, you know people are just, some people in this Council have just got in love with the idea 'oh we've got this wonderful thing it'll bring us loads of economic profitability', it won't. It'll favour London it won't favour us. We need a proper decent train system in the North of England, not this. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I hate to interject on this White Paper that's clearly designed between the Liberal Democrats and Labour for the upcoming election but HS2 does cross my ward as well in Aberford and has a huge impact on a neighbouring village of Micklefield where roads are due to be closed to make way for it as well. But I couldn't help but have a chuckle to myself when I read the first amendment's come in as I envisaged what was happening in the Labour Group as they saw the Liberal Democrats had laid this amendment you could almost imagine Councillor Blake sat there after looking at the headlines and all the wonderful press releases she's made recently in the Guardian, The Yorkshire Post, HS2's vital for growth, incredible potential of HS2 as a quote she actually gave in the House of Commons recently as well. So there you have the Labour Group thinking oh crikey we've got to to back this motion to say how great HS2 and then Councillor Blake runs in, placard in one hand from the people's votes stop Brexit another one stop Corbyn. She runs in, she thinks to herself oh crikey the election's coming up I'm going to be screwed we've got to back off this and that's the amendment that's come forward, that's the amendment that's come forward. We heard Councillor Richard Lewis gave all of the fantastic elements of HS2, the growth it will bring to the city, the 40,000

passengers extra places on the HS2 line that are needed and yet that's not in the White Paper amendment so if you believe all those things Councillor Lewis, back the amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley.

The real crux of this problem as is in the amendment because we recognise the potential that HS2 brings to the city but as was referenced the crux of the problem for the communities of Woodlesford, Rothwell on Garforth and Aberford and Micklefield is the configuration of the station which limited the options of the route into Leeds and Councillor Blake and Councillor Bruce will know all too well a few years ago when you were sat in the front room of resident on the locks in Woodlesford organised by our MP and Councillor Bruce said to those residents that we will take seriously your concerns about the station location and the impact it has on the route. We've not really been involved in that process but we'll let you know how we represent your views.

Low and behold 24 hours later the press release comes out the station locations fixed and there again is Councillor Blake saying we are grateful for HS2 listening to us and our concerns of where the HS2 station needs to be and the configuration of that station. So again there's conflict in what the Labour Party say in their White Paper and what they say when they're in front of the press.

Just at the end there Councillor Bruce you might have called for a Select Committee Inquiry, our Member of Parliament for Elmet and Rothwell went further, wrote to the Labour chair of the Select Committee and asked for that Labour chair wrote back and said you're not having one so if you want to look at responsibility look within your own ranks.

And finally Lord Mayor on the issue of nationalisation we shouldn't mention Brexit but I will just to close. Remember everybody that Labour's position is they want to stay in the single market. If you're in the single market your state aid cannot apply, you cannot nationalise. You can't have it both ways if you want to nationalise the railways you've got to be outside of the single market. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. We've talked about the politics, we've talked about the strategy, we've talked about the economics what we've not talked about too much is the practicalities of HS2 and the people it will actually impact upon. So here goes. I will remember probably to my dying day when I got a phone call very early one morning by a former colleague from the Labour Group saying 'you'd better turn the telly on' and on the TV that morning there was the announcement of the HS2 route and up to that point we'd had the 2009 announcement that HS2 was on the cards but nothing on route. and low and behold what was presented to us in 2013 was effectively a line on a map, that was it and at the time when that line on a map was basically all we had to go on and we didn't have a clue what it meant in terms of practicalities around the projects. I remember

attending a very heated meeting in Swillington and it's one of those rare occasions where you've got to say to people I haven't got any significant answers as to how this will impact upon our community for one simple reason we didn't know, we hadn't been told. So I think in those terms HS2 and the way it was rolled out was flawed from the start. But I've been to meeting after meeting after meeting with HS2, I've been to public consultation meetings and where are we now, 6 years down the line from that pardon the pun. I still go to meetings and we're asking the most basic fundamental questions. Your earth works for the tunnel how are you going to move thousands of tonnes of earth. Well we're going to use the A642. Really, really is that honestly the best proposition 6 years down the line that they've got, that they've come up with. We talk about of the potential viaduct over Swillington or a tunnel, what will it be. We'll get back to you. We've spoke about the topography and the geography of the land in question and the fact it's subsided. Part of the land that HS2 will impact on East of Garforth is still sinking, it's old mine works, guys roll up with a theodolite once a year to take a look, they shrug their shoulders and they walk away because it's sinking and it seems to me that 6 years down the line where HS2 is a still a line on a map but one that's cost us £600m to get there so that is a real concern about when we talk about inward investment.

The pragmatic side of me says okay if HS2 is going to come and the station is fixed then I don't think it's an unreasonable position for the administration to say what benefits are there for the city, how can we make a silk purse effectively out of a sow's ear and I've no real issue with that but why we'll be supporting the Liberals today is because of the final paragraph of Councillor Harrison's White Paper. When we get down to the nitty gritty the blight, the uncertainty, the type of mitigation, the quality of mitigation and the level of mitigation have never been with residents through Rothwell ward and through Garforth and Swillington ward properly and adequately addressed and they remain unaddressed 6 years down the line. That Lord Mayor is unacceptable, it needs addressing and I think we need a collective position on this Council as to what we intend to do to use our collective weight to say to HS2 Limited 'well if you come if you come, if you don't you don't', that's lap of the gods stuff as far as I am concerned at the moment but you need to tell us in detail what your proposals are and how you going to address and mitigate the genuine concerns of people living in our communities, that is not unreasonable, that is why we're supporting the Liberal White Paper. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: In view of the time Lord Mayor and I do want to hear Councillor Lyons speak I will not take this opportunity.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK. Councillor Lyons.

(Cheers and applause)

COUNCILLOR LYONS: That was the HS1 what we used to drive up and down.

(Laughter)

4 Labour Councillors that drove them. I've never heard owt like it in my life. First of all Lord Mayor it's 39 years since I first spoke in this Council and I have always enjoyed it and I've always enjoyed some of the tales that I've heard from the Liberals but they get better as the years go on. You know you cease laughing at them because there's a reason behind what they do and the reason that they are doing is because if you went into Rothwell you'd think there were an election every day because it says no HS2 on every lamp post and every street all over the place and then they come here with crocodile tears just wondering what's going to happen. I support some of the stuff that you say that we should look at the route properly but you're determined to stop HS2. Manchester and Birmingham will be laughing, they'll be listening to this, they'll be listening to it and saying how daft are Leeds, were offering them this marvellous engineering in Leeds and they don't want it. They don't want these millions of pounds we're going to spend, all people we're going to employ, all the North of England depends on what we're going to do and we're talking about Rothwell, yes I sympathise with them but if we went this way we'd all be going out here and somebody be watching us horses as we're going out because we wouldn't have built a bloody thing. It's not in your backyard and it doesn't work and if you're going to play politics, play politics properly and put it to vote and put it to vote properly.

In Leeds we're Leeds City Council and we do the best for the whole of the people of Leeds and to not take up the situation where their building the trains from London to Birmingham and then what we argue that they should then put a Y in that went one to Manchester and the other to Leeds so that we could serve the North of England were marvellous and they accepted it and when you come to think who were in power, you mentioned the Secretary of State for Transport that stood next to Black Prince in Leeds and told me personally oh what a good job they were going to do at Rothwell and he was a Liberal, he was a Liberal yeah that was it.

(Laughter)

So listen you and your people were there, you knew and you knew what went on. For goodness sake stop playing politics and think of people of Leeds.

But I haven't come here to talk about that really I'm finishing arn't I tonight.

(Laughter)

I shouldn't be playing hell with you. But it's you as leader I'm playing hell with, not your people because you've talked them into not having it and you've talked them to not having it because you might lose some votes and if you play this way you will lose votes. You don't play politics with that it's summat that we need at Leeds and it'll come, it'll come there but it will be at a cost because we'll have to do all kinds of things because your putting blocks in our path. Now we should be working and we're all working together and it seems that we're not, so if we're not we'll just have to do it our way like you did when you were in power. You totally ignored what we were going to say so I think what we will do is totally ignore what you're going to say but as far as I'm concerned, you laugh somebody laughed today when one of my friends addressed somebody as comrade and you laughed over there. They didn't laugh when I fought serving in the armed forces and Tory officers were calling me comrade that were all right. But it's not right for somebody in politics to call somebody else, it is a friendly name that's called to each other, it's not a dirty tem something that should be laughed at so in future when she calls me comrade it's a matter of courtesy that she uses it like the officers used to do to me when I carried a gun and that was a long time ago.

(Laughter)

COUNCILLOR: Have you still got one.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: No I haven't it's make love not war. I think what we should be doing we should have been spending tonight on seeing how we can put all the transport back in public ownership because that's where it wants to be.

(Applause)

My trade union and it happens to be ASLEF, I was an engine driver and they say it should go back in so laugh, you laugh but when I'm down in parliament all the MPs, the Tory MPs tells me that it should be back in public ownership so most people I talk to that's down in parliament agree with us that it should be and we should give it back to the people not because of any political idea because it makes common sense. Anyway I'd better shut up because Lord Mayor's looking at me daft.

(Laughter)

But I've got to say before I finish Lord Mayor is that I've enjoyed my time here, I've done a lot of speaking in a lot of times and argued with a lot of people as you will all gather and I've really enjoyed. Somebody said are you bothered about finishing, I said why should I when my group, just look at my group, intelligent young people that's taking over ...

(Applause)

That can stand up, speak, know the subject and argue with anybody. I'll put these against any Council in England and anywhere. They're good,

they're getting better and the better than ever we were because there's a lot of common sense being spoke down here now and not only that we've got a woman leader as well ...

(Cheers and applause)

So why should I bother. But them that call engine drivers that used to drive there's only one regret I've got, that I'm last engine driver that's coming off, it's nearly hundred years since. We didn't have an engine driver trying to talk common sense to all these people here so I'm very proud and I remain proud of you all whatever party your in. I've made a lot of friends and I will remember with pride that I served with you on Leeds City Council. I'll remember more that I was a Labour Councillor. Thank you all very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Well we still have to sum up. So, Councillor Harrison. As they do say follow that.

COUNCILLOR C HARRISON: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Lyons it's always interesting to hear from one of the veteran Councillors.

Just quickly summing up on a few points. It was interesting to hear from the Conservative side that Alec Shelbrooke has been fighting for local residents. Sadly in his most recent missive to them he failed to mention HS2 which is ironic given that yes every day whenever I walk or run anywhere around the ward and I cover a fair bit of mileage, I see No to HS2 posters because the reality every day for many many people living in the villages of Rothwell, Woodlesford, Oulton, Methley, Kippax, Garforth, Swillington is that it's a blight on their lives and there's a lot of uncertainty they don't know what they're going to face. The only thing that they can be assured of at the moment is that if it goes ahead there will be a negative environmental impact as things go. We also know that we spent a fiendish amount of money and we've got nothing to show for it, that is unsustainable there is going to come a point when even this government stops talking about the B word and starts thinking about HS2 and other matters and maybe even things like education, health and woe be tired the environment and says enough is enough. It's time to call a halt now, if they are serious in persisting with HS2 now is the time to have a full enquiry into the environmental impact of HS2, the health repercussions, what it will do to existing generations and future generations, report very honestly and very transparently and then yes let people decide. Put the full evidence in front of them, already the environmental evidence is compellingly negative but the financial costs analysis is consistently been destroyed and we've not even started digging locally. It's going to be another 3 years before they do any work and it's highly likely that that date will be pushed back because work was due to start in London digging in June and they've pushed back that date and they've not set another date. So it's time that there was some sensible spending of money now, let's get a full environmental inquiry and then let's make an educated and reasoned decision

and I think that will come down very heavily on investing in local, environmentally, friendly, public transport measures. I move Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. So we shall move to a vote. We'll start with the vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley.

We've been asked for a recorded vote, seconded.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Yes.

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 Buckley. 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 the zero button to abstain.

THE LORD MAYOR: Once again we've got some members who haven't participated but we have apparently 87 present now. In favour 16, abstaining 4, against 67. So that is LOST.

We move to the second amendment in the name of Richard, Councillor Richard Lewis. You'd like a recorded vote. Right.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: All members are 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 then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right the interesting voting is going up we have 90 present now. 61 in favour, 4 abstentions and 25 against. So that one is CARRIED.

So recorded vote on the next one tell me now and we're not messing about, no, yes.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members are in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Richard Lewis. Press the button marked P then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Right we've lost one. 89 present, 61 in favour, 3 abstentions, 25 against. So that motion is CARRIED.

That concludes the business thank you very much indeed save trip home.

*(The meeting closed at 8.10pm)*

