

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2019

VERBATIM

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LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday 10th July 2019

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR E TAYLOR)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Auto-transcribed from Webcast

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2019

THE LORD MAYOR: Please be seated. Good afternoon everyone
welcome to Council today

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: I'd like to remind Members that this meeting is
webcast and I'd also like to inform Councillor Sarah Field is absent from
today's Council meeting she is currently unwell. I'll pass on our best wishes
from the Council to Sarah Field. I would like to extend congratulations to the
following recipients who were honoured in the Queen's birthday honour.
Those award the CBE were Dr Adrian Mark Crellin for service radiotherapy,
Dr Deidre Ann Ford for service in Radio and Mrs Lorraine Jackson for service
in Health Policy. OBE was also award to Mrs Rosie Louise Tressler for
service in Mental Health and Higher Education. That Celia Knight received an
MBE for service in Plant Science Education as well as Ms Christine Audrey
Outram for service in NHS. The British Empire Medal was also award to Mr
Andrew Dalton for service in the Community Morley West. Miss Kathryn Jane
Fielding for services to Goalball and Blind Partially People. That Lorraine
Whewell for service in the UK and Abroad and finally John Robbins is
temporary Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police who I met last week was
also awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service and that's
the announcement.

We'll go into full Council. Please can I remind Members to switch their
mobile phone to silent, if it does go off it will be toward's my charity and I've
got eyes everywhere next door to each and every one of you, you don't know
who is watching who for me so thank you. Announcements was
announcement, so ...

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22ND MAY 2019

THE LORD MAYOR: So minutes of the last meeting, Councillor
Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move the minutes be approved Lord
Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Time to call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*.
That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: to invite Members to declare any declaration, anything to declare. OK.

ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3 communications. Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've got one one communication which is I'd like to inform Council the following response has been received to a Council resolution from Nusrat Ghani MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport in respect of the White Paper on HS2 considered by Council in March. This response has previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: OK Councillor Dowson sorry Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. There are three Deputations today. The first is the 4th Infantry Brigade, the second is the Leeds Fair trade Group and the third is a Group regarding Road Safety.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I'd like to move that all the deputations be received.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)* That's been CARRIED.

DEPUTATION 1 – 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

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

COLONEL HADFIELD: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, good afternoon. My name is Colonel Andy Hadfield and I am the deputy commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters North East based in Catterick. I am responsible for all civil engagements in the region which spreads from Humberside through Yorkshire, Cleveland, County Durham and Northumbria. A region that provides almost 20% of all recruits to the British Army today. I'm joined by Lieutenant Colonel Andy Waring Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment based here

in Leeds. It's my very sincere hope that at some time in the very near future the City will see fit to grant its freedom to the battalion.

I'm also joined by Major Andy Wells who I'm sure many of you know well. Andy is the Community Liaison Officer to the city.

Firstly may I thank all the Armed Forces Champions. Councillors Caroline Gruen, Mohammed Iqbal, Jane Dowson, Ann Blackburn, Billy Flynn and Bob Gettings for your support. Thank you also Councillor Caroline for writing to Leeds schools informing them of our Super Camp Programme. I'm delighted to inform you that the John Smeaton Academy will be sending 30 students to Super Camp this year between the 21st and 31st of October.

Thank you all for resigning the Armed Forces Covenant in January of this year and also for your continued support to Armed Forces Day. My objective in addressing you today is to explain the British Army and our Military Civil Integration Programme. The Army exists to protect the UK, defeat the nation's enemies, to deal with disasters and prevent future conflicts. It is an Army that wins, that is highly respected, combat effective and founded on comradeship, shared values and self discipline. In an uncertain world the Army is ever vigilant always ready and steadfast in its commitment to defend the UK and its citizens. The army has over 3,000 soldiers committed to the ongoing operations overseas and maintains standing tasks in Gibraltar, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands reassuring our citizens, securing our dependencies and deterring aggression. Of course prevention is always better than cure therefore the British Army is constantly deployed in areas of instability, working with allies and ongoing operations some of which are humanitarian. Crucially the Army is to say it is the nation's safety net to deal with natural disasters at home also. Most recently in the UK troops were deployed to support Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service dealing with fires on the Saddleworth Moor.

We are delighted to be here today to address Councillors representing some of the most diverse communities outside of London. We are committed to make the army more inclusive and diverse in line with the Equality Act 2010. We are actively promoting an inclusive culture, working to increase yet further understanding and respect for others which has always been part of the values and standards of the British Army.

This year we are focusing on female engagement and engagement with diverse communities who might like us to speak to them and explain to them our role and our objectives. We run a Super Camp which I mentioned earlier twice a year in which pupils from years 9 to 11 are invited to attend either Wathgill or Strensall Training Camps in Yorkshire for a period of two and a half days to get a taste of outdoor adventure and also experience some of what military life might offer them in the future, should they choose to volunteer and join.

In conclusion the Military Sibling Integration Team in Catterick is seeking your support to engage with youth, your support to explain how our

team might add value to community engagement and also how we might engage school leadership either on-site or off-site through our Youth Engagement Officers who could deliver a variety of activities including STEM activity, team building or leadership training. Thank you Lord Mayor and Councillors for giving us the opportunity to address the Council.

(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 Children & Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Honoured to second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Time to call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*.
That's been CARRIED.

Thank you for coming to today's meeting officers from the relevant department will be in contact with you in due course. Thank you have a good afternoon.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 2 – LEEDS FAIRTRADE GROUP

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting please make your speech to Council which should not take longer than five minutes and begin by introducing the people in your deputation.

MS MACHIN: Thank you. Good afternoon this is Hannah Langdana, Mrs Cynthia Dickinson and my name's Joan Machin. My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors we represent the Leeds Fairtrade Group. We're a small group of volunteers who work to promote Fairtrade and maintain the city's status as a Fairtrade city.

15 years ago the Council voted unanimously to support Leeds becoming a Fairtrade city. That was the first of 5 goals we had to achieve. We are part of a global community there are 600 Fairtrade cities, town and villages in the UK and Horsforth and Morley are Fairtrade Towns in their own right. We also had to ensure a proportion of shops and cafes sell Fairtrade products and we were very grateful when the Council agreed to sell Fairtrade tea and coffee in all their meetings, not sell serve. We also run events often aimed at young people as well as the general public and it's for this reason we're here today. We would like your help to extend our work in the city by

linking up with youth groups, schools, places of worship and communities in your wards.

First here's a reminder of what Fair trade offers farmers in developing countries. Different consumer quality marks can be confusing but the Fairtrade mark still remains the only one that guarantees a fair paid price for farmers. That means that the farmers can have a sustainable income to look after their families. The price also includes a Fairtrade premium and farmers can decide democratically how to spend that money to help their communities. Today climate change is a major challenge the reality is that all agricultural output is being affected by temperature changes and erratic rainfall. Fairtrade help small farmers, helps them adapt with technical advice and financial support and that helps them look after their crops. Here are some of our events that we've had in the last 2 years, first we held our annual Fairtrade celebration for schools here in the Banqueting Suite. The schoolchildren design their own workshops and we were very happy that the Lord Mayor and some Councillors attended. Workshops included learning about Fairtrade footballs from the Bala Football company in Edinburgh and Fairtrade chocolate from the Divine Chocolate Company and next year we are hoping to invite cool schools and they're going to show us a range of Fairtrade school uniforms. We have had stalls in the University of Leeds, the Leeds Playhouse, Marks and Spencer's, various Co-op stores and we've advised businesses about Fairtrade.

Finally we have launched our Fair trade Network linking up communities who promote Fairtrade in the city. Our Facebook page we've got 175 members and with over 3,000 followers on Twitter. Our next step depends on more involvement with groups across your wards who would like to know more about Fairtrade such as schools and youth groups and places of worship. We are holding a competition in January for youth groups our last one, design of T-shirt, was very popular. We can be contacted via our website fairtradeleeds.org.uk we'd love you to get in touch with us and if you'd like to be on our mailing list please let us know. Thank you very much for your time

(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 Resources and Housing for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for coming to today's meeting. Sorry now we got to a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. Thank you for coming. Sorry about that, that's been CARRIED.

MS MACHIN: Thank you very much.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for coming ...

MS MACHIN: Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: To today's meeting. Just wait a minute. Thank you for coming to today's meeting.

(Laughter)

Officers from the relevant department will be in touch with you in due course, have a good afternoon. Thank you.

MS MACHIN: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 3 – ROAD SAFETY DEPUTATION

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon.

SOPHIE: Good afternoon.

THE LORD MAYOR: And welcome to today's meeting please could you now make your speech to Council we should not take longer than five minutes and before you start could you tell us the name of those in your group.

SOPHIE: So this is Orla and this is Nathan. Oh and I'm Sophie.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Lovely, you can begin to speak to us now.

SOPHIE: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors we are delighted to attend your Council meeting today. We're here to tell you about our concerns about the safety of our roads. Let me start by introducing myself and my friends my name is Sophie Powley and this is ...

ORLA: Orla.

NATHAN: Nathan.

SOPHIE: We attend Meanwood C of E Primary School on Green Road. I love living in Meanwood I enjoy walking from my house on Brookfield Road to the local shops, the school and to the park but I don't feel safe on my way to school because cars don't stop at the zebra crossing.

Monk Bridge Road is a busy road there is heavy traffic from cars but also from lorries delivering supplies to Waitrose and Aldi. Cars approach the zebra crossing coming down hill on both sides and one from round the bend.

At the moment there is a large branch with leaves covering one of the crossing globes so it is hard for cars to stop and notice the crossing. I have waited to cross at the zebra crossing with my parents many times and many times cars have not stopped. My brothers tell me the same thing happens to them too I even saw a car trying to overtake another while I was waiting to cross. It isn't just me many children and young people use this crossing because it is the main route between Far Headingley and Meanwood. For example every day children cross this road to get to Meanwood Primary School, Shire Oak Primary School or to the bus stops. The zebra crossing is better than nothing but my friends and I feel unsafe crossing here. I am here today to ask you to make changes to this crossing before me or one of my friends is knocked down, let's not wait till another accident happens. The change I would most like is to reduce the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour along this road. If you won't change the speed limit I would like you to consider a safety package including a 'Zebrite' Belisha Beacon with the ultra-visible Halo' like the one on Potternewton Road or Grove Lane near by 'Slow Down' signs designed by the children, I have produced a few ideas of this myself.

(Applause)

Something to slow the cars down like a raised crossing, slow or slow written clearly on both sides of the road because at the moment slow is only written on one side of the road. I'm very grateful for the work you do to look after our roads but I would like to ask you to look after our children in my neighbourhood too.

We can make sure that Leeds is a considerate city with child-friendly crossings. I know you invited me here because listening to children matters. Please show that you can turn this into action by making crossings safer. Thank you.

(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 City Development for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you for coming.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Delighted to second my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now call for a vote. *(A vote was taken).*
That's been CARRIED.

Can I thank you for coming today to today's meeting officers from the relevant department will get in touch with I'm sure??? today. Have of a lovely afternoon, will you be going back to school now.

Lovely ...

(Laughter)

Have a lovely afternoon. Thank you.

(Applause)

**ITEM 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD –
LEEDS LOCAL PLAN - ADOPTION OF THE SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN**

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move on to Item 5. Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's a tough act to follow those brilliant primary school children I would have liked to gone and thanked them in person but I'll hopefully follow that up after the meeting.

So we're moving today the Leeds Local Plan Adoption of the Site Allocations Plan. We have an imperfect national planning system and I think that is one thing that all of us in this Council Chamber can agree on. We've been through a very lengthy process of officers sifting through sites put forward by landowners and developers for building, one that many of us in this Chamber have lived and breathed for much of the last decade as local ward Councillors seeking to protect sites in our wards and support others that we considered acceptable for housing, employment, retail use and green space. Local Councillors, officers, residents and local communities have spent time and energy working to deliver a plan for the whole city that would meet the needs of our growing population in a sustainable way. This is a highly emotive issue that has been debated many times in this Council Chamber in public inquiries and its examination by Government Planning Inspectors precisely because we all care greatly about the places that we represent and in which we live and work. My ward has seen every type of planning application over the years in which this plan has been developed, new housing on brownfield land like the former East Ardsley Primary School site completed last year and a new estate that started on site this week on the Churchfields that was never in the Council's plan which local councillors across the community alongside the community fought against and which was rejected by Leeds City Council only to be subsequently won by volume house

builders when they appealed against the Council's decision and it went through a public inquiry and was passed by the Secretary of State.

I share the frustrations of many including some of the communities I serve who I and my colleagues have supported to defend green belt sites from developments but without an approved Site Allocation Plan in place we will continue to face uncertainty and be at the mercy of planning appeals with landowners and volume house builders believing they have a free for all to build wherever they wish. An approved Site Allocations Plan will ensure we have a five year housing land supply to defend sites against the sort of speculative developments we have seen in this city in recent years and we'll have a plan led system to determine what is needed and where to make new housing and employment use sustainable.

Councillor Carter's amendment tabled today is both premature and disingenuous. It is premature because we need a plan in place to protect all of the greenfield and green belt sites that are not allocated for housing from that developer free for all. It's disingenuous because he knows that the Core Strategy's Selective review is almost complete. We are awaiting the Government Planning Inspector's report on the reduced housing targets which should be with us in a matter of weeks and Councillor Carter knows that we have committed to bringing forward a SAP review in line with that reduced housing target as soon as the Core Strategy's Selective review is approved. Members should note that 32 green belt sites were taken out of the Site Allocations Plan in this last phase of its development, that the Government's Inspectors in recommending the plan for adoption found it to be sound and legally compliant. The Inspector stated that the site selection requirements were justified and effective and contributed to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. They considered the plan over a shorter time period than originally set out in order to reflect upon the lower housing target for the city that is being considered through that separate process which is nearing completion and will come before this Council at the first available opportunity this autumn.

One myth I do want to bust at the outset of this debate is that the plan is overly dependent on greenfield and green belt sites, brownfield sites make up 60% of those allocated in the plan. It has maximised the use of brownfield sites across the city, brownfield land delivery in Leeds has been at 84% of all developments over the last 10 years and is at 74% of all developments over the last 5 years. The SAP recognises that it's important to have opportunities for new homes in every part of the city through housing growth in tandem with the Council ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: And the affordable housing targets. The SAP gives local people a chance to live in the areas they grew up where they have their support networks and where they have chosen to work. Last sentence Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR Councillor.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: All Members around the Chamber should remember that the adoption of this plan will give us the 5 year housing land supply we need.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw

Councillor Walshaw: Thank you Lord Mayor I second and reserve the right to speak which I will be taking up.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Barry Anderson

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Right the target is still 70,000 you've not changed it, you've not done anything to change it so far we've still got 70,000. The developers still think it's manyana because there are still picking off the sites one by one that suit them best of all in your SAP. They are prioritising those sites first because that's the ones they're going to get the biggest return on. The green belt there are still far too many sites being built in the green belt they are not needed. If you'd gone for phasing like you were advised to do we would have been able to have control over it but yet again you think you're right and everybody else in the city is wrong. You know there's a growing trend seems to be happening in this.

You've confused the public again. Quite rightly your pointing out that the CSSR has still to be concluded, ask the public they couldn't tell you the difference between the SAP and the CSSR, they haven't a clue what's going on because you've not been clear now I do personally absolve you as an individual of that because you were not in charge at the time ...

(Groaning)

Well I'm not but it's not a case of criticising the individual it's the process that's the issue not the individual that's the concern there's fairness where fairness is due. We do need more sites removed otherwise we will be in a problem there's no infrastructure you said that the Inspector is happy with the infrastructure. Well she might be but I can assure you those of us who are just about to lose sight and I'm probably again in your own ward if you're happy with the infrastructure needs in the Haigh Wood site then you would be unique if you're actually happy with the way that the officers set it out. There are no plans to put infrastructure in most of these sites, there are no plans for education to actually do something about the ongoing problems, there are no plans to try and get increased public transport into those areas, there are no plans to try and improve the green infrastructure in the area, there are no plans to try and improve the Forest belts that we've got around the city none whatsoever and when it comes to sustainability we on this side were ahead of the game we pointed out to you that you are not meeting the climate change objectives long before you decided to bring forward a motion and say that these sites were not sustainable. The NPPF says very clearly things need to be environmentally sustainable and socially sustainable. Your site miss those in most instances particularly in the green belt areas.

Then you go to paragraph 3.13 which has suddenly been slipped in about Gypsy and Traveller sites. What plans have you got (inaudible). You didn't mention that as to what your plans are, how you're going to meet the needs of what the Inspector wanted by increasing the number of sites, where are these sites going to be, some of them is going to come from the private sector I agree but where are the Council ones going to come from, which areas are going to get picked up on it.

So what we we're trying to do with this amendment is try and get proper consultations the next time we totally lost the public the last time with the way you consulted, you need to look to give more weight to Neighbourhood Plan Groups and to local Councillors in terms of the site that would be best to be built in their areas. So what we're really saying in conclusion is let's get on with this SAP review once the CSSR has been concluded let's get a clear timetable in place, let's get cleared meetings in the diaries so that Councillors know in advance this is the date that you're going to be coming to see them to discuss and talk things through, let's work together this a is great knockabout having a (inaudible) but it would be far better for the city if we actually work together instead of you telling us across here all the time 'you're all totally wrong you don't understand it' and that your the only people that actually understand it. Now that's not true

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: You're getting the blame.

(Laughter)

Did you say anything. I honestly am finishing so let's get this sorted out let's work together. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR LAMB: That was like my mother used to give me a slap just in case.

I second and reserve the right to speak Lord Mayor which I will be exercising.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Lord Mayor. George Orwell in his seminal work 1984 introduced us to the ideas of double think and new speak and one analysis of 1984 says the novel explicitly shows people learning double think and newspeak due to peer pressure or to gain status within the party. And newspeak is about

(Inaudible background talking)

Newspeak is about holding contradictory views at the same time and suggesting that that is an acceptable position and indeed people will remember 1984 will know that they have three slogans of the party, war is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength and perhaps we could for our comrades on the left add another one save greenfield and green belt sites from housing development by allocating greenfield and green belt sites for development, a classic example of double think. Now Morley's been devastated by the comrades double think and newspeak as we saw Laneside Farm refused by the local community but agreed by the Labour Party for housing developments and the same happened with Low Moor Farm, the same happened with Owlars Farm and the same happened with Petty Close Farm. All rejected by the local community, all passed via the Labour Party, all opposed by all the parties on this side of the Chamber and that leads us nicely on to Haigh Woods and the 1 Morley Labour Councillor and the Ardsley and Robin Hood Labour Councillors would be very good at newspeak in their own back yards by arguing that there against development on Haigh Farm but have backed the target each and every time, backed the SAP each and every time but they tell their community we're against development on Haigh Wood.

Now we have been warning since 2008 that Labour's Regional Spatial Strategy that the target was too high, we've said that time and time again and that leaves it to be a developers opportunity to concrete over all of our greenfield sites and I would say to our colleagues who've talked the talk in public meetings in Ardsley and Robin Hood and in Morley South to join today by rejecting this SAP and making sure that Haigh Wood is saved from housing development, do something positive for a change. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garner.

COUNCILLOR GARNER: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking today on the Site Allocations Plan. A Plan requested, required even of all Local Authorities not just us in Leeds to determine where housing, employment and green space is to be allocated across the city. It is an important milestone in our planning for sustainable development in the city as without an agreed plan in place a presumption in favour of development by the Government will mean that housing developers will continue to cherry pick the land they most easily and cheaply will be able to build on. This has been seen in our own ward in East Ardsley at the Churchfields development which has Councillor Mulherin pointed out has just started on site this week. Churchfield was the planning application refused by Leeds City Council but the developers are able to have this decision overturned by the Government Planning Inspector and Tory Minister Sajid Javid at appeal because we didn't have an agreed Site allocation Plan in place. We cannot have more examples of these people who don't know anything about the local area overturning locally made decisions. Our Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward is made up of 8 villages and so developers and landowners in the initial stages of the Site Allocation Plan process expressed an interest in building on 9 sites

in Lofthouse and Newsam Well Green, 10 sites in Robin Hood, 8 sites in and around Thorpe, 5 sites in Tingley, 13 sites in East Ardsley and 9 sites in West Ardsley. Development on that scale would be hugely damaging to our local communities and without agreement of this Site Allocation Plan today we run the risk of any delay causing any number of those sites to be built on because of this presumption in favour of development by the Government's whereas most of these sites will receive protection from development by the SAP.

I welcome the fact that the agreement of this Site Allocation Plan will place limits on speculative developments whilst meeting the need for additional housing across the whole city and protecting the vast majority of our green belt spaces. On a personal level I know myself and ward colleagues, Councillors Mulherin and Renshaw were disappointed to see the inclusion of some sites within our ward such as our only green belt site Spink Well Lane in Tingley which has been left out of Councillor Carter's amendment for some reason and land either side of Haigh Woods in West Ardsley that we as ward Councillors would have loved to have protected from development but the fact remains that the benefits of having a Site Allocation Plan agreed today means that in our ward the many sites been eyed up by over eager developers are protected from by limiting developments at a few sites included in the Site Allocation Plan. Now I've spoken with many residents in my ward about planning some of whom are in favour of this plan for those reasons some of whom are against the adoption of this plan but it's my belief that to prevent vast swathes of unsustainable development across the entirety of our ward this plan should not be further delayed therefore today I will be voting in support of the Site Allocation Plan being formally adopted by this Council.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garthwaite. Councillor Garthwaite.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: Sorry. I welcome this chance to speak on the SAP and how it relates to sustainability. It's very pleasing that the Independent Inspector has found the SAP to be sound and sustainable. We welcome the fact we now have a locked in plan based approach to our housing needs. Sustainability is a key issue when we talk about housing growth across Leeds. It's a subject that's increasingly important not just in terms of the SAP but in all aspects of the Council's work. So throughout the Inspector's report there are lots of references to sites being considered sustainable and obviously this is most welcome however sustainability as it's meant in the Inspector's report is not the be all and end all of the matter. Although sites may be considered sustainable for their locations they require much more when we finally see homes being built, so as well as ensuring we have homes in the right locations we need to know these homes will be built to the highest environmental standards. We need to know that there will be designed with renewable energy in mind, we need to know they'll be connected to jobs and leisure by sustainable travel means. Now that means cycle routes, that means walking routes, that means public transport we have planned for sustainable locations and are doing a great deal to provide

sustainable solutions but we need a range of powers and funding to make sure we are delivering fully sustainable living.

Sadly I do have to say we see a Government that fails to act decisively on this agenda, a Government that has slashed subsidies for renewable energy, reduced funding and continues to hamper the local ability to provide public transport where there's a desperate local need but as always we must act regardless of what Government does or does not do.

I believe we're all dedicated to making sure Leeds is a sustainable city with a sustainable plan and sustainable homes. We have this embedded in our Best Council Plan as a key objective so it can influence every area of our work and turn Leeds into an exemplar of sustainable living. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Gruen

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Lord Mayor Leeds was one of the first councils in the country to get its Core Strategy approved in 2014 and ever since then we've been working on the hugely extensive and overbearing task of compiling the Site Allocations Plan and now finally it has been approved and now at this stage for the opposition to continue to whinge and disapprove to belittle and to scoff just shows that there are only interested in fighting yesterday's battles rather than rising to tomorrow's challenges. Well this administration is facing up to those challenges and the opposition will just have to make their minds up whether they want to live in the past or be part of this new direction, this now possible vision.

We now need to take on the unscrupulous developers particularly many of the volume house builders and demand much higher quality design, a far more convincing grasp of sustainability, a measurable contribution to the climate change agenda and respect for our policies around greenspace, room sizes, layout and garden space. I would like to thank all the generations of Councillors who've been through their involvement in Planning have made this happen under a Labour administration which grasped the nettle on this important milestone with a land supply of 5 to 7 years we need to weed out and challenge reluctant developers to comply with the Leeds vision. But I want to draw your attention particularly to the fact that we have been commended in the Inspector's report for a range of good practice in Leeds particularly Councillor Anderson for our work on the Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Show person population. The Inspector's report states that it is difficult to engage the Gypsy and Traveller community in local planning and certainly it has been my experience that to engage this community you need to have empathy with their lifestyle and culture and engage in places where the GTR community naturally come together. Leeds Council did this spectacularly well in a whole range of ways and a good example is the consultation event that was held at the Lee Gap Horse Fair. To quote the Inspector the Council's efforts to engage the Gypsy and Traveller community in the process provide an exemplary example, her English not mine Lord

Mayor. Careful consideration and research was also applied to the specific needs and circumstances of travelling show persons and by working closely with the show person's Guild the Council gained clear understanding of showpeople's needs many sites were painstakingly visited and assessed before finally identifying on a fit for purpose bases those set down in the plan and the Inspector concludes the site allocations are justified by a robust process of site selection methodology.

Not only does this work demonstrate the Council's commendable approach to site allocation it demonstrates our commitment to ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Integration ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: of all communities living and welcomed in Leeds from all places and backgrounds.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to also add my thanks to officers and Members who've worked hard to bring the SAP review to this point a successful on the brink of a successful conclusion. It has of course been highly criticised by the opposition with the continuing knockabout over, pardon ...

(Inaudible background talking)

Housing numbers and green belt developments. Let's, do you wanna all hecle one at a time then we can hear you.

(Inaudible background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me, excuse me there's no kids in the school ground your all adults. Could you please let Councillor Ritchie speak and you got a few seconds on your

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor you've always been my favourite, you know that don't you.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie not today.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Let's remember an independent Government Inspector has declared its sound based on the evidence at the time at every stage.

I'm going to explore our approach to brownfield development which if you take what the opposition have continually banged on about is low down on our priorities on the contrary let's look at the facts. In the SAP the majority of sites are brownfield 60% is brownfield and only 7% is green belt. This Council has always stressed the need for brownfield development as a priority for housing. In the last 7 years over 80% of all new homes in Leeds have been built on brownfield sites in 2018/19 9,600 new homes would have proved through planning permissions which is a record level for the city of these over 75% are on previously developed land. This Council through the SAP has continued in its commitment to identify brownfield sites for development. We've published a brownfield land register with over 300 sites to help lead the way in bringing forward previously developed land for new homes. This includes a proactive live view of surplus brown land in the Council's ownership that is essential for residential development. It brings together all proposals for market led or public sector funding housing on these sites into a coordinated approach. The how when and where housing can be delivered. However although we pushed for a strong preference for brownfield development see our ambitions fully realised we need more support in dealing with developers who may hamper that ambition. As an Authority as of July last year we have granted planning permission for 18,000 houses that the city desperately needs which have not yet been built if these had been built there'd be no problem at all with the 5 year land supply. We can't start building on these sites ourselves, the years of restriction of borrowing to build on Council homes and Right to Buy meaning we have to sell 3 to build 1 replacement has prevented that.

Adding to the housing crisis and leaving us reliant on developers to hold up there part of the deal and start building. Great swathes of brownfield land with planning permission for housing are still not built on why is this without doubt to keep house prices high and unaffordable for the many alongside landbanking and holding out for more lucrative sites to maximise their profits. We've had warm words from Government on sorting this critical issue but little action and what have Senior Conservatives in Government on their approach

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie please.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: To green belt, we heard multiple briefings by Cabinet Ministers. I know it's red but you kept interrupting me.

(Laughter)

We've had multiple briefings. Liz Truss, what did Lizz Truss say 'I do think we need to open up more land for building ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: A lot more'. We're finishing on Lizz Truss that's a bad way to end int it but thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry Councillor Ritchie.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor McKENNA

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: Thank you Lord Mayor. Getting our long term housing policy and direction planned in a clear and right way is essential for the future of our city and our communities it has been a long and often difficult process getting where we are now but I welcome the fact that we have approved a sound plan that has been through such rigour and challenge.

Adopting the SAP today is so important for the city and for some and many reasons having a SAP in place will help the Council in decision and deliberations about getting the right infrastructure in the right place this is critical to allow the city to grow in a positive way it needs to. The plan has considered the transport needs of sites, new school place provision and worked closely with CCG in supporting their own investment planning to take account of the increased in housing. We can categorically demonstrate a 5 year land . The consequences of not having a 5 year land supply is indeed dire and we would start to lose control over where much needed homes are to be built. Speculative developers would run rampant with the Council wishes being overridden on appeal and we've heard some examples of that today from Ben and Lisa.

Indeed we have seen the problems in different parts of the city where Planning Inspectors overturn democratic local decisions. That is why we must never lose sight of why the SAP is so important to future housing in our community. The SAP means that new housing is brought in in a structured and shared way rather than any one part of the city having to shoulder the enormity of the housing Leeds needs. Combined with Core Strategy it will allow growth of affordable homes in strategic areas across the city something that is desperately needed. The rigours and events that the SAP provides us is so critical in defending the green belt from cherry pickers by developers or prevent those same developers simply passing over suitable brownfield sites with impunity I think everyone in this Chamber and in our community should welcome it's adoption and I move Lord Mayor. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. As I'm listening to comrades across the Chamber I hear a voice in my head My Lord Mayor the voice of Councillor John Procter and he would be saying My Lord Mayor well what a mess they've got themselves in, what a mess.

(Inaudible background talking)

We've got a number of 70,000 houses that are still there in today's Site Allocations Plan and for sure and for sure thank goodness for the Government

(Groaning)

Thank goodness for the Government because while you were clinging like a drowning man to a raft to your number of 70,000 they came up with the planning for the right homes in the right places and but for that we would have 20,000 more houses being allocated today than we needed. What a mess Lord Mayor and you know listening to the administration and reading their many many press releases on the subject one could be mistaken, fooled if you would into believing that the champions of green belts riding on their white horses to the rescue of the nonsense what unmitigated nonsense because again there are sites and we all know on this side of the House because we were the ones weren't we that turned up to, turned up while the Inspector was carrying out the investigation, we were the ones there not you. We were the ones there standing up for the green belt in this city there are sites that would never have been there but for the fact you insisted year after year to clinging to that ridiculously inflated figure still inflated I might add.

Lord Mayor if there was a mission to make this as complicated as obfuscated as possible that is the only success they've had today yes there may be a 5 year land supply but it is way over the odds and there are sites there that should never have been there and you should be ashamed that there at all. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I am very very proud to represent Aireborough. Aireborough is a wonderful place on the Northwest of Leeds, historic sites, gateway to some beautiful countryside and also the entrance into Leeds from some beautiful countryside and the people there appreciate that. They also appreciate the fact that over the last 15 years they've had to have about 3,000 houses built on what were originally 11 factory sites, 2 utility sites and a Grammar School site and they feel that they've probably done their bit, that they have sacrificed a great deal of what developers call a beautiful part of Leeds that people want to live in and that's their excuse for now or correction as you're excuse, Labour's excuse for making Aireborough the target of more housing we have only green belt, greenfield and farmers field sites in the SAP, there still in the SAP and believe you me when I hear Councillor Gruen who I have hitherto respected a great deal talking about whingeing, whingeing ...

(Laughter)

No, Caroline, whingeing. This is not whingeing this is standing up for the people who live in our wards the people who deserve the best from us and not to be continually told your green belt, your greenfields your farmers' fields don't matter. Really I think there's a strong sense of community in Aireborough. You took the name away about 15 years ago, gave us Guiseley and Rawdon, a piece of your sort of ward that lost bits of Aireborough but then you you saw fit to give it back to us as an HMCA, Aireborough and thank you for that I do appreciate that. But as I say we have a strong, very strong sense of community in Aireborough, the people feel to be part of something and they are all part of something they want to preserve. Now then the Labour benches an awful lot of you do believe in community it's why you're doing this you're representing a community and in view of that I have to ask why the heck are you trying to destroy. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. Talking about this SAP review I wanted to make a few remarks on the SAP review in the context of the climate change emergency. It's obviously slipped the minds of the party opposite that a few weeks ago this is what they declared it was going to be a climate emergency and just on that aspect of this whole thing and as Members know the first meeting of that Advisory Committee took place about a week ago and there was a big crowd in the public gallery at that meeting and it was a very quiet well behaved crowd and I'll just come back to that point in a few moments time and on that particular aspect of this on this side we intend to be as constructive as possible on that particular aspect of climate and I know that Councillor Walshaw is of the same mind. But in this Chamber we've got to be completely clear as Councillor Latty has just said about what we believe on specific areas and that will make the work of that particular committee simpler and clearer and this review of sites actually flies in the face of the declared emergency it's either emergency or it's not. You now have 38 sites still remaining with 4,000 houses to be built in the green belt and as my colleagues have already pointed out these are mainly sites which like infrastructure and I have to say talking not only to, listening listening to Councillor Gruen but also Councillor Garthwaite saying that all these things that the builders must be persuaded to do. That's exactly what this doesn't force them to do. There actually talking against their own proposals so we have a situation where there's very little infrastructure lacking in skills, lacking in railway stations, lacking reliable bus services and therefore being dependent for transport in and out of the city on the private car so once again your going to have 4/5 bedroom houses 2 or 3 cars per house into the city on polluted corridors and these are typically in Calverley and Farsley. Adel, Pudsey, Guiseley and Robin Hood so having declared this a climate emergency this car dependency is going to include unnecessary traffic queues, pollution from older diesel engines, idling engines all the time in this situation. Now people are behind this whole business about alleviating climate change people are actually ahead of politicians on all this, businesses are with this but that crowd I mentioned earlier who sat there quietly and

attentively listening to our discussions if if we don't alter some of these decisions which are ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: dependent?? upon those they're going to get very very disillusioned very quickly thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord and I support the amendment in the name of Councillor Lamb because the intention of this amendment is to review and protect communities both now and in the future. Councillor Anderson sorry I was looking down at Councillor Lamb

(Background talking)

And I welcome the enthusiasm for the administration supporting the Government and the Government Inspector's role but I do have to ask where were you when the debate was happening, where you every day when this was happening, where was the Executive Member leading the charge because he wasn't listening attentively to so many communities across Leeds, some would say he was saving his seat, some would say he should have been in the seat in the room and making that case and he might still be here in that seat in the room today. The administration members were absent, they were vacant, they were invisible, not present and that left the situation rudderless and a bit of a shambles. I applaud the officers for the work they were trying to do in holding this together but there should have been some real political leadership happening and it just wasn't happening that day.

Now as Councillor Buckley has said we face down the ticking clock of this climate emergency and there is a very very real worry from so many in the extinction rebellion movement that this is nothing but warm words from officials and politicians that very little action to build on green belt and on greenfield land to build on what Councillor Latty said some of these beautiful areas, well they won't be beautiful for very long once the diggers start to roll in and for too long this debate has happened around housing you must be as bored as I am around White Papers and motions on housing but the problem is that the listening isn't happening we're being told it is but still sites are being threatened that should never ever be in the process, they should never have even been considered and I know that comrades opposite love a target but actually that 70,000 target was never ever sustainable. A 50,000 target was far more reachable and some even then said that 50,000 target was far too far and it really is worrying that through so many White Papers that will happen and will keep happening if the listening process and an action process to follow it doesn't occur.

I finally would like to applaud so many groups that attended the SAP the Core Strategy in all of this and have engaged with members across the city from my own ward Save Parlington, Save our Schools, Bardsey Action Group and others but in Alwoodley, Pudsey, Calverley, Horsforth, Wetherby, Robin Hood and Ardsley all of those people who've come together not to oppose new homes but to make sure that they protect their communities, they protect what's beautiful about Leeds and they make sure that they make their case in the right and responsible way and expect us to act Lord Mayor.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you thank you Lord Mayor echoing comments made by my ward colleague Councillor Robinson there about the process itself but in the interest of being collegiate I just like to make a few comments about my ward specifically because one of the perhaps proudest achievements I've managed here perhaps in 3 years so far is there's probably not a Councillor in this room who doesn't know what Parlington is, where it is and why this fantastic piece of Grade II listed Parks and Gardens in the Outer North East of this city is so important on grounds of its history, its heritage, its biodiversity, its farming influence on this city as well and crucially why it would be an utter travesty, an utter travesty to build houses on that piece of green belt as this administration, as this administration wanted to and so with that in mind I just wanted to make a few comments on record to thank the excellent Save Parlington Action Group expertly chaired by Adrian Sykes, supported by the Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council also Save Our Schools for protecting the safeguarded land in Scholes and all the other areas in our vicinity as well because when these issues come about, and it was just shortly after I was elected in May 2016, the first major public event I had to go to was an organised consultation day in Aberford about the plans and it really brought out of the woodwork actually how much community engagement is important and how much is a willingness from communities to learn more about the planning process and there not prepared to be ridden over roughshod by administrations like they were about to be here in Leeds and that's the reason this amendment is so important because whilst we've won the battle of today there will be a battle of tomorrow and it's important that we review as early as possible the plan to make sure that green belt and greenfield sites aren't being used unnecessarily but also and my hope that in the future when we have to do this process all over again the HMCA boundaries are looked at because one instance we had in the Outer North East was that there are going to be thousands of houses built just on the edge of our ward in Crossgates and Whinmoor that are actually now in our Ward boundary after the ward boundary changes and that didn't count towards our allocation that means that green belt and greenfield land in the Outer North East is being used unnecessarily

so in supporting that just to put on my record thanks to the action groups in the Outer North East and those across the city who defeated this Labour Administration's plans to build on our green belt. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor I speak in support of the amendment in Councillor Anderson's name. I think every time I've spoken about planning recently it's always been about the numbers and that's really where you are as a group. You've got crossed because you've got the numbers wrong from the start. The start was that developers really wanted you to be in the 90,000 and you paid a bit of lip service to that at the start which then tied you in to an actual decision of 70,000 which was far too high and you were then in the track of developers, you then agreed to review it but you were far too slow in reviewing it so of course you've got the SAP on 70,000 rather than on what should be 52 and there's an argument as to whether that is still too high at 52 but it's half of where you were when you started at 90 and then to add insult to injury having settled on 70 you then decided to divide the city up into housing characteristic areas with no flexibility which left you not really promoting any brownfield that could come forward, you know in my area there is no incentive for any brownfield to come forward because it will be in addition to the greenfield going as well so there is no incentive for that brownfield to come forward and you may think that I'm trying to plead special case for Aireborough well I sort of am because although, as my ward colleague says, Aireborough has taken an awful lot on brownfield sites, mills that have closed. I think 12 in 12 years closed and were developed at a very intensive rate which meant there's a lot of properties. We also border another authority, Bradford. which you don't seem to take any affect to them either. There is currently been built a lot of properties in Menston and the Esholt development is going to come on line as well. They are going to use, particularly Menston, are going to come straight into Guiseley and Rawdon to shop, to use a dentist, to use a doctors and use the roads. The Esholt site will be very similar and there is no, you've not taken anything in reward for that it just, you don't seem to have communicated with Bradford as to how they are at all, their building right up to our boundary and you don't seem to be particularly interested in that and there's no provision for infrastructure. Every site says it will have a cumulative impact on the infrastructure but not enough for you to do anything and Councillor Gruen I hope your going to be able to deliver everything you say your going to be able to deliver when it comes to planning but I get the feeling that developers will say this is a SAP site we can build what we want and if you don't let us build what we want we'll go to appeal and it will cost you money you know and so I'm not very sure that you can actually deliver all what you want because what you want there is what we actually want, we don't want the site developing really if we're going to get it we want a high quality build and high quality development and I hope that you will stand by your principles and deliver that and not just say your going to deliver it and the other thing about the Labour,

you know we've not been heckled quite as much as you and I think you heckle because all your comments are made by your group office, we speak from the heart and all ours are just written on scraps of paper and we tend, we tend to ...

(Background talking)

We tend to do better than that. I'll leave it on the fact that this is a very bad plan from start to finish. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Anderson.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Councillor Caroline Gruen said do we want to live in the past or immerse ourselves in the future. Well thanks to their planning policies on the opposite side the future is packed with housing in my ward on unsustainable greenfield locations. Full of housing in locations that are far from public transport, where the infrastructure cannot support schooling needs now never mind in the future. We had spare brownfield land locally at Holt Park where Council housing could have been built but instead we get houses on sites, where an officer's admission, are further than policy says they should be from the nearest bus stop. Where houses are built the mix of housing is wrong, there's is nothing for first time buyers who want to stay in the area, there's nothing for older people locally who want to downsize which would then release family housing with 4 and 5 bedrooms and those older people want to stay in the community because that's where their lives are, they don't want to move somewhere else.

Following on from what Councillor Cohen said you are not defenders of the green belt. Where were you during the SAP enquiries, nowhere you were nowhere. We were all there defending the green belt, we were there defending our areas on behalf of our residents who are begging us to stop building houses on unsustainable sites. Councillor Mulherin was trying to say that the developers will not come forward until the plan is adopted but already there are a number of pre application meetings in relation to sites that you failed to defend that should have been either kept in green belt or put back into green belt. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Amanda Carter.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you my Lord Mayor. So here we are it's been a long road and now we are about to consider the Site Allocations Plan. It's such a pity it's taken so long and that the Council got its numbers so badly wrong which has led to a disjointed and confusing process for residents and unnecessary development on the green belt. The amount of houses (inaudible) on has been reduced but there are still over 4,000 houses to be built on the green belt in our city. A figure that's far too high and could

easily have been avoided with a different approach and a lower housing figure.

It seems to me that Members opposite appear to think that the SAP is a success story and think that all along that you'd got it right and that's what the city needs and wants. Well let me tell you it's not. It's not just me, it's all the Members across at this side. It's the community groups that have come here and represented opposing it and its children who stopped me in the street and say 'what can we do to save the greenfields'. They're worried about climate change, yes they do, yes they do. When I'm walking my dog 2 children stopped me the other night and said 'what can we do to stop building on the green belt, greenfields' because they're worried about climate and it's got nothing to do with sustainability is an absolute stranger to climate change, they have no idea we suggested that when you adopted the Core Strategy all the way back in 2014 we moved an amendment that stated that the Council undertakes an immediate review of all housing numbers in the light of popular projections and ministerial statements to commence in tandem with the forthcoming consultation on site allocations and to be completed before specific site allocations take place. Almost 5 years ago we suggested that and yet you've still to complete the Core Strategy Selected Review and yes my Lord Mayor we are still left with a housing target of 70,000 homes, quite incredible. 5 years since you gave the opportunity to vote for an immediate review of housing numbers. There are deeply unpopular sites in my own ward at Owlcotes Farm, Calverley Cutting, Sunnybank and Gain Lane.

The CPRE has produced plenty of evidence that suggests that brownfield land is being left underdeveloped while Local Authorities create local plans that propose housing delivery on greenfield and green belt land. Recently the CPRE figures suggest that Yorkshire and Humber region there are 1800 brownfield sites almost 14,000 hectares that are currently underdeveloped and this land has a capacity to develop 108,289 housing units.

My Lord Mayor a lower housing target would mean no development on the green belt land in Leeds and we would still like the target to be lower. It's such a pity that throughout you have not listened, you've not listened to us and you have not listened to the community. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. This is a memorable day really because you find me not only agreeing with Councillor Buckley but also with Councillor Stephenson as well so remember this and with Councillor Buckley he's absolutely right that this is about climate change as well not only the impact that the houses and the infrastructure or lack of infrastructure would have on these green belt sites but also the effect of building on them, digging them up, not cutting down the trees, breaking up land. These green belt sites are a great store of carbon and once we start

interfering with that we are putting more carbon into the city where we're trying to reduce it and then would have to find other areas to offset that.

Councillor Stephenson's point about the community it is only the community the communities involved there have been standing up to the administration. The administration has let down communities significantly in in these areas and Councillor Anderson's amendment lists a whole range of sites, green belt sites and at the bottom it says amongst others and one of those amongst others is one in my ward, Tetley Field, a big green belt site and it was only because of the work of the community supported by local Councillors that we were able to stop the development on that site and in fact the planning committee, the Plans Panel heard farm experts that really, there should not really have been any development on that site at all but it was only the community standing up against the administration and it was really, it shouldn't have been put in the plan at all that site it was because of a deal between the administration and the developer who wanted to develop the Headingley Stadium and saw a connection with this and it was all a bit, it was all a bit shabby and despite the headlines that we get from our Labour MP and our Labour Councillors in the ward that say we have saved Tetley Field, we haven't, we have delayed it we have delayed by a few years and as someone else said here we are going to have to fight those battles again so the communities mustn't be complacent it must recognise that we will have these battles again and we will have to fight for our green spaces again.

Thank you very much Lord mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. This is an important subject and the quality of the debate reflects that. I think also it must have been the prospect of yet another discussion about these, the SAP ones have drawn the City Solicitor back from her sickbed, we're pleased to see you, I'm sure you really enjoy yourself.

(Laughter)

Can I start with a thank you and that's a thank you to Councillor Caroline Gruen for describing the parallel world in which the Labour Group live ...

(Laughter)

But I suppose we should say there are two elements to this there is some good news and there's some bad. Now the good news that is that if this is passed, well it will be passed because the Labour Group will pass it whatever we say. We will have a defensible 5 year land supply and we will be able to resist the predatory attempts by the mass house builders to occupy parts of Leeds but the bad news that it still opens up large parts of Leeds for future development and if Labour and let's just go back to Councillor Procter

and Parlington cos you said Councillor Procter did say this is a mess I also remember him saying when we voted on the Core Strategy that we needed a Core Strategy which was why the Conservatives were going to vote for it and on Parlington I would just remind you and it's true that the Community Group have successfully fought for Parlington but I would just remind you that who put Parlington in, it wasn't the Labour Group I have to be honest with you that

(Inaudible background talking)

OK

(Applause)

That said, that said, that said Councillor Procter did in a similar situation to St Paul have that Damascus moment and realised that he was wrong. Anyway quickly if Labour hadn't pushed through the Core Strategy we wouldn't be stuck with the £70,000, er 70,000 housing target. They resisted the review for a long time unfortunately a number of local communities have been put through a great deal of confusion and uncertainty. We still believe that there are many green belt, greenfield sites in the SAP that will not be needed. We also fear that sites that have been saved as you seem to call it over there have rather been put back for development at a later stage. Labour has therefore sown the seeds for future long term extensive disruption of Leeds green space through housing development.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks Lord Mayor. To continue the Orwellian theme started by Councillor Finnigan I would suggest that the Labour Group's approach to the Core Strategy and Site Allocation Plan is a little bit less 1984 and a little bit more Animal Farm but at the conclusion of the novel instead of just betraying their farmyard friends and comrades they end up selling off the farm to the two legs to build houses on.

(Laughter)

What I will remind Councillor Garner is, yes it is responsibility of every single Council to produce a Core Strategy and a Development Plan but it isn't their duty to inflate the target so much that it makes it unsustainable at the very outset and we have to ask ourselves why was that target set so high that we've had to spend 3 years reducing to a much more reasonable level and it's because this Council was driven by greed it wanted to lie down with the developers it wanted them to build as many houses as possible so that you could get the council tax income and you could get the new homes bonus

(Background talking)

And this is the lesson that needs to be learnt by a lot of the Members on these benches that were elected after those decisions were made and you now reaping the benefits and I'll tell you who's reaping the benefits as well Councillor Gruen talking about, talking about how we're whingeing and how we need to face future challenges. I'm not being funny but you're not going to face the future challenges because you as a chief apologist and your husband as the Chief Architect of the original plan live in a nice area that faces no housing expansion.

(Cheers and applause)

However the places your role representing quite a lot of them are going to face huge expansion I'm looking particularly at Councillor Graham there who has taken this stoically. What I will say is I draw the new Members present to two particular pages that are within your agenda items and its page 127 and 128 and it talks about the different housing characteristic areas and how many of their new homes in their area are going to be built on green belt land or brownfield land so for all of the headlines that you've been given which is ooh 60% is going to be brownfield land that's on a hypothetical plan we know that builders want to build where they want to build and it tends to be green belt and out of the 11 housing characteristic areas that are on that list 5 of them have over two thirds of their housing allocation on green belt and 3 of them have over 75% which includes my area and Councillor McKenna if your talking about how your group has helped developers keep off cherry picking all I will say is all our cherries are picked because we had 4 sustainable housing areas that were down to be safeguarded and this Council through its prevarication, its mismanagement and its folly in pursuing that ridiculous target has meant that we've lost every single one of them and if you look on page 128 ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: It points out that my area ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: along with many others have 2,000 houses on them that shouldn't be there.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Hasn't this process gone on. We first started looking at these sites in 2012 the year that I first got on Council. In that time though they've been examined and reviewed both internally and externally many times and we on this side and in our communities remain, as others have pointed out, concerned that the Site Allocation Plans still contains a number of greenfield and green belt sites which will not be needed to meet local housing need. For example Victoria

Avenue in my own ward. Locally though we are fortunate to have groups like Otley Town Council and in Yeadon, Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum who are working hard to mitigate Labour's proposals through their Neighbourhood . So as we come to an end of this long process I just wanted, much like Councillor Stephenson, to place on record my thanks for all the work they have done for their communities and thank them for their positive contributions and wish them well in their future endeavours to produce, agree and seek approval for their neighbourhood plans. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor D. Blackburn

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Councillor Lay says that we've come to end of process, actually were at halfway stage it's half-time because the fact is this SAP is based upon the Core Strategy and that is 70,000 houses. It's got to be revised if the Core Strategy is passed, the revised Core Strategy is passed. So what we are talking about, we're only half way through process we should have got on with it, we should have got on with it with right number of houses and not the 70,000 that the administration have been talking about all that time. It's been wrong from first day they ever mentioned it and all the opposition parties for most of the time I have been arguing that and we're ignored for a long long period. The fact is if you would have gone in with right figures, lots of houses we'd have still had us 5 year land supply and lots of the sites, the past sites wouldn't have been built on and we wouldn't have got planning permission.

I agree with administration on one thing and I will criticise the Central Government for that and that is they aren't doing anything about landbanking. If you take the number of sites that's got planning permission we could take probably half of the houses out of the SAP but no they're not building on them, they haven't built on them. If you sit on a planning committee, I sit on City Plans how many times do we go to a site and somebody gets planning permission and then a few years later somebody comes along with another planning application. Right well if you got a brown field site get it built on and I think Governments at fault there and they need to do something about that but as I said this is not the end of the story in fact it's not particularly good news, it is in the sense that we've got something there that stops the developers building wherever they want but there are places within this SAP where lots of us spent weeks in next door the public hearing making a case that these pieces of land shouldn't be included and we will continue to fight those but at least as a sub I suppose if we've got this SAP then we've got some room to fight on it but as I said this is not the end of the process it's only half time and there's a long way to go yet. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Collins.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. The Site Allocation Plan is about to be approved and adopted by the Labour Group. Everyone

involved with this generation is now sitting back, putting their feet up and patting themselves on the back. Even the Development Plans Panel meeting for next week has been cancelled because there are no items of business to discuss. Please wake up, things are not complete there are huge holes within the documents that we've been shown and they all need addressing, unplugging urgently. I have for some time now been challenging why there isn't more information against each site with regards to Highways. A senior Planning Officer told me that planning couldn't do anything unless Highways had a policy that they could incorporate into the documents. Highways Officers have told me that Planning is going to put in all of the conditions. Our teams are still working in silos this needs to stop otherwise we will never get the infrastructure we and our communities need.

I have recently read through the proposals for both of the HMCA's for Aireborough and North. There are a total of 32 HG2 sites listed. Of those 32 only 1 asks the developers of the site to contribute land towards an adjacent road improvement. Of the 32 sites 20 of them don't even have a Highways heading or comment. Of the 32, 20 run immediately adjacent to a road with a bus route on it. A bus route without a bus lane but none of the guidelines asked for the land to be set aside in case one day that road needs to be widened for a bus lane. Developers can still build right up to the boundary with the road if they wish.

To highlight further how inadequate our documents are as they stand 1 of the 32 sites is immediately adjacent to Horsforth roundabout. A junction that is mentioned a few times another site details. But for the site immediately next to the roundabout where we might need to take some land the only Highways comment is effectively you will have to exit from the rear of the site. These conditions to set aside land for potential future bus lanes need to be put into the details now. Officers say things such as this will all be sorted out later when the planning application comes in but it won't some sites have already planning permission and the houses are being built now. No one from Planning was able to ask the land to be set aside because we hadn't written and adopted a policy or document about it. I would urge all Councillors to look at their sites within their wards urgently. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Taylor

COUNCILLOR J TAYLOR: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Around a year ago I spoke in this Chamber for the first time explaining my view that Labour's housing target of 70,000 units is too high and the green belt sites around the city would be at risk until this number was lowered. At the hearings my colleagues and I defended the green belt alongside residents groups, the Town and Parish Councillors in our areas and with the support of our local MPs including Stuart Andrew. Many years of hard work had gone into preparing for this and I pay particular tribute to those residents groups and the thousands of people living in Horsforth and Rawdon who contributed to the SAP process. Some of the most contentious sites in my ward including the

Strawberry Fields previously allocated for over 717 houses have been removed from the Plan and returned to green belt, this is a significant victory for us and vindicates the position we took against the broad location policy pushed by this Council.

There remain however concerns on the sites still in the plan in our ward not least the green belt land around the Horsforth Campus that with the inclusion of the old college site is subject to a planning application of over 180 units. Residents in the neighbouring Victoria estate are rightly concerned over school places in Horsforth and although Children's Services have sought to address this in separate meetings with us this is an issue we very much intend to keep our eyes on.

The amendment today will move sites like this to the final phase of delivering this plan. It is what our residents want to ensure brownfield is developed first and our green belt is protected as national policy requires. The 4,000 homes still allocated on green belt across the city may not be needed by the end of this period and we must do what we can here today to protect them.

The biggest threat to our green belt continues to be Labour. It is a Labour run Combined Authority, Labour run Bradford and this Labour Leeds Council that plan to devastate the green belt on the Leeds/Bradford border with link roads that a report from Bradford states will benefit through access to Leeds/Bradford Airport. At least Bradford have decided to be honest about some of their intentions for the link road stating that green belt land across this route could be unlocked for thousands of more houses.

For anyone who didn't attend the drop in events associated with the most recent consultation on the link road the message from Horsforth and Rawdon is clear. Fix the polluting and congested Ring Road now, support sustainable travel and abandon your £100m Link Road to nowhere. The Council and apparently the Combined Authority have declared a climate emergency it's about time real action followed on from these words. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith can I remind Members is Councillor Smith's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: My Lord Mayor. It is certainly timely that this come item comes before Council at my first meeting allowing me the opportunity to make my first speech on what has been such a key issue in Pudsey ward over the past 5 years and more. Residents have time and again spoken to me about their concerns around housing development on the green belt and greenfield locations. Sites such as the one at Harper Gate Farm HG2 73 illustrate just how damaging some of the proposals in the SAP could be to communities in Pudsey and in particular Tyersal and the Tong Valley. There are to be 283 units delivered at this site and along with other sites in

Tyersal such as Hillfoot Farm HG2 66 all threatened to further blur the lines between Bradford and Leeds potentially making communities in distinct from one another.

In Pudsey it is vital that the green belt land is protected. It provides much needed green infrastructure between Bradford and Leeds offering residents opportunities to walk and enjoy the countryside, this must be protected. Of course it is not only Leeds that is planning to develop on the green belt. We in Pudsey and our neighbouring ward of Calverley and Farsley also have to deal with incursions into the green belt from Bradford as well. It is a double edged sword in the West Leeds my Lord Mayor and it is disappointing that despite there being brownfield sites available the Council is still proposing to deliver over 4,000 homes on the green belt. On this side of the Chamber we believe this could have been avoided and it's a real shame that we have arrived at adoption of the SAP with this type of development still included. I have already mentioned developments in Bradford but there is 1 particular development that is of real concern to Conservative Councillors in West Leeds that is the proposed development of the South East Bradford Link Road. This will potentially enable the delivery of some 2,500 new homes. It will start in Drighlington and run all the way through to Dick Lane. It is likely this will be built on green belt and it is also likely that at least some of the 2,500 homes will also be built on the green belt.

So my Lord Mayor you will understand why some residents feel under siege in Pudsey and exactly why they are so concerned about green belt and greenfield development proposals. All of that said we are where we are my Lord Mayor and at the very least the SAP does provide the 5 year land supply and so offers protection in that sense. We in Pudsey remain opposed to the green belt development and will be doing all we can to prevent further development on this land post 2023. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor A Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well as has been said with quite a few speakers here 70,000 houses, if 70,000 houses hadn't gone forward from the administration we wouldn't be where we are now. Yes it's been suggested the number alters that that's got to go through the Core Strategy again. It's on its way there but it's not there at the moment so the figure's still 70,000 today. Ridiculous situation to be in when inspectors come to Leeds judging on 70,000 houses yet a few days later he's deciding in this Council to change the number to be lower it should have been lower in the first place. But anyway that's gone, that's happened but it shouldn't have. Going on to sites in my ward. I have, one of the sites is a farm, Harpers Farm. It's fields, sheep are on there. Yes it should stay green belt it shouldn't be infilled in to be housing. What that means is that your taking more of Whitehall Road going up towards New Farnley and then you know I wonder in many years to come will there be anything left in my ward that's fields. Certainly that shouldn't be developed on because if you walk up, if you walk

up Whitehall Road you can see it's not a brownfield area it's greenfield and it should be saved as that we want to save our farms, save our green spaces so we will continue to take that line on half of our. Also there's infrastructure there. We spoke at the Inspector's inquiry I spoke there and I mentioned all this, lack of schools places, problems with transport after tea. Yes now we're talking about climate change that encourages people to use their cars how can we argue to say don't use your cars if there's no infrastructure, it's ridiculous. The other site I want to speak about is the Leeds city boys pitch in Oldfield Lane. This is a playing pitch and now there's an action group that want to keep it for the young people in Leeds it was actually formed to be for the young people in Leeds there ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR BLACKBURN: to use. Yes so I hope we will be continuing to support them. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Just to carry on from the point made earlier I think it's only fair and right to pay tribute to people both in our ward of Garforth and Swillington and nearby Parlington who really lobbied hard and attended the Public Enquiry as we did day in day out to get us to the position we're in today and their role cannot be understated. I think today what's impressed me is we've heard histories, potted histories, counter histories, alternative histories but actually what is the real history of this well like many Councillors who'll find themselves in the eye of the storm 10 years ago when we lost a planning appeal on Garforth Cliff when our brownfield first policy was effectively blown out of the water something had to give and I will say this I don't hold blame to any party to quickly move into a position when we had to agree numbers and those of us with long memories will remember the developers wanted numbers in excess of 100,000 they were lobbying hard for that figure so whilst the 70,000 figure is, let's be honest, fundamentally wrong and fundamentally too high there were good reasons why this Council raced into it and I was one of the ones racing and holding the baton at that time because I was panicking like hell that I would lose more and more and more green belt appeals so I think it's important to make the point that none of us have come here with the intention of undermining the city that we live in the unique towns and villages but we were in a fix so what do we do if you look at history the important thing is to learn from it. I was a little bit concerned when Councillor Mulherin's first contribution in the role was to say that the amendment in the name of Andrew Carter is premature because let me tell you this these 10 years have gone by in the blink of an eye and I suggest it will be another blink and we'll be in 2021, it'll be another blink we'll be in 2023 and we need a cohesive agreed strategy across this Council why we cannot get ourselves in this fix again and this is a very real fix you think about some of the impact of 70,000 houses. A piece of PAS land in Garforth off Selby Road. We went and made the case it

was premature it was inappropriate for development and what did the inspector say, well according to your own figures you need 70,000 houses, it fits. So we have to be clear, we need to drive those numbers down, we need to work collectively as a Council the point has been made and I'll touch on it quickly we've got a climate change emergency frankly quite right that nothing is as bad for environmental destruction as soil degradation and if we lose our unique towns and villages on the back of development we will all be culpable for what happens to future generations and I'd just like people to think about that. It isn't a political point it's incumbent upon all 99 of us to do something about it.

And finally the HMCA, officers tell us we can't look again, why they're a mess. We've got a situation now where parts of Crossgates and Whinmoor will hook up to Harewood and it goes on and on and on please think about the HMCA's again. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor. So it's a good debate we're having, it's befitting the seriousness of the subject with some factual contributions, some perhaps partisan contributions and the occasional fever dream perhaps from Councillor Golton and he could reflect on that. But let's cut to the chase here all through this process this administration has had to be evidence led to be grounded in policy and law and to follow the statutory processes which I think everyone in this Chamber would agree, a clunky, slow and not fit for purpose. We all agree on that.

What is the SAP, it's the best chance we have for concentrating where development happens. I don't think that the Councillors coming into this Chamber are really against people having homes to live in but that impression, I think, talking to viewers is sometimes to people watching sometimes been given. But equally there aren't Councillors in this Chamber who want to destroy green spaces willy nilly. That's clearly nonsense too. So let's find a happy medium in the middle where we can look forward we are city Councillors, we have a duty of care to the people of the land and this is an important part today progressing that. But let's be clear in Leeds and that contrasts with many other cities but in Leeds planning is the show that never ends. We have the SAP today, we have the comprehensive core strategy view that's written in parallel and I wish elected members would not conflate the two and think that one document can solve all the problems of the other and vice versa. It's unhelpful and we've had regrettably some contributions like that today from over there. There will be a Site Allocations review and it is disingenuous to suggest that if sites were removed from the SAP this time around that somehow there all in gain for the SAP review, its disingenuous.

I would draw Members' attention and anyone watching 2014/2015 when this administration through the workshops with all elected members in the city rejected oceans of red sites, oceans of red sites and has not been enough

commentary today about the landowners in this city who I'm sure many of you all know who would happily concrete over our green spaces, there missing from the debate and they shouldn't be. Which leads me on to, look let's look forward where do we agree. We've had a lot of talk today about you've taken too long, it's all going too slowly. Guess what kids we're following statutory processes, statutory processes are long slow and clunky they need review.

Somebody said the review of housing numbers took 5 years. It was committed when the Core Strategy was passed which started in 3 years, which start within 3 years. We started it after 2½ years that these processes are not fit for purposes, they need updating we all agree on this.

We talked about infrastructure, health, education, transport those powers that this Council has are not fit for purpose. I'm glad everyone over their agrees that education is a shambles because it's centrally run from Whitehall not grounded here in a democratically elected Chamber in our communities. These things all need fundamental change we need new national planning policies and I've talked about this before we need, fundamentally, a New Town and Country Planning Act that brings everything together so that local democracy can thrive, our communities can feel that they get the homes to live in sustainable on what they need, a pressed climate emergency the most pressing of our concerns to bring ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: All that together. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you my Lord Mayor. In my ward, Wetherby, it's an historic market town and its classed as the main settlement in the hierarchy of settlements in the Outer North East area. As such the town has already expanded significantly over the past 15 years with associated increases in traffic congestion, air pollution levels and increased demands on local schools and health services. In the proposed SAP land to the east of Wetherby on the other side of a 6 lane motorway was only included along with land at Parlington to make up the numbers in an overinflated housing figure for the city. This rural land was originally excluded on the grounds of unsustainability but at the last minute the administration changed tack to fulfil the land supply requirements after the collapse of plans to develop a stand alone settlement at Headley Hall near Bramham. Parlington has been removed from the SAP so why not racecourse approach. In addition Land to the north of Wetherby across the border in North Yorkshire has been allocated by Harrogate District Council with more than 200 houses on our doorstep adding to traffic issues that cannot be mitigated no matter how much money is offered in section 106 agreements because we cannot knock down listed buildings to widen roads in the town. Not to mention access to schools and healthcare services already struggling to cope in the wake of those homes already built out in the town. Having only recently

declared the climate emergency it defies logic to include this site to the east of a town in an isolated area where car travel will be a necessity increasing the number of vehicles by some 1,000 twice a day that's a 1,000 cars twice a day using York Road to access the town. Indeed the Core Strategy selective review main modifications the Planning Inspector states the site will have a significant impact on the surrounding strategic and local road network in addition development of the site will have a cumulative impact upon junctions in Wetherby.

We are not against all building in the Wetherby ward but what we do want is affordable houses for all residents including our young people and the right houses in the right place. I would urge Council to accept the amendment proposed by Councillor Anderson. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

Councillor Tunnicliffe please.

COUNCILLOR TUNNICLIFFE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to begin by echoing comments that were made by Councillor Mulherin and Councillor Ritchie. It feels like some time ago now about the use of brownfield sites in the Site Allocation Plan and as Councillor Golton has acknowledged 60% of the SAP is based on brownfield land and we have maximised the use of all known brownfield stocks when drawing the plan together. I think it's also worth remembering that city centre areas and the inner areas have exceeded their housing targets and that has enabled the outer areas to release less green belt land than they would otherwise have done. The Council has been very active in promoting the use of brownfield land for example the Brownfield Land Programme in South and East Leeds is leading to the development of 1,200 new homes on previously developed land for local families. 74% of developments over the last 5 years have been on brownfield land.

I'd also like to address some of the comments that have been made on infrastructure and the way that the plan deals with these. The Highways Department has modelled all of the proposed developments and the cumulative impact that they will have on our Highways infrastructure and in doing this it has worked closely with neighbouring Local Authorities and also with the Highways England. Children's Services has also been working with neighbouring authorities and the plan identifies 15 sites for future school provision. We've also been working closely with our partners in the NHS enabling our local CCG to plan future services that take into account these housing developments.

But I want to just end by saying I feel there's something that's been missed in this debate and we've talked about the climate change crisis but there is also a housing crisis in this country and what we are talking about is building homes for local people who live and work in our communities and I'd like us to bear that in mind.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor the opposition this afternoon seem solely concerned with the building on greenfield sites and unfortunately some green belt with the implication that we should be building on brownfield sites. All those Councillors who have served longer on opposition benches should know that if we built on every scrap of brownfield land in this city we have not enough. The phrase hammer and chisel comes to mind. Now 2 speakers, Councillor Taylor and Councillor Smith mentioned we should build on brownfield sites first, we'd love to do that but it takes a great deal of effort to get builders to build on brownfield sites.

(Inaudible background talking)

Oh yes it does. Now then in my ward in Hunslet we had an area of land of cleared houses which is regarded as brownfield could we get a builder to build on that land, no we could not because there were cellars which are difficult to stabilise. For a developer the same design of house in a brownfield site and on the outer city, the outer city site can get twice as much at least twice as much for that same design of house. Furthermore there is usually on brownfield sites contamination costs to deal with. The site in my ward that I mentioned has been vacant for 15 years and at last the Council decided to build Council houses on

(Applause)

And we successfully built 25, only 25 Council houses. Do you know there was over 1,600 applicants from the local area for that house. This demonstrates my Lord Mayor that we are very short of housing land and some of it just has to be on the periphery.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Peter Gruen

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: My Lord Mayor I actually thought that Caroline's speech was pretty good.

(Laughter and applause)

And I'm very grateful to her that she is now the bearer of the attack on the Gruen's rather than me, so thank you very much for that.

We talked about green belt we all treasure green belt but I will go further than Liz has just done. The implications from all of you who are singly concerned about green belt is that you don't give a damn what happens on brown belt and in the inner city areas because none of you represent it ...

(Applause)

None of you represent it and if we built on every last blade of green grass and concrete it over the whole of the inner city you wouldn't give a shit ..

(Cheers and applause)

You wouldn't care, you would not care. Whereas we do care and the second fox I want to shoot ...

(Laughter)

is consultation. Barry really what will you do when you no longer have the SAP to be confused about.

(Laughter)

Even the Inspector's commended the work of the DPP in all the consultation we've done internally and externally and made mention of that work in their report. The SAP has been one of the most consulted, internally and externally, pieces of any work we've ever done and if you ask Mr Feeney he would tell you now how many tens of thousands of responses we receive. Do not pretend there's been no consultation.

And the third area I want to attack is the question of the delay. We were ready in 2017 to go the statutory process why couldn't we, because of Outer North East, why couldn't we because a guy called John Procter came along and sold us a dream and said we should build in Bramham it fell apart, we shall build elsewhere in Garforth fell apart. We could have gone 2 years earlier and all the recent, all the recent appeals we've lost in your areas would not have been lost and the proof of the pudding now of having a SAP is that I understand an appeal in Garforth has just been withdrawn. That is the benefit of having a 5 year land supply of having a SAP and none of you could even through clenched teeth acknowledge and say thank you for putting the SAP on the statute.

(Cheers and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I ask Members to please watch the words what they use when they're speaking. Councillor Gruen you said a word which I didn't think appropriate to use so could Members please watch their words. So Councillor Cohen I'll just leave it there. Thank you. Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. Before I move on to a couple of points I wish to make on this debate. You know there is something that has come out of all the speeches that the opposition members have had written for them. Maybe John Procter wrote all the speeches, maybe John Procter

(Inaudible background talking)

Maybe John Procter wrote all your speeches as I understand he's at a loose end at the moment. But the one thing that came through, hang on Dan I'm speaking at the moment. The one thing that came through in the speeches that I really want to correct is the idea that there were no Labour members at the SAP inquiry and that is simply not true. We were in there for all the parts that covered our wards, defending the green belt in our wards, defending sites in our wards that local people didn't want, that local people, hang on if you listen carefully you'll learn a bit more. That local people asked us to defend and we were there putting the work in to do it and the suggestion by people at the other end of the Council Chamber that Labour Members did not do that is both offensive and wrong. There might not have been many other parties in there when we were discussing Kippax and Methley Ward I won't use the word that other people have used or the phrase other people's views about what the opposition parties think about our area, be very careful about my language on this one but we were there defending our areas and suggestion that Labour members were not there is is if I could say were wrong and offensive which brings me on to Parlington which I have to say a long time ago I was a councillor for that area and I don't ever remember when it was looked after by Labour Councillors, by myself, Keith Parker, Keith Wakefield, Marion Monks, the proposal ever coming forward for it to be used as a housing site. Unfortunately it fell into the hands of the Conservatives, unfortunately it fell into the hands of the Conservative and that was when again just be very clear about where responsibility for Parlington coming forward comes from. I'm just going to read from a letter of the 13th July 2016 signed by a number of Councillors including Alan Lamb, Matthew Robinson and Ryan Stephenson ...

(Background groaning)

That says behind the scenes, no public consultation I assume if it was behind the scenes, but behind the scenes ward Councillors in Wetherby and Harewood have been working to resurrect the Strategic Site option and that this approach was preferable, their preferable approach to dealing with the Outer North East. I think we have to be absolutely clear about where the proposal from Parlington came from. Myself, Councillor Harland and others stood up with local people who quite rightly campaigned against it ...

(Applause)

Quite rightly, you can laugh as much as you like you put it forward we objected we won and that was quite right local people were very offended by the suggestion there lots of local people from our area went to high school on the Parlington estate were very offended by the proposals put forward, we got to the right place on that one. So here we are with a SAP that defends loads of green belt in our areas and greenfield, developers wanted to bring that site forward ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: And they didn't. We've got a really successful SAP and I urge people to vote for it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Oh thank you Lord Mayor. Well I am pleased to report to Members given all the references to Council of former Councillor John Procter my friend he is watching us at home as we speak so you could wave to him and say hello now and he is happy to report to Councillor Gruen, he's not at a loose end, he does have a dream yes it's that the Conservatives regain control of Leeds City Council.

(Cheering)

So Lord Mayor let's get back to reality it's 7 years, 7 years, 7 years. I hope I'm getting extra time Lord Mayor. I'm not OK. I'll speak faster then. 7 years ago when this process started it was the year of the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics were in London, Gangnam style was at the top of the charts, Ed Balls hadn't even danced to it yet because he was still the Shadow Chancellor. Jeremy Corbyn was a backbencher irrelevance in the Labour Party now he's a front bench irrelevance in the Labour Party.

(Laughter)

50 members of this Chamber were not representatives on this Council when this process began and they now want to tell us what they think happened all those years ago, well some of us have been here the whole time and we can remember. It has been a mess, it has been a mess from the outset Lord Mayor and the starting point of the mess was getting the numbers wrong that was nothing to do with national planning policy nothing to do with the Government that was a mess made in Leeds by this Labour Council and its taken them years to unravel. There's been lots of Orwellian references today my reference is to The Who don't get fooled again, don't get fooled again I agree with what Councillor Campbell had to say and what Councillor Blackburn had to say, don't get fooled the housing target is still 70,000, we have only, all this plan is doing is allocating housing to 2023 when the SAP review takes place what they don't want to tell you we're not looking at taking things out we have to add more, there is still more sites to be identified so when you think you've saved the green belt, when you think you've saved greenfield sites think again don't be fooled by what they're trying to tell you that's not the case.

Lord Mayor coming to Councillor Gruen and his unsavoury comments. Come on Peter you can do better than that the language was about the highlight of your speech to be honest ...

(Laughter)

Lord Mayor this is a bad plan for our city. What makes our city great is a vibrant and diverse city centre and the satellite towns and villages surrounded by green belt, greenfield land that serves a purpose. It's purpose is not to be built on its to help protect our environment, it's to grow our food, it has multiple purposes it's important it's what makes our city great you destroy it at your peril this is a bad plan and you are to blame you are responsible and you will be accountable to the people of Leeds for the damage you do to our great city. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin to sum up.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. First of all I'd like to thank officers and Members and local communities that have positively engaged in this process over the last 7 years.

(Applause)

I won't have time unfortunately given the length of this debate to respond to all the comments that have been made but I would like to congratulate Councillor Smith on her maiden speech and I would like to thank Councillor Garner for highlighting what Members opposite are so keen to ignore that there are numerous green belt and greenfield sites across this city including our ward that are at risk of being built on if we do not approve the Site Allocations Plan today.

Contrary to Councillor Barry Anderson's comments in moving his amendments new school sites have been identified in the plan unfortunately because of his Government's this Council will not be able to build and deliver those schools. You had your chance Barry. We will have to encourage free school applications to deliver those schools instead. Thank you Colin Campbell for correcting Ryan Stephenson on his selective amnesia when he sought to wash his hands of his responsibility and the Wetherby and Harewood Ward Councillors responsibility for putting Parlington forward for developments in the first place and thanks to Councillor James Lewis for reading from the letter in which they did say.

Councillor Golton seems to be similarly confused as the table he referred to relates to greenfield not green belt.

Councillor Blackburn, David Blackburn I'd like to thank you for your acknowledgement that this plan gives us grounds on which to fight speculative developments. The planning process never ends as Councillor Neil Walshaw reminds us as I stated in moving the plan for adoption today we will soon have the Inspector's report and the reduced housing target we have put forward and have for over a year being clear that once that reduced housing target is approved this autumn we will go straight to the Site Allocations Plan review.

The cross party Development Plans Panel, I think that's important to remember it is a cross party Development Plans Panel, will consider the nature and scope of this review at their meeting in October. In the meantime the Planning and Housing Minister, Kit Malthouse, has stated that once a plan is in place and councils can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply they will get, belatedly perhaps, Government support to defend against issues like poor quality housing and the lack of affordable housing. The plan we're approving today offers us protection for numerous greenfield and green belt sites, it takes a strategic in principle view that sites in it are sustainable but as planning applications come forward for those sites and are considered by Plans Panels and by Planning Officers they will need again to meet Local Policy requirements for the wider Local Plan including those to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This is not the end of the process but this is the point at which we can make a decision to protect the greenfield and green belt sites that are saved from developments by the Site Allocations Plan.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We're now going to call for a vote. OK. Second. OK. In the amendment name of Councillor Barry Anderson. Oh sorry Tom.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Would all members please ensure there in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Anderson. All members should refer to the desk unit and press the button marked P, then press the plus button to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we've got 90 present. 34 yes, 1 abstention and sorry no abstention and 56 no. So that's been lost

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Would all Members please ensure there in the allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote on the motion in the name of Council Mulherin regarding the recommendations in the report and the SAP review. 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 0 button to abstain.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we've got 84 present. We've got 58 yes, some members decided not to vote and we've got for 22 abstentions and 4 no. So the vote is carried and the amendment.

(Inaudible talking)

Do you want me to repeat again. 84 present, 58 yes, 22 abstentions, 4 no, however some members refused not to vote. I decided not to vote so the vote has been carried.

(Inaudible talking)

It's been carried, yeah.

**ITEM 6 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE- REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

THE LORD MAYOR: OK Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor I'd like to move in the terms of the notice the report of the City Solicitor representing the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel just by way of explanation this could have come forward on its own but we took a very deliberate decision to take this to GPC so that we could have a full cross party discussion and I'm delighted to say that the report received consensus through that process.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I sit on General Purposes Committee Lord Mayor and I was at that discussion where we looked at the importance of the Climate Advisory Committee and therefore the leadership of it and how that should be recognised through an SRA. At the subsequent General Purposes Committee the Independent Remuneration Panel reported back on the request that we had made however since the previous request there had also apparently been a supplementary request made to them to deliver a recommendation on a Shadow Climate Change Advisory Committee Chair which had not been discussed at the original meeting therefore I asked at the subsequent meeting which was meant to rubber stamp the decision that was made by the Independent Remuneration Panel whether we could actually make that decision given that we hadn't actually discussed what the role of a Shadow Climate Advisory Chair was because I remember the debate that we had in this Chamber about the climate change emergency and how we all wanted to work collectively cross party and that the group which was going to be formed as a consequence of that would be working in that manner. Therefore there was a discussion around would it be working as effectively as a Scrutiny Board and particularly because it's such a huge agenda and Environment would traditionally come under another Scrutiny Board would be able to make sure that enough time was put towards it and that it was given the right relevance it should have it should report frequently and during that discussion Councillor Carter said I have been given assurances that that right level of scrutiny will be delivered and when I queried this at the General Purposes Committee I was referred to that comment in terms of the decision being made for a Shadow Climate Change Advisory Group Chair. What I am asking for clarification at this meeting Lord Mayor because I couldn't be provided with it at that General Purposes meeting, we were quite happy for the decision to go forward, was that that that role be given some kind of job description because when you are working for instance in Scrutiny you have a Scrutiny Chair and you approach

that Committee in the spirit of being a cross party member and you want the best for the Council. You don't approach it in any kind of adversarial manner that is one of the reasons why we don't have Shadow Scrutiny Chairs, we don't have Shadow Executive Board Members, we don't have Shadow Plans Panel members. So I am just wanting to clarify, because of the interest that we have in the environment and our climate emergency and how we all work together, how this role is meant to either oppose or complement the Chair of the Climate Advisory Committee because I think we need that clarity so that we know ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: What we expect of each Member.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Councillor Golton talk about making a storm in a teacup quite frankly and as a Council we have decided that there is a climate emergency, we have recognised that and we have rightly set up a group to work across the piece to help the city address that climate emergency and while I have less than no doubt that Councillor Blake is more than capable of taking you to task about actually the very same things we had very same conversations we had in our meeting some weeks ago. It just seems bizarre that we would bring again to Council the same points. We have agreed as a Council to have, it seems to me, a Shadow Chair of a body so that we can ensure that we treat it with the importance that it requires. Give it the time and the attention it deserves and from somebody who is quite happy to trade all sorts to make sure you keep your salary on Executive Board.

(Laughter)

Quite frankly, honestly I am staggered that you are deciding to make such a fuss over something we set in place for a year in the first instance and it's disappointing. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. Members may recall that at the Annual General Meeting I proposed that we take, if we really believe that the climate emergency was a major threat to the city, and I think we do then rather than having an Advisory Committee we should have a Committee which had full scrutiny powers and at that meeting my good friend Councillor Carter got up oh sorry the Greens and the the Morley's and the Garforth's all supported the Garforth, Mr Garfroth and Swillington hyphenated agreed that in principle and having had a conversation with Councillor Carter

earlier on in the day I assume that the Conservative Group were also supporting that. On the night Councillor Carter told us that he'd had a discussion with the Leader of Council and received certain assurances and he went on to imply one of those assurances was that through the whole process of at the Executive Board or the Scrutiny Board this item would effectively come to each Council meeting so we'd always have an opportunity at every Council meeting to discuss where we were in the climate change issue. Well I think it's fair to say that with the best will in the world Barry I don't think we'd get to your, the Climate Change Transport and Sustainable Development Regeneration Transport and Planning Group this afternoon so it would appear that actually we're not going to discuss climate change at this meeting over the peripheral way. He also implied that there were certain other assurances he'd received and I'm assuming that this is one of them. Now I think we're trying to be positive because we're trying to be inclusive and ensure that we all support the process now I would like us to have a separate item on every Council agenda, Council, Full Council agenda at which we discuss our efforts to meet our 2030 targets. That doesn't look like it's going to happen but it's just a bit unfortunate that we are being told that arrangements have been made to do certain things without us all been involved in it and I think we've been trying to be positive, I don't think we've got any concerns about a Shadow Chair even though it's a bit of an unusual role as it seems to be the only Shadow we've got but it would be nice perhaps just to see what ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: The job description was. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Do you ever have the feeling that it's Groundhog Day again and we're going round the block and I would suggest that we've all spotted the game plan and I think Councillor Cohen has as well. They are so sore that we as an administration have grasped the nettle, have actually picked up the climate emergency, we've changed the portfolio titles. we've set up the Advisory Committee and we're actually taking forward this agenda. It is a very strange position for me to be in asking you all to support remunerating a member of our main opposition but we believe that this issue is of the significance that it deserves to be taken it very seriously indeed and indeed the Remuneration Panel said that they would come back in a year because they recognise the significance of what we're doing to see whether in fact it will need to be enhanced in a year's time because of the significance of the work that we will be undertaking in this but I would just leave with this comment. Not only is Councillor Mulherin's portfolio responsible for climate emergency we have changed the rules so that every portfolio has a responsibility for climate emergency. If we hadn't have had so many speakers on the SAP we would have had the opportunity to get to discuss the minutes from Exec Board in a proper way where anyone in this Chamber could have picked up the issues around climate emergency.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK, we will now go for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: Second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Item 8. Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. To help us get to minutes I'll just move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: I am loud enough so it's alright. I'm delighted to speak to the Scrutiny Annual Report of 2018/19. I would like to thank all the Board members for their hard work over the last year, I am grateful for the support of Members around various issues and both this Scrutiny Board and the West Yorkshire Joint Scrutiny Board as well. I want to acknowledge that the work of the Board could not happen without the dedication and hard work of the Scrutiny Support Office and the excellent support and intelligent insight of in particular Steven Courtney, I really do value his hard work.

This report highlights key areas of the work of the Adults and Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board has undertaken over the last year. We continue to maintain oversight of the quality of care services supporting the ambition of the Exec Member and department to improve the quality of care for our most vulnerable residents. Despite incredibly difficult challenges brought about by huge cuts to Adult Social Care and workforce issues not helped by things such as the scrapping of bursary for student nurses which means that we have got a crisis in the number of nurses in the system.

I'd also like to acknowledge the work the board has done on bereavement and this is thanks to the dedication of Councillor Iqbal and through the work of the Scrutiny Board Leeds Teaching Hospital has made bereavement arrangements one of their 4 patient experience priorities for 2019/20 and I'd like to thank him for his ongoing work in this area. In 2018/19 we had a distinct focus on mental health with a view to improving the gap in parity between mental and physical health. This will be a key area moving forward in 2019 with a particular focus on the challenges that dementia brings to our communities. We continue to monitor NHS changes in Leeds and across West Yorkshire and how this will affect our residents.

As a board we will continue to play our part to achieve the outcome of the Best Council Plan and the Leeds Plan with the desire to improve health of all our residents and in particular of improving the health of the poorest the fastest. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I too am speaking on the Scrutiny Annual Report and in particular the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board that following the AGM I am now proud to Chair.

I'd like to start by paying tribute to the former Chair of the Strategy and Resources Board, Councillor Paulene Grahame. I'd also like to thank previous members of the board and Angela Brogden for her support. Councillor Grahame chaired the board for a number of years and in that time ably steered the work of the Board to support the Council to operate in a period of sustained austerity while at the same time supporting the strategic aims of the Council in line with the Best Council Plan to improve outcomes for the poorest in this city.

Over the last few years some of the most important work of this Board under Councillor Graham was on the oversight of the calculation and collection of business rates. Last year the Board performed an invaluable role monitoring the risk and potential impact on the Council's budget of business rate appeals.

Other highlights from the Board's work last year were embracing digital technology, the management and financial implications of void properties, resilience and emergency planning, maximising the apprenticeship levy and devolution. Moving forward we had the first meeting of the Board for the new municipal year in early June and we identified areas of work for the Board.

These included working relation to reducing energy consumption in our Council buildings as well as to promote sustainable travel options for staff. These both obviously linked to one of the big priorities of the Council that we are all concerned about to tackle the climate emergency.

The board will continue to review the Council's financial strategy and future financial planning. This is especially important as the Council currently does not know the finance settlement it will get from Government this year for next year. This is due to concerns the 3 year spending review this autumn will be postponed because of the uncertainty caused by the unstable shambolic national Government. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

LORD MAYOR: Councillor Truswell.

COUNCILLOR TRUSWELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I would like to thank my excellent fellow scrutineesters of all parties and particularly our Support Officer, Sandra Pentelow who abandons us this month with our very best wishes.

(Applause)

I made an enquiry examining the Council's new Inclusive Growth Strategy. Now Leeds is undoubtedly an economic success but to achieve sustainable development, climate change and inclusive growth we cannot accept that all growth is good and that its benefits will somehow magically trickle down. Over 170,000 Leeds citizens still live in poverty, 70,000 of them in work. Despite impressive employment figures many jobs at part time, zero hours or feature bogus self-employment and we have directly as a Board challenged Government to enforce its own living wage that is presently denied to an estimated 32,000 Leeds workers.

We examine annually the disturbing figures for people killed or seriously injured on our roads. This Council plays a key part through Highways Engineering, traffic calming, speed limit, speed indicators on crossings but only robust police enforcement will tackle the minority of irresponsible and reckless idiots on our road and it cannot be a coincidence that the disturbing number of deaths and serious injuries have coincided with huge police cuts. Our Sustainable Development Inquiry complemented our continuing examination of housing mix, transport strategy, bus services and digital inclusion.

Our city is desperately short of affordable housing as has been said earlier but we operate a system geared more towards satisfying the greed of developers rather than meeting our citizens' needs. I think is generally accepted that the Government's National Planning Framework is basically a developer's charter and that there is no pressure on developers to build out the thousands of properties for which they already have planning permission and we are particularly concerned as a Board that the failed old Etonian promise to increase GP numbers means our NHS cannot keep pace with development and population growth.

The Board monitors the Council's Transport Strategy alongside our previous inquiry into bus services. Lord Mayor since Mrs Thatcher deregulated buses in 1986 services have been chopped and changed, fares

have rocketed and passenger numbers have predictably plummeted. To use the popular phrase we need to take back control.

(Applause)

Many of our city's problems multiplied under the ideological austerity of Messrs Cameron and Osborne assisted by their Lib Dem lackeys, so we await with trepidation the restoration of the old Etonian dynasty to 10 Downing Street and so far the bloated promises seem to offer little hope to those of us living in what we might call the north of Eton poorhouse.

Lord Mayor what Leeds need more than anything is a genuine end to austerity and the Old Etonian spivonite that spawned it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you for Lord Mayor. Well that was a treat.

Lord Mayor it was a privilege to Chair the Children and Families Scrutiny Board last year as with the other Chairs that the first thing is to thank the board members of all parties who have repeatedly put their politics aside to come together to try to do the best for children and young people in our city I'd particularly like to thank the Co-opted members who give up their time, of which we have a large number on our Scrutiny Board. I want to thank Angela Brogden who is a real asset to this Council. Her diligent work over many years and particularly in supporting this Board and it was a new a new Board for her and she has absolutely got stuck in and she is invaluable to us. Similarly Harriet Speight who supports our Board as well has being a fantastic asset to us and I'd also like to recognise Andy Hodson and his contribution to making Scrutiny a success in this city.

(Applause)

But I want to give particular thanks to the Children's Services Voice and Influence Team lead so fantastically by Hannah Lamplugh and Richard Cracknell, they are real fantastic assets and ambassadors for our city.

(Applause)

What we set out to do last year in asking the question 'is Leeds a child friendly city' we were determined to engage with children and young people directly to listen and hear from their experiences and Hannah and Richard's help and support in doing that meant we were able to engage with hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of children and young people directly into the scrutiny process and we think we've found a way that we can do that on an ongoing annual basis we have met with countless young people's groups across the city and we had an event, absolutely fantastic event, in the Civic

Hall which was attended by 134 young people from 34 different groups aged 8 to 25, sorry 17 different youth and community groups across the city where they were able to come, understand the scrutiny process, tell us what it's like to be a child and young person in Leeds and help us to shape the future.

We've got a fantastic report there are recommendations for the Chief Executive, the Director of Communities, Director of Children and Families most crucially going forward if the recommendation is accepted as I hope it will be every single report in this Council as part of the equality impact assessments will have a necessity to look at the impact on children and young people and also we want to make sure that children and young people's voices captured through the planning process. To come back to the previous paper I think we'd have had a much better Core Strategy and a much better SAP had the voice of children and young people been taken into account from the start and throughout and we hope that lesson will be learnt Lord Mayor.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I first of all as everyone else has done thank the members and their participation and their hard work on the Scrutiny Board this year. We've done a lot when we actually look through the agenda we took our statutory role by looking at the Safer Leeds Plan so we worked with the Safer Leeds Partnership in getting that improved, we did a major piece of work this year with the waste strategy, waste collection and recycling and there are some outputs of that coming to the next Executive Board, is also coming to the scrutiny Board tomorrow but the important launch over effectively is at the Executive Board in terms of moving the Council forward.

One area we did look into and I wish we didn't have to do it was the Grenfell inquiry because of the problems that Grenfell, the fire occurred in the first place. But what it did show was that Councillor Coupar and her team have done and did do a fantastic job at the time ...

(Applause)

We also looked into selective licensing and I see we're not going to go on to the minutes this afternoon so that could have been an interesting chat and debate as to how that one was going to progress out. We also came up with, we had some controversial discussions for example in Housing Repairs there were a couple of Members of the Board very very clear where they see housing repairs going in the future and so that's going to be interesting as to how that unfolds. Anti social behaviour I think we did an excellent contribution on anti social behaviour and I'll come back to that later on. We also looked again at Universal Credit and how it is affecting, how the implementation is affecting the citizens of the city and there are still issues that need to be resolved and the Scrutiny Board will continue to monitor what's happening

and also to make sure that the Civil Service and the Government are aware of those concerns.

But I would also like to thank the relationship, I know sometimes you might not think the working relationship between me and some of the Exec Members is great in the Chamber it may be fraught but outside of the Chamber we do actually work exceptionally well together and with the officer teams as well.

What's the future of Scrutiny. Well I am concerned, as has been said, at the loss of Sandra as to what impact that's going to have because the other scrutiny people are going to have to backfill in order to cover for Sandra's loss and that is a real real problem in terms of how we're going to take things forward.

The final thing I want to mention is the importance of pre-decision scrutiny and I would hold up as an example of that the anti-social behaviour changes that came to us before the decision was actually made and we've been able to add quality to that and I see the red light and I am going to finish and the other one is the Waste Strategy as well. Councillor Rafique has been very open he's had a number of meetings in how about we're driving this Waste Strategy forward and Scrutiny did have a role to play thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Together with colleagues I applaud the officers for the work that they do I think it's a testament to this Council that we have such a robust scrutiny function and a testament to our democracy that we open ourselves up to make sure that there is that transparency available. Hopefully officers will receive the support that's required in the future as Councillor Anderson highlighted because we need to make sure that Scrutiny continues to hold all departments and the administration to account but also allows for that cross party function to take place and I want to just highlight a couple of those cross-party functions that have happened in the last year.

Councillor Dobson and Councillor Wadsworth join me in going to Scrutiny Board to ask for an inquiry into the the bin routes and the waste strategy that is taking place and I thank officers for the diligent work that they've done and Sandra who forwarded the report onto me. That's a department that obviously has a huge impact on everybody across this city whether you're in an outer area or an inner area and getting this right is something that will go towards tackling the climate change emergency that has been highlighted but it also goes towards making sure that we can fund the service and fund our departments.

It falls to me at this time to also say a special thank you to Councillor Pauleen Grahame who I served under on Scrutiny Board. Councillor Grahame like me is a guardian of the coffers and sound financial management and the way that she has managed to hold officers to account but also highlight the business rates issue that takes place and we need to be really mindful of this because business rates is one of those areas where that's the money that's coming into this city and actually it's not just how we spend it it's how we raise it and we need to make sure that those two functions are working hand in glove and I know that Councillor Harland will follow her in that function too.

Also one other area is Councillor Hayden's part. This is coming forward to her hopefully in the new year which is an issue around endometriosis. Councillor Pryor and I met with a group of young women who were incredibly brave, I'm sure he will say so too, and they raised a huge amount of issues with us that I think this Council has a role to address.

Finally I would highlight Devolution. Devolution was on our Scrutiny Board. The Leader of Council, WYCA Managing Director came to speak to us. Clearly this issue has not gone away, it fell to me to ask a question of Boris and Jeremy Hunt about devolution and they both echoed their commitment to devolution so I'd like to think that I've managed to do more in one question than we've done all year to highlight it but hopefully we will see some action from a new Prime Minister when they come in for Yorkshire Devolution and that's One Yorkshire or a smaller deal itself. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Anderson.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I have been a member of the Adults, Health Adults and Health Scrutiny Board for over 4 years now and I thought I would just concentrate on one aspect of things that the Scrutiny Board covers and that is the CQC reports, that the Care Quality Commission for those who've not heard of that. What the Care Quality Commission do is that they are responsible for inspecting all of the care homes and the home care services across the whole of the country but I'm only going to concentrate on what they do in Leeds. They award a ranking to every home in the city so that we know whether that home is safe to have people living in it. Each month Scrutiny Board receives the latest CQC reports on a mixture of residential and nursing homes across the city and the home care services. It's absolutely vital that we see these reports on a regular basis as Adult Social Care pay the fees of a lot of residents in these homes but more importantly we need to know that people are safe and well and properly fed, properly treated, treated with dignity and can live as full a life as they possibly can. Not all the homes in Leeds have residents supported by Adult Social Care but where they do there is a team of people working with those homes to continuously improve on those ratings. It is disappointing that we don't have more good and outstanding homes in the city but that is where

Scrutiny can play its part. We scrutinise the Adult Social Care Director and her team on what they are doing with the homes to improve on the aspects that they are falling down on and I am pleased to say that evidence is clear that they are all over this. However they also work with homes to maintain good and outstanding ratings once that this has been achieved because these are really difficult to keep once they're in place but we must make sure that we increase those ratings year on year.

CQC play a vital role in the process and we work with what they provide. Scrutiny also did work on the quality of home care last year. Those providers are also rated on the same basis as the homes. I look forward to the coming year and working with Councillor Hayden and the other Councillors on the Board. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. This is the Infrastructure and Investment Scrutiny Board and perhaps I can just start by thanking our Chairman Councillor Truswell and who he's forthright remarks as ever and I think it's fair to say that all the members of that particular board are well aware of his opinions mainly because he tells us.

(Laughter)

But he is always, he's always extremely fair. Now there were three topics I wanted to just very briefly cover which the Board discussed. Inclusive Growth Strategy, Sustainable Development and Transport and Bus Service Provision which all of course feeds into the climate change agenda which Councillor Golton can be assured I will bring up as much as I possibly can in this Chamber.

Now there are some big issues there but there are also some small ones and I wanted to take a minute or two to plug something I've been talking about whenever I've had the opportunity on the bus service provision and this is when you look at the situation with buses the usage of patronage of buses has actually been going down as we heard whereas the target is to double this in probably another 10 years and across West Yorkshire to increase it by 25% so we're actually going in the wrong direction and I had the feeling when we started all these discussions that some officers were more intent on yes increasing the, decreasing the bus journey times in other words making them quicker but also making car journeys deliberately slower and I said 2 to 3 things about what I call micro-measures about buses but when it comes to things like bus lanes if you actually look on our arterial routes some are very constrained some are packed in so the bus lane if it's put in has to go on the inside line but as often as not there is room on the inside of that so it's outside the actual carriage way so I would just make a plea for separate bus lanes in addition to the actual carriageway, all bus stops having lay-bys so that the buses can actually pull in to avoid the situation where traffic is queuing with

engines running causing pollution and so on so all the traffic moves faster and then where we have these hotspots where the buses are very congested in tight little spots to move the stop 10 and 20 yards something like that just to free it up and I believe these these small measures could actually go a long way to improving the situation and I know the bus companies have said 'oh the drivers don't like pulling out of bus lanes' they can find it quite stressful. Well we're spending £250m they'll have to get on with it. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Just very briefly we're talking a little bit about Adult Social Care and its impact in Morley. People will know Siegen Manor was closed several years ago we campaigned against that and we have presently at this particular point a site that needs demolition and I'm led to believe it's going to be demolished shortly, that's good news for those neighbours around it who have been somewhat blighted with certain levels of anti social behaviour. But it's a clean site we would very much urge the Council to look at whether this is an appropriate site for extra care accommodation we know that extra care accommodation is in great demand in the Morley area, we don't have any extra care accommodation presently in either the Morley North or the Morley South wards we would look forward to that sort of support and that sort of accommodation coming to Morley. One of the reasons that we do say that is where very aware that there are a lot of older folk who are in larger Council houses that are far too big for them they need to move into more appropriate accommodation so with extra care you not only get them that appropriate accommodation, you start to liberate some of those larger Council houses that can go to families who are on our housing waiting list. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. This municipal year began with my second term on the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and praise Councillor Lamb who expertly chairs that Board and I think all members would agree it is fair and equal to all members and co-optees regardless of political influence. As Councillor Lamb mentioned this year we've been looking at the investigation whether Leeds is a child friendly city and one of the great things about that is it shone a spotlight on some of the great things Leeds is doing and credit where it's due to those Executive Members who are pushing that forward and it's also shone a spotlight on some areas for improvement as well and scrutiny is fantastic because once a month it gives us an opportunity to sit down and and grill the Executive Members and the officers they bring with them to answer the questions and we can look carefully at some of the detail that comes forward. We looked this year at the performance measures across the board as well

highlighting that in some performance measures areas this administration, sorry this Authority is placed 148 out of 152 of all Local Authorities in terms of its, some of its performance measures in attainment and we also looked at closing the gap between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils and the effect of pupil premium in delivering that.

As Councillor Lamb mentioned we had a short session on the planning process and this was towards the end of the last municipal year and it was fantastic as we had some Planning Officers there and we were discussing what the role of children is in the planning process and we've just discussed the Site Allocations Plan at length and we did discover that actually the voice of young people was not really included in the current Site Allocations Plan when it began in 2012 I mentioned that in 2012, I think, yes it would start in 2012 I just left university and so actually in terms of the pre consultation before that I hadn't anything I'd put into the process it's almost irrelevant by the time you get to today so we needed a bigger voice in there and interestingly enough the then Executive Member for Children and Families did say on record that part of, that she found part of the SAP quite baffling so I'm not sure that young people would understand it. It's quite interesting she is now in charge of Planning and the process so hopefully she's learnt a bit more than the children did but Scrutiny overall is a fantastic role this year for moving forward it gives an opportunity to investigate further things like for example this week the Hunger for Change project discovered that £1.6m of free school meals money in Leeds was not used in 2016/17 and Scrutiny gives us an opportunity in the future to look at aspects like that. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis to sum up.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I just very briefly like to thank all those Members that have spoken and really sort of brought the work of Scrutiny to life and all the different inquiries and issues that Scrutiny looks at so I don't think there's much more to be said than that and thank everybody that really puts the time in to Scrutiny and look forward to another really positive year ahead.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now call for a vote on the Scrutiny Annual Report. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 9 – EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move in to question times for a period of 30 minutes. Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Following the impending sale of First Bus and Arriva from their respective current owners will the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development share with Council their plan to guarantee continued investment in clean air and also to guarantee that bus passengers in Leeds will receive the level of service that has so often been missed in the city.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you Councillor Buckley. I believe this issue has been raised in the Council Chamber before the Council was first contacted by First very quickly after the news broke with strong reassurances from them of a continued commitment to invest in Leeds. It was reiterated that Leeds remains a key city for the company and they have no plans for that to change. First of all so proactively held meetings with both myself and with Councillor Groves and I've scheduled meetings with the Leader to discuss this further and provide updates on their position. As a Labour administration we are clear that the Tory privatisation in 1986 was a disaster for bus travel in West Yorkshire with around one million passengers lost since that time.

As the Leader has said at Executive Board we believe increased local control through regulation would give us more power to help improve services and improve the experience for fare going public and get those passengers back on to our buses.

In the meantime we have to work within the constraints of the system that we've got. First remain an important partner and through the work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority we have signed a bus alliance with them and with other bus operators which saw a more robust voluntary partnership agreement entered into and agreed last week by West Yorkshire Combined Authority. There was alliances designed to create improvements across the bus network including but not limited to service provision, ticketing and air quality. The Council is matching this with Improvement Service Infrastructure, by bus lanes, junction improvements and Park and Ride sites. This partnership aims to improve the quality, reliability, connectivity of our bus network for all Leeds communities.

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

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. According to comments made at Executive Board in June by the Chief Highways Officer the basis of the agreement on investments in Leeds is a personal one between the Leader of Council and First Bus. Given this what guarantees can this administration provide on continuing investment if First is sold and is this personal agreement a sensible basis on which to conduct business.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. The discussion certainly that I have had with the Senior Officers at First Group and I know the the ones that they've had with Council Groves are not a personal agreement or a personal commitment they are the commitment of their organisation and they are very clear that the voluntary agreement they've entered into will pass on to any company that then buys out that business.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development inform Council of the costs incurred to date on the Lawnswood junction phase of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Plan for the A660, and detail those costs of consultants, officer time, contractors and any other costs?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. The development of proposals for the A660 Lawnswood junction has been an integral part of the overall Leeds Public of Transport Investment Programme. The objective of proposals is to improve journey time reliability for bus services and therefore for the travelling public and also crucially at this junction to address the poor road safety record of it. Lawnswood roundabout is second on the Council sites for concern list as Councillor Bentley will be well aware.

To date £379,988 have been expended on officer time and the cost of the Council's contracted professional services this expenditure has been incurred in the initials project scoping options developments and appraisal.

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

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Mulherin for that brief and informative answer. Given that you have rejected the original plans that all this third of a million has been spent on and sent the designers back to the drawing board to think again how are you going to ensure that this time as schemes develop that will be acceptable to the community provided outcomes that are required by the Leeds Public Transport Investment Plan and wastes no more money

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. No construction works have as yet been contracted, scheme proposals are currently being reviewed at my request given the limited benefits of the original proposals to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians on that junction and I will be closely involved in assessing any new proposals before they come forward for further consultation with local members and with the public.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wenham.

COUNCILLOR WENHAM: Does the Executive Member have any comments to make on the impact in Leeds Government decisions on Education funding.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Wenham for the question you read my mind I do have a comment on Education funding. Now as we know Theresa May is on her way out, we're all terribly sad but before she goes we know that she wants to leave a lasting legacy something positive to try and clear people's memories of all the cuts and the hardships she's presided over. So her idea was for a £27b 3 year funding plan for schools. Something I've no doubt will be welcomed right across the country, right here in Leeds so I waited very eagerly to hear when this money will be forthcoming, how much we'd see in Leeds and all the while thinking of all the good it could do in our schools and for our young people and then nothing was announced. Just reports of whispers in the corridors of Westminster, unease at the Treasury and it unfortunately appears that Mrs May's grand gesture has been quietly squashed. Shocking I know to hear that the prime Minister is in office but not in power but it's apparently been replaced with a smaller fund but again with no details of when, how, what this money is for or whether it's simply a reannouncement of old money which actually was the last case last time money was announced for Education.

So I thought what exactly could this money be used for. It's no secret that funding for schools both in terms of capital and maintenance is an absolute crisis and it's old news that the money we'll receive from Government to provide sufficient school places is woefully short and I'm talking tens of millions of the amount of money it actually costs us to provide those and I say old news because it's a situation we've been in for year after year after year and nothing happens the Government do not care and are in complete denial.

School maintenance is one significant area where the Government action is notable only by its absence. We have a maintenance backlog of our schools of around £100m in Leeds this is not money for fancy new buildings or new playgrounds this is money for basic and essential work. This is money to make schools safe, warm and watertight. I went to visit Parklands Primary School a few weeks ago as they wanted to show me that some of the shocking states of their toilets. I'm not exaggerating when I say I was horrified by the state they were in. The headteacher was showing me how cubicles and urinals had to be boarded up with health and safety concerns. I wrote to the Secretary of State 9 months ago outlining the situation in Leeds and asking for a meeting to discuss this. I didn't receive a response so followed up with an open letter that was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post. This eventually prompted a response and finally a meeting last month.

At the meeting I raised the maintenance concerns and also the fact that we had 3 schools in total need of a rebuild as well as the issue such as the toilets in Parklands and other schools around the city. They seemed very interested but I received a letter only yesterday saying 'no' there will be no money for Leeds schools.

On the high schools in need of a rebuild by accessing every pot of money we could and with some prudential borrowing we've managed to find the £28m needed for Benton Park in in Guiseley and Rawdon and this is a school we've built because of the Council and in spite of the Government we simply could not wait for their inaction but this is not something we can keep doing and I will be writing to the Secretary of State again because we need the Government to not give such a dismal response we need the money to rebuild Wetherby, we need the money to rebuild Royds and we need it now.

However it's not just Government decisions on school capital and maintenance funding that of cause families in Leeds to suffer perhaps one of the most controversial funding choices in recent years are the savage cuts to some of our most vulnerable children, those with special educational needs and disabilities with the Government taking £15m out of the high needs block 2 years ago and £5m last year. We as Labour Councillors here on Leeds City Council are fully supporting the families that are fighting back and are taking the Government to court over the huge cuts to children with special education needs and disabilities. There's been a 26% rise in the last financial year in the number of court appeals by parents of children with SEND and this is the third successive year is increased as the Government continues to take money from these children with disabilities. There are total now of 6,374 appeals lodged last year being almost double the number of 3 years previously. These families are rightly arguing that cuts by Government have left councils across the country unable to fill their legal duties in terms of the support offered to children with special needs. If they win and I really hope they do the High Court could order the Government to rethink their budgetary decisions.

These parents describe their children as having their future stolen and their lives wasted by an unnecessary and ideological austerity programme from the Government but this is an action that these parents should not be having to go down, the Government should be funding these children properly. They've said that nothing can prepare you for the enormity of the challenges you face as a parent of a child with special needs and what makes it so much worse is the fact that these families have to fight every single step of the way against the system where funding has not kept pace with demand. An investigation by the BBC showed that in the last financial year 8 out of 10 councils across England overspent on their High Needs block. In Leeds, as I've said, we are no different and were being forced to move money from the schools funding block into the High Needs block to try and plug that gap. In 2014 councils were given the additional responsibility for young people with special needs right up to the age of 25 previously it was only 18 but this additional funding did not reflect any of the, sorry the funding didn't follow any of the responsibility that came to us and the thing is with these huge cuts to

every aspect of Education the Government imposes on us aside from all the pretty obvious moral arguments is the huge economic one. The Tories would have you believe that they are the party of financial management, they'll look after it all but not only has the current Government spent and borrowed more money than every single Labour Government that has ever existed put together, study after study shows that if you invest in young people in Education then over time you save money on healthcare, you save money on welfare bills, you save money on judicial system. Cuts to children are wrong morally and they are wrong economically. So essentially Councillor Wenham this Conservative Government has made funding decision after funding decision that has materially disadvantage the children of Leeds. Thank you.

(Applause)

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

(Inaudible background talking)

COUNCILLOR WENHAM: No.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you Lord Mayor. Now that the Knostrop Sewage Treatment works is licenced to receive and treat waste flowback fluid from the hydraulic fracturing can the Executive Member tell me what information is provided to Leeds City Council by FCC Environment and/or Yorkshire Water when any potentially hazardous waste material is transported to and from Knostrop.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Forsaith for your question. As you know Leeds City Council is opposed to fracking and fundamentally disagrees with the Government's approach to forcing it on local communities without even the opportunity to properly object. To see the by-products of fracking now being released into the River Aire without any consultation when the people of Leeds have rejected fracking so strongly is frankly an outrage.

Unfortunately there's no requirement for the Knostrop facility to notify Leeds City Council about what material is processed by them because it's a matter for the Environment Agency who have given them the permit to do so. I've already written to the Environment Agency around this very issue, however because I too am concerned about the issues that you raise and I'm asking for more information in response to the question that the reply they've already given to me on what limits are placed on the substances and radioactivity of waste to be provided because there response did not fill me

with the greatest of confidence. Regrettably the Environment Agency has laid responsibility for change at the feet of the Government and I'll be writing to the Government to ask them to change their policy and I'm happy to provide you with copies of that correspondence.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: No it's fine.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Iqbal.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: Can I ask how is the Council taking forward its climate emergency declaration Lisa.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Since the declaration of Climate Emergency Councillor Iqbal we put the subject to the very heart of the priorities that we have as a city. As the Leader has already said at a political level the portfolio arrangements have been revised to reflect this new priority and the centrality of it to everything that we do.

The portfolio combining Climate Emergency Transport and Sustainability under my new role is part of that but there's also been the introduction of at least one strand relating to climate emergency for each portfolio holder to each Cabinet Member taking responsibility for that and to ensure that it is relevant to all of our decision making. This is been combined with the introduction of the new cross party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee chaired by Councillor Walshaw with the specific remit of advising us on how we respond to the climate emergency. I should say at the first meeting of that committee that we held 2 weeks ago, I think yeah, Councillor Shahzad raised some very very important points around the table including the importance of getting the climate change conversation out to every one of our communities and for it to reflect the diversity of our city. At that point in the meeting Councillor Shahzad correctly pointed out that he was the only BAME representative in the room, not just sitting around the Committee but also amongst those attending to view the proceedings of the Committee.

We are beginning a city conversation in the next week so it's going to be launched on Tuesday evening at the University working in partnership as we do with the Leeds Climate Commission and we're absolutely intent on ensuring that every part of the city, every community is represented and have their voices heard in that conversation which will be taking place over the summer months through to the end of October to inform the work that both the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will do and also the report that we will be bringing to Executive Board in December on the roadmap from there about how we take our commitments to become carbon neutral by 2030

forward. Officer working groups have been also set up to look at areas such as transport and biodiversity to consider how they need to adapt in light of the Climate Emergency Declaration and at Officer level there has been a series of presentations to ensure that staff throughout the Council understand the climate emergency and its implications for the wider Council and their specific Directorates. Senior Officers now have an objective related to climate emergency within their appraisals and all Executive Board reports include a section on climate emergency to ensure that it's been properly considered when reports are presented.

So these are some of the areas of work in which we have already put the climate emergency and our declaration and commitments to tackle that at the heart of the work they are doing as a Council and I thank you again Councillor Iqbal for raising the question.

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary Councillor Iqbal.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: No Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK, Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. In relation to sites each of the major volume house builders have approved planning permission would the Exec Member responsible for Planning please advise how many sites have approval and are under construction and what the build out rates and completion dates, specifically completion dates, are for these sites and whether any will not be completed within the plan period.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: So without the benefit of a crystal ball the proportion of total sites with planning permission held by volume house builders in Leeds equates to around a third of all sites with planning permission in Leeds. Since 2012 sites with planning permission for housing that have not made a formal start have tended to focus on sites in the main urban area as discussed at length in the discussion about the Site Allocations Plan earlier and the city centre where volume housebuilders are less active.

There is now a healthy stock of sites both with planning permission and under construction across the city this includes sites being developed by volume house builders that make a meaningful contribution to overall completions in order to meet our plan targets. Specifically I can advise that as of the 1st April 2019 there was outstanding capacity for 29,361 units with planning permission across the whole of the city, of these permissions almost 12,000 units will be delivered on 133 sites that are currently under construction with over three quarters of them on brownfield.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member in the spirit of trying to hold these volume builders to account to issue that information on a quarterly basis and alongside it an explanation as to what action the Planning Department have taken in order to speak to the volume housebuilders as to why they are not building out at the rates that they promised Plans Panels and taking them forward because we need, particularly when it comes to the city centre, why are they not doing it because they keep telling us at City Centre Plans they are going to do it so will she will issue that information on a quarterly basis so that we can, the Development Plans Panel at least can hold them to account.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: So I'll take the commitment that we would take this certainly to Development Plans Panel to discuss, it's an interesting proposal that you brought to us we could bring that to the Development Plans Panel as an item for discussion.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member inform Council how many young people have benefited from the Council's scheme to alleviate period poverty and at what cost to the Council.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you so as many Members will be aware over the past year Leeds has been designing a scheme to tackle period poverty in Leeds. Period poverty has been linked to social exclusion, lower school attendance aside from just the basic human right of young girls deserving the right sanitary protection. So in Leeds we are creating a partnership approach that aims to tackle the stigma around periods and poverty and to eliminate period poverty through providing free sanitary products to schools, community hubs, one stop shops and libraries across all of Leeds.

So over the past year we've listened to and worked with a variety of children, young people, parents, public, private, third, academic and education sector partners to identify current practice and develop a scheme that meets the need in a non stigmatising and sustainable way. We've held focus groups in schools and trialled different approaches to distributing products in community hubs which I'm pleased to say is slowly starting to roll out as well and we've also been having conversations with third sector groups who are currently distributing products both in Leeds but also nationally across the country. The approach has been based on collaboration between Children & Families and communities and includes partnerships with third, with a number of sectors and it's a scheme which has been guided by the opinions of children and young people. Like everything we want to do in Leeds we believe that amplifying the voice and influence of the young people should be

at the heart of everything we do not least the things that directly involve them. I'm also pleased to have meetings with, as Councillor Robinson mentioned earlier, with some women who are suffering from endometriosis and it is amazing to hear how many women that actually affects and we've been in touch with the Scrutiny Board to see how Leeds can better respond to that as well.

So earlier this year the Government announced their planning to run a period products scheme which will be launched in early 2020 and provides sanitary products to primary, secondary and 16 to 19 settings. Education information as well as addressing the stigma of periods will be left to local determination.

We've had various conversations with the Department of Education and the Department of Equalities and sent correspondence which outlines an argument for devolving the funding to Local Authorities which bid into the funding pot. The Government sent us a response which outline their approach which is to commission one national provider and fund them to provide sanitary products to all schools and all 16 to 19 settings. We're currently looking at how the Leeds scheme will fit in with that, with the Government scheme, we certainly have some concerns over the speed at which the Government can address this I know in the past we in this Council have spoken about the scheme to pay for the funerals of under 18's and the Government then subsequently announced something similar and I don't think the Government has even reached that point where they know how to roll it out yet, it's taken them years and our fear with the period poverty is that the very same thing will happen so we are pressing ahead with our same scheme in September.

A group of Child Friendly Leeds and partners have contributed funding to offset this. A proportion of the cost of the scheme but with £20,000 of Leeds City Council money as well. An app is under development which will enable young people to access products from Community Hubs across the city particularly looking at the issue of when there are school holidays we wouldn't want young girls to be without just because they're not in school for 6 weeks and all this work is in addition to the work of, obviously I've mentioned groups before like Freedom for Girls which are doing fantastic stuff with some schools I know that a number of schools have the Red Box Project, I know Royds has with Councillor Harrison which is fantastic but we're hoping in September that we can make sure we've had a scheme to make sure that all schools are covered. But I think it lends to a wider point as we're seeing a rise in this period poverty of how austerity is actually hitting the youngest people on the ground and I think even though the Government have finally woken up that they need to do something about period poverty I think the Government needs to be looking at the cause of the problem not just the symptoms.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I take that as a none then because I didn't actually get an answer to the question that how many, how many young people and how much and it's, it's, it's a would the executive Member agree with me that it's a bit rich for him to be criticising the Government for a delay when this was first brought to this Council's attention in a Budget amendment from this group in 2018 and nothing has been done since. If, nothing has been implemented, there has been a lot of talk. If the Executive Member is really keen on non-stigmatised inclusive system would he consider the introduction of a P card system as recently, as recently launched by Plan International and the Brook charity, two of the leading charities in the field of young person's sexual health and wellbeing.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: So in terms of actual numbers of young girls who we've assisted at the moments we have the pilot scheme in three schools and we have the community hubs. We put the products in there we don't count the number of people who go and use it and the date we've had to roll out the scheme in September was the date we announced at the start and it remains the date now nothing has changed in that regard we were always planning to roll out a citywide scheme from September because at the moment there are a lot of schools which have their own schemes and this is the work we've been doing because some schools have fantastic schemes and there quietly getting on with it without the Council but then other schools have absolutely nothing so we've been doing that work to make sure that we have universal coverage. We are the first Council in England to actually be rolling this out ...

(Applause and cheers)

And I think, yeah, and I think that is a really important point and the P card, you mention the P card every single time. We have spoken to young people in these three pilot areas and they say 'why do I need a card why can't I just go and get some' are we going to reach to the point where pharmacies are going to say 'well if you've not brought your P card you can't have any'. If someone needs one they need one ...

(Applause)

and that's on top of the difficulties of you can only really use those in pharmacies, if you're in some rural areas and smaller villages there may not be a pharmacy at the end of the road so while the P card has fantastic aims it's not necessarily the system which are young people want.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Would the Executive Member like to comment on the news that Leeds is the first UK city to report a decline in child obesity.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you. Thank you very much Councillor Hayden and Lord Mayor and I have to say isn't it nice to be talking about other things other than planning that actually really deserve some airtime not that planning isn't important it is but actually there's some amazing work going on in the city that really deserves some airing and some discussion and I think it's right that we should talk about this in this forum. I'm sure all Members are aware that some external academic work done by the University of Oxford academic there looked at Leeds obesity data that we collect through our 0 to 19 programme early years and found that we had been bucking the trend if it were as a city the only city to see a decline and a reverse in the rates of childhood obesity for 5 year olds and I think that is an incredible achievement. I think a huge amount of more work needs to be done to understand what what led to that and I don't think we would seek to say one thing or another was the absolute cause of that but I think it's right we take a moment to celebrate it and recognise it because it's certainly a joint partnership piece of work both across the Council with schools, with third sector organisations, with our NHS colleagues, with Members here as well so it's a real achievement and just to put it into perspective I think it means that out of the 9,675 reception age children we measured over 600 are no longer obese so I think if we put it into figures we see that 600 children ...

(Applause)

Have potentially better health in the future and we know that the greatest impact of this is in poorer areas of the city. Obesity is more prevalent in areas which are more deprived and places with poorer incomes and so it was really good to see in this piece of work that it was in the areas where children were poorer that they saw the greatest benefits and more children were coming out of those levels of obesity so it is truly a remarkable statistic and like I say it was an external piece of work that has been done so we really want to understand it here ourselves as well but it hit the international headlines you know became international news, we were been contacted from all over the world and credit to our Public Health teams and that's why I'm answering the question today because public health covers children and adults that we commission Henry which is the particular service that was taken, that we commission that helps people to learn hat skills and tactics and techniques to help their children eat a healthier diet and it's that little bit of support that when we give that to families we see we potentially see greater uptake in healthier eating and healthier lifestyles because we've given

a little bit of support maybe that is something that is has made a huge difference and that's what certainly the academic research have picked out

and all of the press that that was generated out of it as well but undoubtedly it is the Council's approach to retaining our Children's Centres where this programme is delivered.

(Applause)

That is a political decision and has provided a basis from which this work can happen if they weren't there we wouldn't be able to reach the families that we need to reach and it is absolutely intention that as a Council we have sought to retain those services to protect children and help. So this is, this is an example I think of how our lead approach can have an effect on the lives of the people in the city and it's not just children's obesity it's homelessness, it's mental health, it's our approach to commissioning in times of austerity that has meant our third sector and the way this Council commissions together has provided social safety nets for people in really really difficult times and I really commend the Council staff and political colleagues and cross party as well and our partnerships in the city for achieving this and other really wonderful outcomes for the people of our city.
Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden have you got a supplementary.

Now we've reached the end of the question time. Those that didn't get the opportunity to ask their question you'll have a reply in due course.

**ITEM 10 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

THE LORD MAYOR: We have now passed ten past four at this point we reach the consideration of Item 10, the minutes would have usually concluded therefore I'd like to invite Councillor Blake to formally move the (inaudible).

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I move the minutes of the Executive Board in the terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: I'd like to invite Councillor Dowson to second.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we call for a vote. (*A vote was taken*).
That's been CARRIED.

Thank you we'll now go for a break and we could be back in the Chamber for 4.50.

(Inaudible talking)

It's short for 55 will that ...

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: On the dot.

THE LORD MAYOR: On the dot.

Another extra five minutes. OK for 55 can I invite the guests to join us for supper.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just somebody left an Ipad, there's an Ipad going in there, we'll sort out Councillor. No charge. I have been informed somebody's left their keys in the ladies toilet as well and the keys are on the front desk. I've been informed of that.

ITEM 11 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we are now moving on to the report on devolution matters. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. For new Members in the Chamber this is an opportunity that we have at every Council meeting to bring Council up to date with the work that's happening in our devolved groupings around West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the LEP and just to talk about devolution in general.

Obviously we've had elections in May as we all know and then we've had a meeting of the Yorkshire Leader's Board and I have to inform Council that there have been some changes we now have a Labour Leader in Scarborough

(Cheering and applause)

Yeah so there's also been a significant change of leadership in York. York was a Tory ...

(Cheers and laughter)

Conservative led coalition before but after the election it's now led by the Liberal Democrats ...

(Cheers)

Supported by the Greens so some of the districts in North Yorkshire have also gone to no overall control from been Conservative Authorities however we all got in the room together and just to inform councillors still a real commitment I think Hambleton is the only one who has decided to not come in the room but I don't think that's unusual from what I understand. But

we're meeting again tomorrow in fact to talk about how we move the devolution agenda for Yorkshire Forward.

As I updated last time since we met the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, there have been meetings with officials and I am really pleased that we're now engaging with Treasury. I think what we've really lacked in the last few years is any direct relationship with Treasury at all so there's a meeting next week where some of the leaders are going down to meet with them to talk about the fact that we might not be able to get the full deal over the line at the moment but actually we need some money and we need it now. You know we have had a very large growth deal from Government but that money is starting to come to an end and we have to get down there and talk about how we move it forward.

Matthew I gather you had a, I was out of the room actually, but I gather you had a chat with Boris and oh just Boris, oh Boris and James but Boris and James Hunt came to,

COUNCILLORS: Jeremy.

(Laughter)

Jeremy, I was, so listen I haven't got much time but I was so worried about getting his surname right (laughing). Sorry. So the one who will remain nameless but I have to say there's been quite a few people who actually have spoken to them. What I would just ask is can we believe everything that they've said in their leadership campaign because if so then can I ask you all to get ready for the millions of pounds that are coming to the North whichever one they get elected so obviously the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has declared a climate emergency as did the LGA last week and I was very pleased to move, second that motion down at the LGA a really important step forward.

We have had a bit of a setback today I have to tell you and it's around flooding. Rachel Reeves and I wrote to Liz Truss and asked her to come to Leeds to talk to us about the gap in the funding that still exists and she sent us a letter back, bearing in mind she is from Leeds don't forget as well, and she just says at the end 'unfortunately due to diary constraints I'm unable to offer a date to visit the scheme at any time soon'. If anything speaks volumes about why we need more power, more resources, devolved local decision making about things that really matter to our communities ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: It has to be this. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. It was interesting to note that the Leader of Council commented on the changes politically in some parts of Yorkshire but neglected to mention the Conservative surge here in Leeds in the local elections as we, as we romped forward, the people of Pudsey decided to stick with their obsession with the green belt and elect to the fantastic Trish Smith who spoke so well earlier today.

(Applause)

And we expect that surge to continue forward in the in the, it's a, that's a surge.

(Inaudible background talking)

I stand by that Lord Mayor. I think, as been noted, Councillor Robinson did take the opportunity to ask both Jeremy Hunt and Boris Johnson about their views on devolution to the North and it was encouraging that both of them were strongly and wholeheartedly committed to devolution to investment in transport infrastructure in the North and part of our job will be to hold whichever of them becomes Prime Minister to that and to get them interested in the North of England and we will absolutely do that. So it was news to me and disappointing to hear about the letter from Liz Truss and again where we can help and support with those things than we gladly will, you just have to ask and we will do our best to support.

We all know the importance of getting genuine devolution to this region. We have to focus on something that's realistic and deliverable and we will do everything that we can to support that. We need to be involved in the discussions to do that there needs to be realistic focus on these matters but it's gone on for too long, we have to focus on what can be delivered now that doesn't exclude anything further. Our view remains it would be pretty easy and the Government would be open to something along the lines of Leeds City Region that could be done quite quickly, that doesn't stop a One Yorkshire model in the future. Let's focus on what we can do, get it done, get some powers devolved, show what we can do which I am confident we would if we had those powers and then take it from there. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will say the statement by the Leader apart from the the letter from Liz Truss is very encouraging. I hope bearing in mind in a fortnight we will have one of the two incumbents, I wont even try to do names there but I think it's important that

pressure's put on from day one and I would suggest as well allowing for the likelihood or possibility that we may well finish up having a General Election in the Autumn that all Party Leaders and National Parties cos we don't know what kind of result we're gonna get there, that all of em are lobbied for devolution for Yorkshire. Last 3 days I've been in a part of the United Kingdom that's got devolved powers, that's Wales, and I started my journey to Council this morning on the two minutes past nine train from Bangor in North Wales which is Nationalised Welsh Railways because Arriva Wales has been taken over by the Bolsch Assembly. So maybe, maybe in the near future if we can get devolution we could have Transport for Yorkshire Nationalised ...

(Cheers)

Instead of Northern Rail. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I note what Councillor Blake says and I totally agree with her that we do need money to continue with dealing with the flooding, sorry the flooding problems we have in Leeds and obviously we're not going to get that at the moment certainly, even when the Tories get the Leadership matter sorted out. I don't know if we'll still get it but they've still got to try and get it and that's the thing and I do appreciate what Councillor Blake's doing towards that we've got to keep on to it and also what Councillor David Blackburn said with transport. We've got to try, we need to run transport so that it's for the people out there and not for the big operators, I know yes we've spoke today about, it looks as if First Bus and Arriva are gonna sell etc etc. We can't stop them selling and that but we've got to continue to try and get some sort of grip on the matter and obviously yes so I suppose all this will come if we do get the Yorkshire Assembly or get some more, say more than what we've got at the moment. They can only keep trying. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Kim Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Is it me now. Sorry I thought there was someone speaking before me. Thank you Lord Mayor. I've just been asked to say a few words about devolution and transport while we wait for the devolution deal to arrive. Firstly the Combined Authority and Councillor Mulherin has outlined the Voluntary Partnership Agreement that was agreed on Friday at the Transport Board. This is something that starts to build on a model that Government expects for moving to other options. In Liverpool they have been on this journey for 3 years and Manchester have gone down the same route. They're having to prove that they have tried all different models before being allowed to take control. It's a very complex and legal system and many audits are required. I think it's really disappointing that the Government want to see so much from us that they lack in terms of policy, we don't even have a National Bus Policy and the Government funding is nothing short of a joke in terms of how it's distributed across the country. It can't be

right that the London model held as a success gets £722m subsidy, £90 per person while the rest of the country just gets to £203m subsidy.

We know that the bus industry has not performed well since privatisation in our city region. On average patronage as dropped about 1m passengers trips a year, every year. To keep a viable network and make fares for passengers affordable we spend about £75m a year in terms of public money and I know that there's many Members in this room who knows that the service is just not fit for purpose. The arterial routes are served well but when I think across West Yorkshire and I can probably name all the places but I'll just name the Leeds ones. Places like East End Park, Ardsley & Robin Hood, Rothwell and then when you go out to the Wakefield Districts the services are really poor and Cottingham is one of those services as well.

So whatever happens in terms of, with the bus industry the model is broken, we need to redefine the networks and we need to look at the modes of transport and move to multi model shift. First is the largest bus company in West Yorkshire, has recently gone up for sale so we are exploring the opportunities and threats this creates and will do the very best for the people of West Yorkshire especially the bus passengers. I just want to mention at this point because there's been a lot of headlines over the last year I think since I went down, not about me, to West Yorkshire Combined Authority but about the rail industry and the bus industries and the ways they are run but I want to pay tribute to the fantastic teams that I've met, that get up on a daily basis and do all the work on the ground it certainly is an uncertain time for them and their families.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: OK. Have I got red already.

THE LORD MAYOR: Yes you have.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Alright sorry. I had a lot more to tell you so I'll probably tell you next time. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hall

COUNCILLOR HALL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to speak on devolution today as an Elected Member, as business person, as a resident and as a mother. I too like Councillor Blake look forward to the Viv Nicholson policy that both Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt have promised in the event that either is successful in their leadership bids however I'm not drawing up any lists because I think that would be premature to say the least. Northern Rail continues to operate a very cavalier approach to the consumers and legislators. Timetables despite being better than last year have not really improved to reflect the forward thinking dynamic approach that sets 21st century metropolis such as Leeds needs and the continued delayed

introduction of new rolling stock and the scrapping of pacer trains is absolutely adding insult to injury and its further evidence if any were needed that Northern Rail should be scrapped of, should be stripped of its franchise.

To add further insult to injury for young people Northern introduced a penalty fare system last year which is not being even handedly applied and it would appear from the evidence that I and many of my colleagues in this Chamber are getting from young people those people who are the next generation employers who are the people who are going to be paying for our pensions when we're in our dotage, they are presenting to buy tickets because they have been unable to do so at stations and as well as a ticket they're getting a £20 fine and these are people who are on low incomes often vulnerable employment contracts and that is their first working experience.

Worse when I did some of my own investigations at Leeds station as to how the fares were being applied I was told that if there was one of the Northern Railways versions of Gelas Jones, a penalty fare would be handed out but if there wasn't it wouldn't so I really do think that we need some devolved power so that we can start scrutinising this kind of behaviour even more closely.

One thing I am concerned about is that the money that Leeds City Council did have devolved from Central Government for bus improvements is not able to deliver right across the city and it appears at the moment to be a road improvement system. We need to get more of that money onto frontline services so that with more services which are more reliable and more affordable to get more people to work more regularly and that will also help us deliver on our green climate emergency resolution.

So the ultimate folly HS2 that continues to be pursued by both this Authority and the Government and we've really got to put pressure on them and have devolution so that we can start saying to Government we want money for transport that works for us. We need to continue applying pressure for electrification so that we have a system that is fit for purpose and ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hall.

COUNCILLOR HALL: For all. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks Lord Mayor. Following on from Councillor Hall one of our other Councillors from Rothwell was intending to be here today Lord Mayor and she was going to be on time as well unfortunately she chose to take the train from London to Leeds and it got halted at Peterborough she's due to actually get into the city roundabout 6 o'clock and it's just an example of how the decision makers can think 'well we have to keep it running as far as Peterborough but beyond there it doesn't really

matter because they're not as important as the likes of us down South. A recent decision was also made around repairs on the East Coast Main Line which was that we would not expect to have any services coming up North from London on the Bank Holiday weekend where the 20 Authorities in the North including our own had really big celebrations and cultural activities that we hoped to showcase ourselves to the wider world and of course the wider world isn't going to be able to get to us and actually share in what is good about the North.

I have to say this isn't one of the railway lines which is meant to be associated with devolution however the running of those services on the East Coast Main Line is subject to consultation with Local Authorities upon its route. I think it would be really useful if Councillor Blake could comment on whether or not she's actually been involved at all in any of those decisions that have been made in terms of work on the line which restricts access to our area I suspect not.

Also in this paper it talks about the Blake's Jones review. It was supposed to be released in June we were hoping to have it reported back to us at West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting unfortunately Councillor Blake has effectively been gagged because the Government is too preoccupied with its own, what's the word, Leadership race to actually do anything on the line of doing effective decision making so Councillor Blake knows what's included within the recommendations but isn't actually able to report it back to us so her ability to be accountable is been inhibited by the centre and it doesn't bode well in terms of their commitment to actually really thinking about devolving decision making powers up to us.

And lastly on the devolution issue Councillor Blake you have our full support again to push for the One Yorkshire solution and we should not be, what's the word, deflected by the internal workings of some of the smaller councils elsewhere in the county that use the One Yorkshire devolution debate to actually further their own interests and I will say Boris Johnson doesn't really sound like the kind of person who is serious about Northern commitment when he thinks that Jake Berry is actually a Yorkshire MP.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Jake Berry's Lancashire, Jake Berry is an MP in Lancashire did you say Yorkshire.

COUNCILLOR (Inaudible)

Ah sorry OK sorry.

COUNCILLOR: (Inaudible), Boris Johnson

Oh did he, oh right he's is right hand man isn't he. OK so quite a few points to pick up on and thanks Councillor Groves for your update and I know there's an incredible amount to say on this agenda I just want to commend

you for all the work you're doing down at WYCA, Councillor Groves has really embraced the fact that she's there to represent the whole of West Yorkshire and she spent more time on trains and buses going round trying to get around West Yorkshire than probably anyone I have known recently.

So first of all can I thank everyone for their support it really is crucial that we hold the cross party line on this and that gives us a lot of strength going into the meeting so we'll continue to do that. I think, you know, from what Councillor Groves was saying you know the fact that First and Arriva are getting to the point where they're looking at, you know, offloading their bus operations then perhaps that is an opportunity for us and I think we really need to look at how we can do it in and Chris Grayling if you remember I reported to some time ago Chris Grayling did say to us that even though we didn't have a Mayoral model he would be open to a robust and proposal around taking ownership of the of the bus operations so I think maybe this is a moment that we need to seize and really work going forward.

I just, obviously rail has been a massive issue for us across the piece and Northern are really you know in our sites as well as Transpennine to be fair. But I just ask you not to forget that one of the major difficulties that Northern have had is that when the franchises were let to them they were let on the understanding that major infrastructure improvements would have been completed by Network Rail and that has been the major problem and I think that's part of the difficulty Stewart with the work's that happening at the Bank Holiday weekend, it's not just about repairs, it's about bringing forward the extension of the platforms all of the things that were promised that would be completed which have slipped as we know but I was with Network Rail yesterday and they did give a full apology for not communicating the full scale of what they're doing and they actually came to the LGA to ask to work much more closely with us as Local Authorities so that they have a direct line in to actually tell us what is happening on their lines they've reorganised the whole structure of the way they do the operation so we'll hold them to account on that.

I just want to say don't let's fall into the trap of arguing for one scheme against another, we need them all, we need HS2, we need Northern Powerhouse Rail, we need investment in our local services, don't let's sell ourselves short by saying either or ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

We need the whole thing and we need it now. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*.
That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 12 - WHITE PAPER MOTION - BULKY INERT WASTE

We'll now move on to the White Paper which will take, each White Paper will take no longer than 45 minutes. So shall I call on Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Labour's bins taxes or waste taxes depends what you want to call them. They hit, if you look at the amendment for the Labour Party, you wouldn't believe this but they actually hit the poorest most. Your own policy of charging for waste hits the poorest greatest. As a percentage of their income just think how much their having to spend when you go down to that level you are actually hitting the people you purport to represent in this great city. Now when I asked for the information how much does it cost to collect all of this fly tipping, don't know Councillor. There's so many complicated ways, there's large amounts coming, there's smaller amounts coming we don't collect it. You don't know whether or not your policy is cost effective or not. You're raising round about £400,000 from it you haven't a clue whether or not you're covering your costs or whether it's actually costing you more to actually charge for it. You haven't a clue what you're doing. With £400,000 is less than 1% of your budget so if you say you can't find 1% of your budget then you're not very good at managing the finances of this great city if you cannot find £400,000 from the size of budget that you've got.

Now which are the worst areas for fly tipping well according to the Yorkshire Evening Post it is as follows. In first place Gipton and Harehills, in second place Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, in third place Killingbeck and Seacroft, in fourth what they call City and Hunslet but we know it's got a name.

(Inaudible background talking)

Yeah we know, I know that I'm only reading, before anybody says where am I getting my quotes from, 5th Armley, 6th Beeston & Holbeck, 7th Hunslet & Riverside. What's the difference I ask you. You know so this is coming through Yorkshire

(Inaudible background talking)

Chapel Allerton is 8, 9's Bramley & Stanningley, 10 Hyde Park & Woodhouse, 11 Temple Newsam and then you finally get to an area not represented by the Labour Party in terms of Farnley & Wortley so we're not standing up here trying to say 'oh you'll need to do something in our areas' we are genuinely arguing for the benefits of every citizen in the city not just our own areas in terms of what we're doing.

You don't even count the amount of landowners that are having to or private owners, your own house. If you get a fly tip within the curtilage of your own house you've got to pay for that so that's a cost, we don't count those. You've got no idea how many private fly tips there have been throughout the

city, you don't know the extent of your problem. You also are allowing unregulated companies to collect some of that waste as well. Now OK not with your authority I accept that but you're not doing enough to stop these unregistered people and what do they then do with it, where do they then dump it after someone's given them a fiver or a tenner to get rid of it, where to they take it to. Do they go to the Waste Stie I very much doubt it, it gets tipped all over the place.

Now you may say 'Well what am I doing about it'. Well in Outer North West we are working with Officers to try and find a solution to the fly tipping problems that we've got. But these are actually officers quite low down because Senior Officers don't accept that we've got a problem. The Council will tell you, speak to the Senior Officers or possibly Councillor Rafique will tell you 'we don't actually have a problem just now. You know it just, we have a massive problem with fly tipping all over the city and one of the major causes of it is your tax in charging someone £2.80 or £2.90 whatever it is to take one slate along to the recycling areas, that's the level of what you're talking about if you cannot find £400,000. Around here we'll tell you how you can find it if you really want to know we will help you find the money that you need. We've had successive budget amendments telling you how to do it and yet again as I said earlier on you're of the opinion your right we're wrong and you can never ever be wrong. Well on this instance you are wrong, you are totally wrong.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I great pleasure in seconding this motion. I think it's clear, I mean what would it be several months ago there was a national, in national newspapers. It described Leeds as the fly tipping Capital of Britain and the situation since we introduced charging has got worse and worse and . We all see it and in as Councillor Anderson says in some parts of the city, I mean it's plagued with it. But we've all seen the situation deteriorate and quite clearly I know from some years ago when the Authority was slightly better offer for resources we increased the number of ...

(Inaudible background talking)

It was, it was it was under a coalition on this Council that I happened to be part of ...

(Inaudible background talking and laughing)

And what's happened then was we increased the number of collections you were allowed and fly tipping dropped through, dropped dramatically and it was always said to us by the Officers then that by doing this we were actually

saving money. Charging would cost us more in the long run and I suspect that's what's happening now but getting a clear answer you cannot get. We were, the other week, Councillor Simon Seary and myself and Councillor Amanda Carter who's the Outer West Environmental Sub-Group got the figures for fly tipping and what have you in our own wards. While I've got to say that Pudsey and Farsley & Calverley ones were less dramatic than in my own ward the fact is all the fly tipping had gone up and all the number of people that have rung up to have waste collected had gone down. It's got to be something to do this. All along since we've brought this in we've come up with ways. We're not talking big money here it's small stuff this and we've come up with ways, I mean there were 4 amendments at the last Budget Meeting that came up, that came up with ways of funding this. Every year since we've done it I think there's either been 3 or 4 amendments to do this and basically it's just wrong. We should not be charging because in the long run t' costing us more and it's making our city a mess. Thank you Lord Mayor
I second the motion.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. In moving this amendment let's be clear Lord Mayor that this administration has protected frontline services despite the cuts of £163m to our frontline services for the past 6 years against this background of constant and punitive cut to Leeds City Council the Conservative Leadership candidates are proposing to lower the corporation tax and raise the higher rate income tax before have 10% of the households. What does that mean, what does that tell us. This is a disappointing, this is disappointing Councillor Anderson but it's not surprising. These expensive proposals will do nothing to help the poorest, will do nothing to help the poorest and show how just how out of touch this Government is with the people of this city and the country.

In spite of this neglect from this Government we've taken positive action on waste in Leeds as you know, you know you've been part of the Waste Strategy Advisory Board and we want to, you know at any time if you want to talk, sit down and talk with us. You chaired a Scrutiny Board as well and it is within your remit to kind of look at you know make us do to tackle it. We actually, despite the funding squeeze on this Council which I have already alluded to, we continue to employ 32 Environmental Action Officers and have done so since 2012.

An example of a frontline service we protected from cuts because these are deployed disproportionately to priority areas and wards are Leeds by Example campaign we hope has already doubled recycling in the city centre and something we are looking to expand into our neighbourhoods as well.

We provide a free garden waste collections and can I just remind this Chamber that only at less than a third of Local Authorities across the country actually do this. Most of the core cities actually charge for garden waste

collection. This is something not provided by our colleagues in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Richmondshire and there are charges in other more, well most of the core cities including Birmingham as well.

Our bulky waste collection charges are lower than those of our Conservative control colleagues in North Yorkshire, Hambleton charge £52 minimum and Harrogate charge £43 minimum, York which is a coalition between Lib Dems and Greens charge £22, Bradford, Calderdale Kirklees Wakefield also charge for bulky waste collections and can I just say this argument that by reversing the charges the problem will go away. Well let me tell you Liverpool, Liverpool which is a core city has a very similar. in fact on on a head count Liverpool who doesn't charge for bulky waste collections has actually got more in terms of the figures based on head count has a bigger problem than Leeds so I've been on this Council since 2004 and I know this and I know many of the Members who are, it's an issue we've actually seen, you know let's face it, you know fly tipping which is illegal waste crime it is actually an eyesore whenever you see it. It's a blight on our communities and something you know I intend to take up a report to Executive Board some time in Autumn and look at measures to curb this and also look at other instances of waste crime.

In the mean time our Officers are, and some of you should have already met em have been doing their rounds to Environmental Sub Groups so you should have one colleague from across the Chamber should sit on the Environment Sub Groups who meet Community Committee's and they've been talking to Members about ways forward and how we could actually look at measures to curb fly tipping.

In short Lord Mayor we are doing all we can to keep the streets of Leeds clean, to retain good quality frontline services in the face of harsh cuts from this Government ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: and can I just say you know and I call upon this, of the next Prime Minister to reverse ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: all the funding cuts so we can find a permanent solution for (inaudible). Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor I second and reserve the right to speak which I'll be taking up.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I think the first thing to say on this debate is that it is with a degree of justification when Councillor Rafique says that the administration has managed to keep several plates spinning for 9 long gruelling years in the face of the Central Government cuts and I think anybody who does deny that is a denier of the worst kind because it's a reality and I congratulate the fact that frontline services have by and large been preserved. But I just harp back to my time and again I don't envy anybody who's got Environmental Services it is a tough gig and every year I remember vividly at budget time when Mr Evans as it were then used to come to visit me in my office and we'd rag everything red, amber, green, will this fly and the one thing that collectively we used to agree on was that if we were going to make a cut to make a saving it had to be tangible there had to be a cost saving there. So for that reason alone every year when this particular issue come up I was always inclined to put the red pen through this proposal rather than under it because I think it was clear what was going to happen. Now I was quite cross the other day because I had asked Officers ahead of this meeting to provide me with figures as to what the actual savings were when we looked at it in terms of the uplift in fly tipping and I've not had a response and I thought what's being kept from me but then what's become clear in the run up to this debate is I don't think the Officers actually know and that's even more worrying than information being kept back.

We have had an increase in fly tipping, its tangible it's there for all to see and hear in 50,000 reported incidents in 2 years and all I would say to the administration is and to Councillor Rafique who I've known for many years in terms of this particular issue if something fundamentally isn't working and we're seeing that the savings that we thought we would anticipate to make are simply not there I don't think anybody would be able to cry foul if this disappeared. Now we've spoke about budget cuts and there real, there tangible and there there but for terms of £400,000 or thereabout when we are unable as a Council and I think we are unable to say what the actual savings have been in terms of the uplift in fly tipping surely at least we should take a moratorium until we actually get those numbers and can make an informed decision. So what I'm asking for in this contribution is simply for an evidence based approach and I really don't think we've got that and I don't think until we do get that we can make an informed and sensible decision.

I wrote, I think it might have been Barry, but I wrote speculate to accumulate sometimes you've got to make a cost payment to make a saving and at the moment I would just ask for a period of reflection until we actually know in hard terms in black and white the actual outcomes of what these charges introduce and I don't think we're there yet and for that reason alone I'd ask the administration to think again on this particular policy element.

Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor I'd like to make an admission here I actually feel sorry for the Labour Party on this one. Now you won't hear me saying that very often if at all at this particular point but I think, I think they've got themselves into a real bind I mean in terms of the fly tippers paradise 10 of the top wards are in Labour areas so there suffering much more so than we are. Now we attempt as we do in Morley to try and deal with the issues that challenges in terms of fly tipping and we look to use Community Committee's, at CCTV schemes and blocking off roads and other such areas all of which costs money, all of which contribute towards the problems that we have in terms of making our finances go as far as they possibly should do. So we're in a situation where we'd support the abolition of what we call the rubble types other people call it other things at this particular point and I think deep down because it's blighting Labour wards more than anyone else they know that they've made a bit of a mistake on this particular one but it's that pigheadedness that basically prevents them putting their hands up and saying we cocked up on this one we will have another look at it, we will reverse the decision we've actually made and we'll make sure that the city is tidier and because of this, because the bottom line is we haven't any figures we don't know whether the savings that you're actually making at this particular point are greater than the costs of actually shifting all of this stuff.

Now I report 2 or 3 incidents a week I'm sure I'm not xxx I'm sure it's happening across the whole of the city and it's interesting to know that nobody's actually financially assessed what that actually costs us because the bottom line is it is costing us more than the £400,000 your actually saving then you're actually hitting frontline services you're actually reducing your capacity to help Adult Social Care and other sorts of areas.

We do seriously need to revisit this particular policy, I don't think it's working, it's meaning that the city is significantly untidy than it needs to be and the places that are getting blighted more are the Labour Party's by and large.

Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The Labour amendment basically just talks about Government funding and basically says if we had more Government funding we wouldn't have to make this decision which sort of says that you're not really in charge and we had this discussion earlier about Special Responsibility Allowances and how they go with a job description and how they are supposed to be about making actions, making decisions. Actually if you're not going to make any decisions of your own and you think everything's about Government cuts and there's nothing you can do about it then just leave it to the Officers but if you are actually in a position of authority and you pretend to be in charge of something then you really do need to make decisions and the decisions for these charges are ones that you have made, they have not been forced on you by Government because within this very same Department there is was also a decision that was, that has been made year on year for over 3 years now whereby that administration

over there thinks it is reasonable to do a rationalisation of waste collection routes because it would be better value for the taxpayer and it would deliver a more efficient service and each year they do not deliver on those savings that they themselves think are reasonable to implement and the reason why they don't do it is because the unions won't let them and whenever we say 'well you should challenge the unions' and the response that comes from the administration is 'oh but you had a bin strike you had a bin strike' that's the worst of all worlds because it really affects the taxpayer and the people who want services from us. Well I'm not being funny but charging people for bulky waste and inert waste is affecting the taxpayer because you haven't wanted to challenge something and I will remind you when you use this strike analogy as well the reason why we challenged our Waste Service Operatives at that time is because we believe in equity and at the time we were talking about equal pay and we needed to make sure that our female employees in the Council received equal pay and that meant a rationalisation of people's work levels so the challenge that came from our waste teams was not about anything that was particularly progressive and it's right sometimes to challenge those people that are our friends and say 'can you please come along and be part of the team to make a change and make a difference' because not only is it meaning that we have to charge more for bulky waste because those savings aren't being made because there there is a lack of leadership on that side of the chamber especially from the Executive Board Member responsible for waste who won't tackle these these issues it also means that we're not actually taking fall with the Waste Review. Do you remember the Waste Review which is key to our Climate Change Emergency Action Plan. It's all about how do we recycle more, how do we stop people putting stuff into landfill or sending off to the incinerator, how do we get our food waste recycled in the same way that Yorkshire Water are doing our other waste and creating energy and tackling our carbon footprint that is being held up because the waste route rationalisation is not being tackled.

I've been told that by the Director so please stop trying to blame everybody else for the decisions that you are making where you are charging the taxpayer for your inability to tackle serious issues within your own department.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm supporting Councillor Anderson's White Paper Councillor Rafique I think you've got yourself into a bit of a mess here and this was an opportunity to get yourself out of it but you appear not to have taken it, it's the same mess that we got into it that side over car parking charges but at the budget you saw the way out of that you don't appear to have seen the way out of this. I think with this charging scheme you thought it will tax the rich, the rich will go into the household waste sites and they will pay but in actual fact they're not paying their actually finding another provider in getting a skip or that sort of thing so they're not paying you their paying someone else. You've also, by bringing in

that scheme, allowed unlicensed and unscrupulous waste collectors to come in and say we'll take it away for a tenner and dump it down the bottom of the beck. They don't say that (inaudible) obviously but that's what they actually do and then you have to clear it up so it's a vicious circle for you. Who you have affected indirectly is the poor and I'll just share a couple of anecdotes with you. A pensioner said to me that she'd been into the tip to dispose of a ceramic plant pot and the operatives had said 'oh no you can't dispose of that, that'll cost you' so she'd taken it home or was about to take it home when the operative said don't take that home and put it in your black bin. She said I'm not I'm going to break it up for croc, what she actually did with it I've got no idea. But ultimately she wasn't prepared to pay the fee because she was on a pension she was prepared to deal with the waste in a different way so you don't benefit, you didn't get the charge and the rich don't pay but the poor are penalised.

The other thing with regards to bulky waste collections is that of course these items end up on the street, fall on scrupulous collectors to go around and collect or they end up in someone's garden. I have a situation where a friend of mine wants rid of a sofa and some carpets, it's a council property, it's in the garden, he is now awaiting a good samaritan who has offered to go along and use one of his van permits to take it to the tip and he happens to be standing here as it happens. But he's reliant on that rather than pay the Council because he can't afford to pay the Council but this only works part time in his on minimum wage you know, so it's all the people that you represent that are suffering and that's borne out by the fees where fly tipping has gone up. Fly tipping has gone up in all your wards but not particularly in our wards although I think it has gone up in our ward it's just a lot of it in our wards is flytipping on private land where the landowner clears it up and doesn't report it to the Council in every case but this was an opportunity for you to get out of jail card and say we'll have a moratorium on it, we'll have a look at it, we'll see if there's some other way of doing it but clearly the way your doing it at the moment is not right and you should change it and to come with an amendment that just bashes the Government on taxation just appallingly really. I would have expected better of you to come with an amendment that actually made things slightly better rather than just bash the Government it's just an excuse. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garthwaite.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Right Leeds City Council's position is in line with the vast majority of English Councils and I would say it is a consequence of Government cuts. Only 15 Councils out of 327 in England currently provide free bulky waste collections. Now our charge is £20 for 4 items are at the lower end among the 312 that do charge. I've just been looking and there's one Council that charges £55 for 3 items and another one that charges £40 for 1 fridge and these are areas where there are significant pockets of deprivation.

Now we are trying to prevent the policy harming people on the lowest incomes, only a third of Councils in England offer reductions or free collections for people on certain benefits or certain situations, Leeds is one of those councils that does. As Councillor Rafique says analysis has found no connection between bulky and inert waste pick up fees on the amount of waste that actually gets dumped it is more complicated than fees make people illegally dump waste and Councillor Rafique mentioned Liverpool as an example. We do know that reversing the charges would lead to the Council having less income and resources to tackle waste crime £400,000 is not nothing it could be a particular problem in my ward Headingley and Hyde Park where I know only too well the Council regularly collects tons of additional waste in June and July for 84 tonnes in the last week of June alone, it's massive. Some of this is landlords, letting agents, we need to deal with that but it is huge so where would the money come from if we did decide to drop the charges. Think back to the budget the Conservatives prefers funding the dropping of charges by not filling vacancies. Well this would lead to increased pressure on stretched resources which I think is hardly the best way to tackle waste crime. The Liberal Democrats proposed funding it by freezing increments for all staff which would particularly disadvantage our lowest paid employees make it harder for the Council to retain staff and lead to costs for having to recruit new ones so quite honestly ultimately we wouldn't be having this debate if the Government would simply provide adequate funding for Councils and it's not just Labour Council's who says this as East Sussex County Council for instance declared today that they were facing a £15m budget gap next year rising to £27m in 2022/23 with a dire effect on their ability to provide services, I mean this is all Councils. So therefore I support the Labour amendment and the call for a spending review to reverse years of savage cuts to local Government funding. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking in support of the motion in the name of Councillor Anderson it's a very simple motion, it's a recognition that you've got something wrong, it's disappointing in the extreme that Councillor Rafique completely failed to address the issue either in his amendment or in his speech and he's ignored and gone off on a whole series of tangents. Councillor Garthwaite I'm sorry your simply wrong you've just said things that are factually incorrect you do not know that you will have less money if you reverse this charge that's the point that's been made. You don't know there's no figures. You don't know you say you're raising £400,000 you have no idea how much it's costing to clean up the mess what we do know is that since you introduced these charges fly-tipping has gone up significantly in this city that is an irrefutable fact.

Councillor Rafique we do know and why you decided to bring this into this debate I've no idea but since corporation tax was lowered the Government has more money to spend on public services from corporation tax that is a simple matter of fact, understand economics and you'd have,

that's a simple matter of fact Councillor Rafique. The rates have gone down, the tax tape has gone up simple as that. That gives the Government more money to spend on public services that is a matter of fact.

You say, you say there is the cause of having to take this decision is Government cuts but I would remind you Councillor Rafique of two things. Since you came into administration in this place you have underspent, underspent the money you had from Government and other sources by £29.5m, underspent. By not introducing, as Councillor Golton pointed out, the Waste Service Route Efficiencies you have failed to secure savings of £9.6m so actually what, but what was put forward in budget amendments is irrelevant you could have had all of this money on a whole host more to spend on frontline services. The people of Leeds are suffering because of your decisions not because of Government decisions in this instance and by ignoring the simple premise of this motion you are doing a massive disservice and a huge disrespect to the people who come, who vote you to this place. It's a disgrace quite frankly, real leadership is recognising when you've got things wrong. Councillor Rafique you got it wrong, the facts show you have got it wrong. Why don't you actually do the right thing for once, get a bit of backbone, standup tell people you got it wrong and reverse these charges that are doing so much damage to the people of Leeds and bringing you nothing in to help to fund other frontline public services. Lord Mayor I support the motion.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I also wish to support the motion in the name of Councillor Barry Anderson. We also note those YEP headlines saying that fly tipping was a blight across Leeds, that Leeds is one of the worst cities in the UK, 50,000 was the figure that was cited and it has been pointed out, predominantly it's your wards, but in in areas like mine in the Harewood ward we're finding that this isn't just been dumped by the side of the road is now causing people to dump this on private land. It's causing people to dump it in farmland as well and recently I met with a constituent who is a farmer, a dairy farmer as it happens who said that he had left his property to cutting the fields there, had gone back to the farm and was coming back 2 minutes later the gate was open and within those minutes somebody had gone on and they'd already fly tipped the land with contaminated waste. That contaminated waste then contaminates the land, the water and the food supply that we all go on to eat and the Council takes no record absolutely zip record of what goes on on private land.

Now I don't expect the Council to go on and collect from all private land you've already suggested that there wouldn't be the funding there to do that and it wouldn't be reasonable to do that, there wouldn't be the services there to that. However having some reference to just what goes on, to get an idea of these figures is something that we've got to do. When we can't even tell, when Officers can't even tell Members that if they reverse this charge it

wouldn't have an upward or downward effect, they've got no idea, that's a really concerning place to be in. We've already heard it mentioned today and I'll cite this in the future colleagues as well that Councillor Rafique has pointed out that most of the Local Authorities charge for free garden waste. I'm hoping that this isn't the start of you suggesting that you're going to be charging for garden waste here in Leeds because actually what we find is that we've got some really diligent constituents who really find that the brown bin collection is vital to them and if there was no brown bin collection it will be going in the black bin instead and we would be recycling even less in this city. What we need to be looking at is further brown bin collections, not reducing them or putting charges in place to not enable people to recycle their garden waste. There has been a suggestion very clearly here today that at the moment with this charge been in, with this tax been in place hitting the lowest earners that it is a price worth paying so I will make a challenge today to you Councillor Rafique, if in one year's time those statistics haven't come down and that it hasn't been a reversal in fly tipping in this city will you consider your position and whether you should continue to lead that Department into the future. Thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrison.

COUNCILLOR M HARRISON: I speak in support of this motion and I'm going to put it quite simple. I spoke about this the first time I spoke in Chambers, I'm going to say it now. It's quite simple, your saying that you made £400,000. Let's put that £400,000 into skips for people to put things in rather than wasting it cleaning up the fly tipping. If we don't have to clean fly tipping up because people can put it in a skip we're saving money. There's your problem, let's just save the money by not cleaning up quite simple, get some skips in there for people to put something in, we'll save the money at the other end. Simple as. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. If I can help, if I can help...

(Background talking)

If I can help Councillor Harrison out in our Area Committee and we do have a budget for providing skips for people we're about helping people in this city and that's a thing that runs through it and Councillor Anderson asked a question earlier about why can't we find extra money for the city, why can't you find a source of the money and I've got a very very simple answer to that we can find that from the £1.5b your Government has taken away from public services in this city.

(Applause)

The idea I heard some of the outdated ideas that low taxes create more public revenue and let's see that from the Government coming into our services in our city. Under the Conservatives we've seen our budget this year dropped by over £266m that David when your beaming about your coalition that money was put in by Labour taken away by the Conservatives, taken away by the Lib Dems. Give us that money and we will make sure it's spent far better than a Government that spends millions and millions of pounds on ships that don't sail for a Brexit that doesn't happen and when we think about these empty ships sailing around the English Channel isn't that just a metaphor for any ideas the Conservatives have left for running this country. But you know it is quite an interesting point here they've already made council tax payers pay even more towards local services because of their unfair austerity cuts but listening to what Councillor Wadsworth and Robinson and some others were saying it sounds like, it sounds like they want the Council taxpayers to subsidise bad businesses that don't dispose of waste properly so we're covering the cost of Conservative cuts and if we followed their advice we'd also be further subsidising bad businesses that don't dispose of waste properly. If people pay a business to take waste away that business has to dispose of it effectively or it is a crime and I wouldn't like to think that the Conservatives as well as having no ideas on public services are condoning crime in this Council Chamber. Our residents know exactly what causes fly tipping, we were talking about it at a residents meeting in our ward last night. It's businesses that pay to take waste away, not disposing of it properly and just taking the money and that's why I am supporting Councillor Rafique's amendment that we have a proper look in this city about how we address waste crime and have a look at that properly and don't come up with these ideas that there's money there that's not there and I did think it was quite brave of Council Golton to bring up the bin strike because it's worth remembering because when he says 'your in charge' well let's remember what happened when he was in charge and his idea of fairness, his idea of fairness and equality. He tries to dress it up in all that fluffy language but our hard working front line workers should have a third of their wages taken away but they should continue to provide exactly the same work before and the Lib Dems were face down by the solidarity working class people and trade union movement to back down on their stupid idea, so the idea that the Lib Dems have any good ideas about what to do when the last time they were in charge of waste of this city, the waste piled up on the street and the waste piled up everywhere. It's quite a simple answer to this we need the Government to properly fund public services and we need to have a proper strategy as Councillor Rafique has said in his White Paper to tackle waste crime, tackle those bad businesses in the city that have taken the money and are not doing what they should do and that's how we'll tackle fly tipping in this city.

We know in Kippax & Methley ward as well next door to us we've got a Tory Council in Selby so we have a, when we look over the border we have a glimpse into the future and what do we see, we see a Council with a failing privatised bin service that charges £50 to take items away, a Conservative Council that does all that. Shame on the Conservatives for trying to say so much has happened here, where their own colleagues, where their own colleagues in Selby, where their own colleagues in Selby ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: And (inaudible) forbid it's a great point Alan to benefit from hearing it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to Councillor Anderson to sum up.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Here we go. Right, deary me. Right there's something I want to concentrate on more than others in terms of the contribution from Councillor Blackburn you can see the reason why this is a cross party issue. That we're not trying to knock spots off each other, we are showing what happens when you work together and get things done. We are trying to do the best for the city in terms of all of our areas but Councillor Rafique did you really read the amendment, it's been put in your name before you are allowed to come forward because I have my doubts. For example you talk about garden waste but you make no mention about glass, you know you're not thinking through. You pick up one or two subjects and you just go off on a tangent on the damn things. You need a multilateral approach to sorting fly tipping. One of the major factors is your charging and unless you, if you're in denial, fine that's not our fault that's your fault that you're in denial over that.

Now in terms of just a brief point about the finances that you keep throwing around here. In 2018 the Council actually got a budgetary uplift of £18m altogether and you also raised council tax by 4.99% at the same time as well and you put a lot of that into front line services but we're only talking about £400,000 here. You don't understand the maths of what you're going on about and in terms of fly tipping the last line of your amendment recognises that there's a problem because you're calling on a future Executive Board, your not specifying a date, to reduce waste crime. So your actually acknowledging that we are correct yet you didn't argue that, so why are you not accepting it and then in the report that's coming tomorrow to my Scrutiny Board you say we will develop and agree localised waste crime action plans for Leeds to tackle all aspects of environmental crime but prioritising fly tipping. So all of a sudden, in his own report he's submitting tomorrow, he acknowledges it, that his amendment he's trying to forget that he's even issued the report. Now which was it, didn't you see the Waste Strategy report or didn't you see the amendment, which was that you didn't see because you've not seen one of the two of them that's quite obvious in terms of what we're doing.

Now the other things that we've got here Councillor Lewis decided to bring in this wonderful figure of £1.5b

COUNCILLOR: (Inaudible)

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: It's true. But the same corresponding figure is that the cumulative underspend of the Council during that same

period to cover the £1.5b is a £148.6m this information is provided by your Finance Department and if you want to go and ask them what they've done with your £148m then they've done something with it, not £400,000, £148m you've managed to suddenly forget that existed. The £400,000 and you still have £148.2m left over to spend in terms of what you're doing. You just don't don't, you are not in control, you are disproportionately hitting the poorer in the city and all you do is you complain that the Government are doing it. This is your chance to show you care about your own areas but you are damaging your own areas. You just don't get it do you, you sit there, you just don't understand that it's in your areas where the problems are occurring at the last Scrutiny Board one or two Members of your Group were pointing out the problems that they've got ...

THE LORD MAYOR. Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: In their ward. Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to the vote in the amendment in the name of Councillor Rafique. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

We now go into the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Rafique. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED. Sorry any abstentions.

ITEM 13 - WHITE PAPER MOTION - TV LICENSES

We move on to the second White Paper in the name of Councillor Charlwood. Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. So moving this White Paper to restore free TV licences to over 75's. I know because I know many of the Councillors here but I know the entire Chamber agrees that older people in Leeds deserve to spend their later years with dignity considering they have devoted their lives in many cases to our great city by working hard and contributing to our local economy and their communities and their families and we live in a compassionate city. I think we all accept that. The recent developments coming from the BBC about rescinding the free TV licences for the over 75's came as a disappointment but not a shock. Over the last decade we have witnessed a systematic degradation of our welfare state and this announcement is just the latest in a plethora of bad decisions made by Government. This cut echoes the cynical approach to cutting off funding to key services like Local Authorities and the BBC hoping that public, the public will blame them and not the Government but I'm afraid this just doesn't work. The justification offered by Government in favour of means testing for free TV licences through pension credit is flawed and I think we all know again that 40% of those eligible for pension credit do not or cannot claim it and there's complex reasons for this. For some it may be an

inability to use a computer, but for some it may be mobility issues preventing them leaving the house or simply that nobody has told them that that benefit exists and that some stigma as well in claiming benefits like that and perhaps people feel embarrassed admitting they need that help. So while means testing may create the illusion of even handedness in reality it will result in about 1.3m families facing a new annual bill they simply can't afford. It's also worth mentioning that those who've managed to save a little for a rainy day but are by no means well off won't be eligible for the means testing benefit at all and will struggle to make up the £154.50p shortfall. This could force a large number of elderly households into pensioner poverty.

The Prime Minister, surprise surprise, has distanced herself from this change expressing her disappointment with the BBC. But really when did broadcasting organisations in receipt of public money become responsible for the administration of social welfare. Will National Express be forced to foot the bill for the free bus pass for the over 60's next. The BBC is not the DWP and any attempts by Government to pass the buck unconvincing and shameful and it doesn't wash.

In their 2017 manifesto the Conservatives promised to protect free TV licences to the over 75's and they surely have even let down millions of their own loyal voters. What next. Will they take the free bus passes away, will they abolish the triple lock, will they pledge to seize people's homes to fund their care. Again this is another ideological pro-market and anti-state measure attacking the BBC and it needs to be resisted. This administration in Leeds has an ambition to be the best city to grow old in, where older people feel valued, respected and appreciated and are viewed as assets that they are to our city.

We have a track record of improving quality of care for older people and we have made this a priority in our Health and Wellbeing strategy. We've seen a rise in good ratings amongst residential care homes since the last couple of years and more funding for Neighbourhood Networks supporting older people to live independently and get involved with their local communities. We have also signed a 5 year partnership with the Centre for Aging Better. The pilots innovative approaches to generate new evidence of what works for ageing well to be shared at a local, regional and national level. People in teams come from all over Europe to see what we do with our older people services in Leeds, we could do with more funding for key services so we're not asking for more like the Morley Borough Independents are around TV licences but we believe that free TV licences are an invaluable lifeline to thousands of older people in Leeds who are at risk of social isolation. TV provides many of our older members of society and many of us actually with a window to the world and a basis for shared experience amongst people for some people the faces they see on their TV are the only link to the outside world they have in any day, on some days of the week at least.

To take that away could have a serious impact on older people's mental health and wellbeing. The BBC is a national institution and it is beloved much like the NHS so I would like to propose that our Council

opposes the proposal to scrap this vital pensioner benefit calling on Government to honour the promise they made in the Conservative manifesto in 2017 and fully fund TV licences for all over 75's. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar to second.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I second and reserve the right to speak which I will be using.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. TV licence is a poll tax of viewing. Of that there's absolutely no doubt. If you want to watch TV including all the ITV channels you have to pay £154 a year for that particular privilege and my granddad who was a miner he used to have to pay his TV licence and he never watched the BBC as far as he was concerned the BBC was too middle class, too remote and totally irrelevant to his style of living and perhaps he's got an actual point. Now it is interesting to know that there is a suggestion that somewhere down the line, people on universal credit are those who are struggling on minimum wage should be somehow contributing and subsidising people like Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney who both get a free TV licence purely because of their age. Indeed these people who are struggling on minimum wage and on Universal credit contribute significantly to the £1.8m a year Gary Lineker gets paid to watch football, Chris Evans before he left to go to Virgin so he could avoid declaring what his wage was, was receiving £1.6m paid by those on universal credit and those on minimum wage. Jeremy Vine £440,000 and he legally pays less tax, 25% tax cos apparently he's a company and his daughter is a Director of that company. Alan Shearer £400,000 for watching football only approximately a quarter of what is paid to Gary Lineker, perhaps he only watches a quarter of the matches who knows. I don't know.

The correct answer here is to abolish the licence all together at this particular point. It is an anachronism this is something that should have been abolished years and years ago and if the BBC are so brilliant and your all saying it's an institution and its fabulous and we can't do without it well pay for that particular privilege directly like you would with Netflix, like you would with Amazon Prime. I'm sure that if the BBC is such a quality product everybody will be signing up to make sure that it succeeds at this particular point and it can barely claim to be an impartial broadcaster at this particular point if anyone believes that the BBC is unbiased and gives you clear coverage, then you lot are always moaning about it, you lot are always moaning about it, I think it is as bias as hell let's get rid it and let it go and compete. Indeed its news coverage is probably no more accurate than reading on bright bart or the canary or any of the other alternative opportunities you've got for taking your particular news.

If people want it people ought to be able to buy that aid and indeed we'd be in a situation where if we abolished the TV licence those on universal

credit, those on minimum wage could watch TV, could watch ITV for free and that genuinely is putting those on low incomes first. If your talking about social isolation let's back the abolishment of the TV licence fee. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I'd like to second Councillor Finnigan's amendment and reserve the right to speak. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. We don't dispute that television is a very valuable lifeline for thousands of people in risk of social isolation both pensioners and other people as well and there's nothing that Councillor Charlwood said in her opening remarks that I would disagree with but I think we have a more fundamental view on funding pensioners lifestyle, funding pensions than simply giving away or doing handouts and in some respect I could support Councillor Finnigan saying well everyone should be paying the same and let's make sure that people can afford to pay so we do deplore the Government offloading its commitment to pensioners to the BBC, unforgivable, it was typical of the way that George Osborne did things in his budget's, moving money out of Central Government and then making someone else bear the cost. BBC is one example the other example is when he reduced the rents in Council housing and effect of that was to reduce the Central Government costs of housing benefits so we know that but our view is pensioners should not have to rely on separate handouts and payments like free TV licences, like the winter fuel allowance, like the Christmas bonus not only do we think that is patronising and smacks of a charity handout it does nothing for the dignity of older people but also as one off payments like that they just stayed the same, they don't increase like the rest of the pension so the £10 Christmas bonus that every pensioner gets, was brought in in 1972 by the Edward Heath Government and it was £10 then in fact £10 then was more than the basic pension which was £6.75. If you wanted to upgrade that now you've probably talking a couple of hundred pounds.

The £100 winter fuel allowance which was brought in in 1999/2000 something like that at a £100. If you wanted to keep that level it should be £180 so pensioners are losing out from these one off benefits, these one off payments like that. So what we're proposing, the pensioners should have a sustainable living pension and the things like winter fuel allowance, free TV licence, the Christmas bonus should be consolidated into a living pension which is then increased in line with the triple lock and to be quite honest it wasn't until the triple lock was brought in by the Coalition Government in 2010 that we really got back to the pre 1980 rule that said you upgraded pensions in line with incomes and that was taken away by Margaret Thatcher and if we quoting manifestos, the 1997 Labour manifesto promised in its manifesto that all pensioners should share fairly in the increasing prosperity of the nation. Now in 1999 the wages inflation was 4.6% and the property inflation was

1.1%. That is a real definition of good prosperous growth and what did Gordon Brown, he put up pensions by 1.1%, 75p. So where, you know where is the justice in the pension of justice in that.

Let's treat this in an adult way. Pension is xxxxx long term sustainable pension, devoid of handouts at the whim of the politicians and that's what we should deserve and I move this amendment movement Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: We missed that, probably just as well.

(Inaudible back ground talking)

In amongst all this lot Lord Mayor can I second and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson, Caroline.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON Thank you Lord Mayor I will not be reserving the right to speak I will speak now.

First of all the BBC made this decision not the Government and I cannot actually understand why we are discussing this White Paper that's been brought here because it is not anything the Council can do something about. So unless this change is reversed it will come in on the 1st of June next year. Far be it from me to defend the BBC but we are talking about 41p per day and we are going, and they are going to protect the poorest. There are much worse taxes however on the way, taxes that the opposition benches know full well. Punitive taxes which are going to disproportionately affect our elderly residents. Labour's land for the many paper sets out Labour's policies of unfair, unwanted, unparalleled, unexpected, unreasonable, unjustified and unjust taxes that John McDonnell will not even fully admit to. Fully admit the cost to the taxpayers of this country for the fear of making Labour completely unelectable, not just barely unelectable.

One of the recommendations is to reduce council tax with a progressive property tax based on contemporary property values payable by the owners not the tenants, this value would be updated annually for tax purposes. Just think what that will do to harm our hard working families, it will cost a lot more than the TV licence and will disproportionately damage the finances of the elderly population. Your own selective you're own selective local taxes also damage the elderly and you have the power to reverse those so why don't you do that. The increases you've brought in the Warden charges for sheltered housing, the new bins and the DIY tax that we've already talked about in the first White Paper. Councillor Charlwood cites isolation. Isolation is not just about television, there are many reasons for isolation and I think the Council should concentrate on the job of dealing with

those for thousands of our older people. There is always more that can be done. This is something that does sit firmly within this Council's can do tray. Yes many people rely on the TV and it does provide a vital service for anyone who is housebound, ill, alone, caring for someone in their own home on a daily basis. BBC is not the only channel people watch let's not forget there are a lot of other channels. There are Freeview channels as well as all the radio stations. The BBC need to look to raise funds from other sources. I'm not going to defend the salaries at some of the top BBC stars get paid and those have already been outlined but even if the cut goes by 50% they wouldn't cover the cost of the TV licence.

My point being that it is time for the BBC to start thinking outside the box and of other ways that they can raise the money. If they really feel they have to withdraw the TV licence for the over 75's why not bring it in gradually so anybody who has it free now keeps it. But from June 2020 if they have to make it free for those over 80.

As we live in a society now will actually 75 is not considered that old or, don't all clutch your perils in horror, why not bring in revenue from gentle advertising rather than just the miles product placement that we see now. I'm not suggesting ad breaks although nobody has to sit through those now with the ability to fast forward through the adverts. But what about having a sponsor for the different programmes. Labour's land for the many paper is just the start, goodness knows what's in store for every one that hasn't been made public by Labour yet. I move the amendment Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Second the amendment and reserve the right to speak which I would like to take please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. It is true that many people particularly if their housebound do watch a lot of television. Some people they might be by themselves, you have the television in the background or the radio, at least it makes them feel better. I'm not saying this is ideal. I think that if people can get out they should do but that doesn't mean that they should have their TV licences taken away. If their over 75 they should keep this service and I think it's it's a pity that we couldn't have all got together and done a motion that we was all happy with but obviously that doesn't seem as if that's going to be likely cos some breaks, like what Caroline has just been saying about being concerned you know to encourage people to get out more to do things that seems like a good idea but then your saying that they shouldn't continue have to continue to provide these TV licences which I don't agree with. So the fact is we will be going with the with the Labour administration on this one because it's a simple, it's a simple little resolution, it makes it clear and as I said we do need to keep it, it's just not fair

on the elderly people not to do. It does seem as if we're giving them a kick in the teeth and heaven only knows they've got enough to put with without that.
Thanks.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Renshaw

COUNCILLOR RENSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking in support of Councillor Charlwood's White Paper as I can't believe just how far this nasty Tory Government will go to not only take money off those who can least afford it but as we have already heard how they've tried to pin the blame on anyone but themselves. The Conservative manifesto both in 2015 and 2017 pledged to maintain free TV licences for over 75's although they have now tried to say that the 2017 pledge was a mistake. How are we expected to believe anything they say if they can just do a U turn and say it was a mistake. Age UK set up a petition demanding that the Government continues to pay the BBC for these licences and I for one am fully supportive of that petition. There are elderly people within my ward who I know will suffer because of this. I think of all the things that, all of us here in this Chamber know a relative or friends or constituents who will be caused hardship due to this decision. That hardship could be financial we know that not everyone is entitled to benefits and those who are don't always claim them. Some are too embarrassed to find the whole system too complicated. this means that many poorer households who should be entitled to the television licence will not receive it and so will be harder hit still. Analysis has shown that women who live alone are unlikely to apply for benefits given that women have a longer life expectancy than men. This is yet another impact of austerity that will hit women the hardest. Are we really going to find ourselves in a society where many of our elderly are prosecuted for having not or been unable to afford a TV licence.

Figures quoted by Age UK show that half of all over 75's are living with a disability and many rely on on their TV's for companionship and comfort. Nearly a third of over 75's are living in poverty or just above the poverty line, how are they supposed to afford this sizeable new bill.

Research undertaken by Age UK show that more than 2 million over 75's would have to go without TV's or cut back on food or heating if the free TV licences were scrapped. So I ask you all, in this world you really want to help to build one where our elderly people actually have to choose between food, warmth or loneliness, because I don't. I'm asking you all to support this White Paper by Councillor Charlwood. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

Thank you Lord Mayor I'm speaking in support of Councillor Anderson's amendment and there's been some carefully thought out speeches made

today but let's just be honest the Labour administration, you've done it again haven't you, it's just another moan fest. It's nothing to do with over 75 year-olds or licence fee it's just another opportunity to have a pop at the government and when you actually look at, when you actually, when you actually look at the facts on this this is not a Leeds responsibility. It's not only not a Leeds responsibility it's not a government responsibility it's the responsibility of the BBC. They agreed in the agreement they carried out with the Government 4 years ago they agreed to pay this money and they're now trying to rat on this and it's just been said a few minutes ago Councillor Charlwood is agreeing with the, as somebody put it, the middle class and elitist BBC who are paying Gary Lineker and Vanessa Feltz god help us £2m a year and hundreds of other talent £160m a year when they could be paying for the over 75's licences instead. She's siding with the BBC this elitist organisation. They talk about the land for the many it's more like the land of the elitist and the millionaires.

(Inaudible shouting in the background)

So given given an opportunity, given an opportunity to get the BBC to pay up instead she's just had a pop at the government for political reasons. Mind you you know you have to make a serious point the BBC's about the only friend that the Labour Party have got left.

(Inaudible shouting, laughter and applause in the background)

If you, if you have, if you have a national leader, if you have a national leader who is an antisemitic extremist ...

(Groaning in the background)

that's when the problems starts ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Now.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley

(Inaudible shouting)

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Councillor Charlwood ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley

(Inaudible shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: You should have stick to the agenda, I'm sorry you go over. You should have stick to the words of the agenda. I'm sorry I'm stopping you, I'm stopping you speaking I'm sorry Councillor Buckley. We're speaking on an item we're not speaking on our Government.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: I'm sorry we're speaking on a specific item and I'm fair I need to keep to the agenda don't (inaudible) extremist.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: My Lord Mayor, my Lord Mayor we have robust speeches in this chamber, Margaret Thatcher has been spoken about (inaudible) ...

(Inaudible shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: That was, I'm sorry but that was not when I was chairing the meeting ...

(Inaudible shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry but extremists is a bit far. I'm sorry, I'm sorry a name is, I'm not arguing with you Councillor Cohen. A name is a name but extremist ...

(Inaudible shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK Councillor Buckley could you please finish your speech and base on your speech.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you. Now Councillor Charlwood and I hope your going to add a bit with all due respect. Councillor Charlwood talked about helping thousands of older people in Leeds so what about

(Inaudible shouting)

so are you allowing me another minute please ...

(Inaudible shouting)

Thank you. So the so the so the ...

THE LORD MAYOR: 30 seconds Councillor Buckley, 30 seconds.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. The final point on this is that charges have been slapped onto, as we were hearing earlier, onto the inert disposal so that for example in Alwoodley the population of over 75's is extremely high and when people have fly tipping on their doorsteps there often helped by the Lengthsmen of the Parish Council and when he now goes to the tip he is been told to pay so even the Parish Council are being hit by charges for the over 75's and I'll leave it there Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Buckley.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. We were, we were doing quite well with a fairly adult debate but you can always rely on Councillor Buckley.

I think there are a number of points in relation to this and I have to say it is a bit of you having a go at the Government and it's a bit of you saying 'oh we'll we're gunna fish em out of a hole' and the TV licence and the decision whether any group of people gets it free, actually they don't get it free it just means somebody else is paying for it.

It's a Government decision and to foist that back onto the BBC was a mistake because what it actually means is if you give over 75's a free licence actually the rest of us who are paying a licence are paying for that group of people. I don't mind doing that, I'm looking forward to that, my 75th birthday, I'm unsure what will happen on that particular day that requires me to stop paying and you lot to pay for me but it'll be very nice.

I think we were trying to have an adult discussion and I think Councillor Bentley made the point that we shouldn't patronise pensioners in the way that we do. We shouldn't say to pensioners here's a pittance and every so often will give you a bit of a handout. We'll come along at Christmas and give you £10. Actually I get £10 it's very nice I'm not complaining but it probably costs more than £10 to administer. I get a winter fuel payment and I'm not complaining about that, it's very nice thank you very much but actually I think it would be much better if we paid pensioner's say another £2 a week across the entire year. The same is true with the licence. It's £175 isn't it actually we should just give pensioners another £3.50 a week and they could spend it what they like, they could spend it on Netflix if they want whatever that might be but it's about saying to pensioners you are, you are adults, you've managed to live 67 years before you get the pension making decisions about your lifestyle, about how you spend your money, about how you live your life. Once you get beyond that point we make the decisions for you, we give you a pot of money and then every so often we come along, we pat you on the head and we say to you 'here's a few quid it'll make you feel better'. It makes us feel better, or it makes us collectively feel better but it's damn patronising if you're a pensioner. Actually it's about paying pensioners a living pension that's what it's about if there was a White Paper resolution saying that's what we should be doing we'd all, well no sorry almost all of us would support that.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you thank you Lord Mayor because I have every faith in you Lord Mayor as been a defender of democracy I am going to pick up where Councillor Buckley left off and say that actually

Councillor Finnigan I am quite a fan of the BBC I think parts of it do a job that other public broadcasters don't do they shine a spotlight where it might not be commercially viable and seen as though that two amendments here Lord Mayor reference the BBC it is right to say, talk about the BBC and where they shine a spotlight Councillor Finnigan is areas that might not be necessarily commercially viable if everybody switched on their televisions at 9pm tonight you'll see a very good Panorama programme about institutional racism in the Labour party under antisemitic leaders so that is relevant because it's in there. But my Chief Whip said to me this afternoon, my Chief Whip said to me this afternoon this is a free hit Councillor Stephenson so here we go is it any surprise that this Labour party under a marxist wants to talk about a state run broadcaster and marxist who took £20,000 from the Iranian Press TV, an Iranian regime that slaughters gay people living in that country. This Leader took that money. Lord Mayor

(Inaudible shouting)

Lord Mayor ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Lord Mayor talk about questionable pensioner rights ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Stephenson. I've said it once we have got agenda to carry on, the other topic please.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: I'm ...

THE LORD MAYOR: You don't need to remind Members to watch TV programme tonight. There all adults. So please please stick to the agenda.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I will as difficult as the truth is I don't think you are right I don't need draw the Members' attention to the truth you all know it's true. So their into questionable defences of pensioner rights that we've heard from from the administration today.

Councillor Anderson made reference to (inaudible) the Marxist leaders new land for the many paper you stand here and say that people in this city should have all the benefits under, under offer and yet this paper brought forward by this Marxist Labour Leader states quite clearly that pensioners in this city will lose the single person discount on Council Tax once you bring in your garden tax that is not worth defending under this administration and I've got to say Lord Mayor there is an element of hypocrisy seeping through this because this is a Marxist administration in Labour ...

(Inaudible shouting)

that would say that would say that people who have done well for themselves shouldn't be allowed to send their children to grammar schools people who have done well for themselves who have built up businesses should be taxed

more. People, elderly people in my ward who might be millionaires or otherwise to this, that this Marxist administration believes ...

(Inaudible shouting)

This, believe should pay more tax more tax and yet they also think they should get a free TV licence and free winter fuel allowance. So let's shine a spotlight as the very good Panorama folk will do tonight on Labour's institutional antisemitism and shine a spotlight on their hypocrisy being brought forward by the Marxist administration at the top that's drifting down into this Marxist administration in Leeds. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause and cheering)

THE LORD MAYOR: Before I go to the next speaker I'll expect the Chief Whip of your party should have a word with you Councillor Stephenson in the near future.

(Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor and I hope I can bring a bit of sense to this debate after the last speaker who I don't think deserves our response I've got to say a worse display, I've never seen in this Council Chamber before Councillor Stephenson.

(Applause)

So Lord Mayor I'd like to second the amendment it angers and disheartens me to find myself in the position that yet again there is another Government move to penalise some of the most vulnerable of our citizens. The impact of social isolation on these individuals has already been highlighted and I wholeheartedly agree with this point of view. A high volume of individuals rely upon the television as a companion. It provides entertainment and information about current affairs, provides information regarding their local community which could in turn result in a finding new opportunities and exploring new interests. This is an issue that will affect real people. It is much more than just statistics and it is about time the Government realised this.

I'm sure that there are many of you here in this room today who have relatives that would be affected by the change to funding the TV licence. Undifferent I have to say to the ones that we've had on display today about millionaires and how many of you genuinely agree with this if it was to affect your family member. I have stood here time and time again to talk about what this Government is doing to our welfare system. It doesn't matter how many times I stand here this Government seems to forget that their actions have severe implications pushing people further and further into poverty and with no means of escape. Poverty continues to rise, the use of food banks

continues to rise, the continuous farce of Universal Credit continues to live with us and the Government with their constant austerity pinning it upon our residents and the most poorest in our society I have to say.

Councillor Bentley spoke earlier and he absolutely contradicted himself on the previous White Paper motion colleagues where he said that we were delivering handouts as a licence fee. He didn't quite say that when he wanted free bulky waste collection or free garden waste, he didn't call it a handout then did you Councillor Bentley. Absolutely displayed typical Lib Dem behaviour I have to say by making a joke about the impact on the WASPI women and the WASPI campaign on this terrible motion as well ...

(Applause and cheers)

And colleagues can you believe the arrogance of the Tories. The leadership race is all about how many millions of tax breaks can they give out to the rich here and have the ultimate insult to our older generation saying you can pay. The constitution, sorry the Conservative General Election manifesto pledged to keep the free TV licence. Don't a promise mean anything to you over there.

(Inaudible shouting)

Typical Tory value is on show. Protect the rich and make the poor pay. Shame on you and shame on you Ryan Stephenson.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call on Councillor Charlwood to sum up.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Well, well, well, well that's descended into something of interest didn't it. We're talking about a BBC TV licence where people can watch, they can turn their telly on, they can have a cup of tea any time of day and they can watch telly and it descended into that from a Conservative. What, what that shows to me is they are running scared about older people's issues, they are, they do not like their backs being pinned to a wall and it shows that they have got no answers when it comes to older people in this country and it's one of their main voting constituencies, the way you reacted to this debate which should not, I mean come on, going all over the houses about bin taxes, about all sorts of awful slurs that you decided to bring up was completely unnecessary and shows that you are frightened and a bit scared about this issue.

It's, you know, it's a very simple thing, it's a very nice simple thing that we're saying to the people of this city should be able to switch their telly on and you know just be able to watch a bit of telly and if your saying that Cbeebies is elitist and Question Time is, I mean for god's sake really is, your scraping the barrel there completely. So you, it really makes me think of how you failed in older people's services in other ways. According to Age UK 50,000 elderly people 50,000 elderly people have died due to delays with

current social care system and your Social Care Green Paper has been delayed again and again and again. You ran scared from the last General Election when you had a dementia tax nightmare wanting to tax everybody to the hilt for dementia, have got, you've got no answers when it comes to social care and older people and you've absolutely overreacted when it comes to free TV licences. I mean what a little thing to get so upset about. We thought that you guys have said austerity was over, actually you know a lot of money now, you know we've worked the economy so well and we've got all this money sloshing about, your making the BBC cut older peoples TV licences, it's mean spirited, its miserly and it just shows the nastiness that came off you just then, was really palpable.

I have to say as well I'm really pleased about the Green position thank you, very simple motion, great you can support it. The input the MBI position seems a bit confusing because on paper it looks like you were saying free TV licence for everybody and then when you spoke it sounded like you're saying everybody should pay for it and actually should have adverts, that's a bit strange.

One of the great things about the BBC surely is about the no adverts so were not continually bombarded with commercial messages about gambling, about Wonga, about whatever and the children don't have to watch it, we can we can be free of that.

It is a National Institution I think the BBC I think it is something we should protect and if we lose it we'll lose something really really special and then the Tories attack the BBC regularly so you know they've got an agenda there. So I'm I'm really proud that our side came up to be very sensible and the Lib Dems to a point came very sensible, lovely kind supportive speeches and I would just urge you to support our motion. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to the vote.

(Inaudible background talking)

Second.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Second Lord Mayor.

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 Finnigan. All Members should refer to the desk unit. Press the button marked 'P' then press plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or 0 to abstain. *(A vote was taken)*

(Inaudible background talking)

This is for the recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Finnigan.

(Inaudible background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: 88 present. 88. Yes 4 ...

(Inaudible background talking and laughing)

Abstention 5, no 79 so that's lost. The vote is LOST.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Next is a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Bentley. Could Members please ensure their in their allocated seats then press the button marked 'P' lights will flash then the plus button to vote in favour, minus to vote against or the 0 button to abstain.
(A vote was taken)

THE LORD MAYOR: 7 yes, abstention 9, no 73. That's been LOST.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Next recorded vote is on the third amendment in the name of Councillor Anderson. Members please ensure they are in their allocated seats. Press the button marked 'P' then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against and 0 to abstain. (A vote was taken)

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: You can still change it.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden are you voting. Councillor Hayden you haven't vote.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's worked. You want to vote yes. You want to vote no.

(Inaudible background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: 90 present. 17 yes, abstentions 6, no 66. So that's been LOST.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members requested a recorded vote on the motion in the name of Councillor Charlwood. Press the button marked 'P' lights will flash, then plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or 0 to abstain. (A vote was taken)

THE LORD MAYOR: 89 present. Yes 68, abstention 4, no 17. So that has been CARRIED.

ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION - SUPPORTING RESIDENTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY INTO EMPLOYMENT

Now we move on to the motion of Councillor Lay. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I just say about the last White Paper as much fun as that is, it does a disservice to this Chamber.

(Applause)

And the children, adults and politics is worse for it. Language and rudeness shouldn't really be heard in this Chamber as much as I enjoyed it.

(Inaudible background talking)

You know.

(Laughter)

But you know we are supposed to set an example. Right thank you Lord Mayor 4 weeks ago today you, as Lord Mayor ...

(Inaudible background talking)

Oh sugar (laughing) Lord Mayor move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: You just said the words what you shouldn't have used ...

(Inaudible background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell to second.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second

THE LORD MAYOR: Second. Can we call for a vote. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED. Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan to second.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Second my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I call for a vote. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED. Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: With a deep breath. We move in terms of the notice My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shemilt.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm very pleased to second Councillor Cohen's proposal.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED. Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I'm going to call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: We'll try again. Thank you Lord Mayor. 4 weeks ago today you, Lord Mayor, me, Councillor Charlwood and Pryor and a few other Councillors sat in this Chamber for the Council's Takeover Day. Part of Learning Disability Week it's also part of the Council's continuing commitment to celebrating the value, the diversity and the uniqueness of our residents with a learning disability.

Over the last 5 years our takeover days we've heard and discussed how we as a city can help those residents live happier, healthier, more holistic lives. We have discussed subjects like housing, healthcare, transport, safety and employment. At this year's event we heard passionate speeches from individuals, their support workers and others working with the wider learning disability community pleading for the Council to do more to help them into employment. There were genuine concerns that this Council has not done enough and they are right, we know that, and that is why Councillor Pryor and I are working together to do more.

Work is fundamental right for all citizens and this should include those residents with a learning disability. According to our own figures just 7.7% of those with a learning disability are in employment but this compares well according to the British Association for supported employment with a 5.7% figure nationally. Getting more people with a learning disability into work is the right thing to do for its own purposes but there are a number of benefits for both the employee and the employer. For the employer, for the employee it needs to be real work, it needs to be proper work, it needs to be in a real work setting in workplaces where you and I are and not segregated. It needs to be for real money, fair pay for a fair day's work, work of equal value deserves pay of equal value and it needs to have real value because without any of the above it's just tokenism. For employers according to Mencap they get better reliability, reduced sickness, lower turnover, increased customer loyalty and improved morale at work. If we do this we will improve the health and well being and life chances for a community that we know have so much potential. This Council has made great strides in listening learning and leading and I have no doubt that this Council cares deeply about people with a learning disability. Thank you to all the groups and councillors that have shown their

support for my White Paper. I have been keen not to make finding work for our residents with a learning disability a political issue, I've done well there. So I'd particularly like to thank Councillors Pryor and Cohen for their support with both I am sure this Council can do even more. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to thank Councillor Lay and indeed the Liberals for today's White Paper. In fact in many ways I'd have liked to have seconded it, your original motion today because it's something, as you'll see from our amendment, we are very much on board with but I get the fact that you wanted a win so I understand why you were content for Councillor Pryor to, it's not every day it happens and do you know getting a win is really what this White Paper has at its heart because that's what we're all seeking for our residents, a win for citizens of our city with learning disabilities, a win by working across the city to ensure that all those with learning disabilities have that opportunity for meaningful employment, meaningful employment in the places where any of us, many of us would work.

There's no secret, I know many of you know that my 9 year old son has a learning disability and as much as I try to be positive I'd be lying to you if I said that when I tuck him in on a night and I tell him I love him very much and I am really proud of him I'd be lying to you if I told you I wasn't worried about his future because every night when I tuck him in I do worry what is going to happen to him in 5 years, in 10 years and in 20 years. It's a worry, is he ever going to be able to have a meaningful job, meaningful employment, meaningful personal relationships in the way that every one of us would want for any one of our children. I don't know, but that's why today's debate and the direction that we're setting out today is so important. There's no question from either as a city we are moving in the right direction, in the bits that Councillor Pryor went into today's White Paper you set some of those things out. It would though for me have been reassuring if we could have made some firm commitments into the actual metrics, actual measurable steps like the initial White Paper proposal did set out because we know and I know from my time as Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Families the earlier we put interventions in the better the outcomes.

We talked about the Children's Centres and the work they do with vulnerable young people across the peace. Things though can be done as early as possible, things like you know making the EHSP process educational Health Care Plan Process as streamlined as possible anyone who's had the mispleasure of having to apply for an EHSP will know how challenging a

process it is, it's all those things that the earlier we can get those things down the line the smoother we can get those. Things that don't necessarily cost any money, the better the outcome in the long term will be. But today's debate is certainly a positive step in terms of ensuring we better support those with learning disabilities into that meaningful and permanent employment that all of us would want to see both as a Council and by using our position as an influencer on employers as an example how to business I really hope that we can make that positive change for those most vulnerable residents. Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shemilt.

COUNCILLOR SHEMILT: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am extremely pleased to second the amendment in the name of Councillor Cohen. I am sure there is broad agreement in this Chamber about the importance of making progress on the Learning disabilities agenda. We are committed to improving the employment opportunities for the people of Leeds and that must include opening avenues for all our citizens with a focus on the more vulnerable members of our community who are often thwarted in been able to contribute their many skills.

We agree wholeheartedly with Councillor Lay's original motion and the ambition that it sets out. Our amendment actually retains all the wording from the motion that went out on the summons. Councillor Cohen has enhanced that with details of recent national initiatives and available data to support. It is vital that this Council emulates in our city what has been and is been achieved on this agenda nationally. By the end of last year nearly 1 million more disabled people were in work than in 2013. The employment rate nationally for people with disabilities has increased by 7.4% over the last five years outstripping the 3.8% for non disabled people. In fact the success has been so pronounced that the Government has said it will look to review the goal of getting one million more people with disabilities into work between 2017 and 2027 and seek to set an even more ambitious target.

Lord Mayor all this is not to say that there isn't more work to do but I think it is sensible to acknowledge that there has been vast progress in this area nationally as these figures demonstrate. Statistics aside the psychological impact of been included, involved and valued is hugely empowering for all. Those with learning difficulties have a lot to teach and impart which can also enrich the lives of others beyond their own somewhat limited on occasions frame of reference.

We of course support the calls for the Council to build on its work in this area and encourage more people with learning disabilities into work. It is particularly important that we hear from people with learning disabilities themselves and the challenges they face so that we can respond in a relevant and meaningful way. It's also right to note the recent Government initiatives

to break down barriers faced by disabled people seeking employment and we should be actively working to support those.

I look forward to hearing back from the Executive Board about ways that this Council can work with Government and get involved in some of those initiatives so that we can make Leeds a trailblazer in providing opportunities for our more vulnerable residents. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors. As the Co-Chair of Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board I am proud to stand in support of this White Paper. Since taking up this role in 2018 I had the great privilege of working with so many incredible inspirational people across the city. These include family carers, health partners, social workers and voluntary sector and of course people with learning disabilities themselves.

Together we're working hard towards the same goal to make Leeds the best city living for people with learning disabilities and I will refresh Being Me Strategy outlines how we will make this dream a reality. We are particularly proud of this strategy because everything in it has come directly from people with learning disabilities and their families it is an exciting plan for Leeds, it encourages everyone to think about what people can do not what people can't do, to support them to the best that they can be.

One other thing the people with learning disabilities said was very important, to them it's being connected through employment. There were more opportunities to experience the world of work, they want to be supported to get involved in things like shadowing, volunteering and we appreciated their skills and strengths. The Partnership Board set up an Employment Task Group to oversee this strand of work the Employment Task Group brings people, brings together partners from across (inaudible) voluntary and private sectors to share best practice to help smooth out the employment pathway for people with learning disabilities. In just a year the Task Group has already run a number of market place events across the city to showcase opportunities for people with learning disabilities, to engage with local employers, with Council Pryor's assistance we are planning a larger job fair for people with learning disabilities, so keep an eye out for that, not too distant future.

As well we know that if we want to encourage local employers to think about people with learning disabilities we need to practise what we preach so since March 2018 the Partnership Board has recruited 2 people with learning disabilities who are paid to work as Stewards at all meetings. The Stewards have also supported myself and the Lord Mayor at the recent Council Chamber Takeover in May 2019.

Finally Councillor Charlwood and I have worked closely with the Partnership Board to develop the Council's shadowing project. This is a fantastic opportunity for people with learning disabilities to understand the work of our Councillor and the local democracy. In fact our very first shadowing afternoon takes place next week at the Civic Hall. A big thank you to the 10 Councillors already have signed up I know it's going to be an insightful day for everyone involved. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. As the Council's Disability Champion I'm proud to share the work we're doing to enable and empower individuals with care and support needs to live as independently as possible and reach their full potential.

Are you laughing now.

(Inaudible background talking)

You were all, the 3 of you were laughing.

(Inaudible background talking)

What it means to have a fulfilling life of course differs from person to person but for many people with a disability it's closely connected to developing new skills and finding meaningful employment but keeping and finding a job can present a huge challenge for people with a disability all around the UK. While we all know it's illegal for employers to discriminate against somebody because of their disability frustratingly we also know that far fewer working age adults with any disability are in paid work compared with non disabled adults. So what are we doing about it, our work is underpinned by a new strength based approach it's set out in the latest Better Lives Strategy which is how a person centred plan for people with care and support needs.

As Councillor Khan said we're moving away from what's wrong to what's strong. In other words the can do, look at what they can do and not what they can't do. So we work collaboratively with people because this is important that we're not just producing a document and paying lip service to it but actually making that right change so that we're improving people's quality of life and they can live independently in the communities for as long as possible.

I'd just like to highlight a couple of successes in our city. We've got Leaf One, a cafe providing work experience and training opportunities and now we've linked them up with our Jobs and skills Team to explore opportunities to develop them such as work experience in our Council cafe sites but also hospitality and business contacts made through our existing

programmes and services and things like the Ambition Leeds. Both those should hopefully lead to job offers and deliver a throughput of new learners at Leaf One.

Another one I'd like to mention, Jonathan Butler, one of my constituents known to us all, he's sat over there with the support of the Council Day.

(Applause)

He's employed as a Get Me Better Champion at St James's and is also a valued Co-optee on our Community Committee. The key to getting into employment I think it's for employers to be more flexible with their recruitment techniques, move away from formal interviews to inclusive work experience and work trials and I'm sure this will benefit employee, employers as well as applicants.

So in summary, promoting ability and not disability is the key to unlocking someone's true potential whether this is through work, undertaking further training or something else. By the Council focusing on people's strengths we open the door to new and exciting opportunities for people with a disability whose assets and attributes may have previously been overlooked by society and importantly in this case by employers. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor I'm speaking in support of Councillor Pryor's motion and I think it is important not just to reaffirm our commitment to people with learning disabilities but also to take a moment to highlight some of the work we already do. I am pleased to say that we work in partnership with Leeds City College to offer support placements to students with special educational needs and disabilities. We are piloting a caseload model where young people undertake placements and receive additional support from HR colleagues to match potential employment opportunities in addition to the support provided by the Employment and Skills Service. We have also supported Cafe Leaf who offers catering training to up to 4 adults per day for a year. Our support includes negotiating with DWP to reinstate their small business adviser support after it had been withdrawn due to funding cuts. We have also helped Leaf explore the availability and costs of city centre premises to meet their aspiration for a city centre caf. As well as taking forward the possibility of work experience and recruitment links with the Council's cafe.

We are undertaking a piece of work with HR to improve our work experience offer across the Council. How we promote, coordinate, manage and secure positive outcomes for learning disabled people. We are currently mapping the organisation who have placements with us and the duration and location of these and those placements. When this work is completed in

September we want to use it to develop a simplified more accessible route in for all organisations so that even more are able to take advantage of our offer.

We are also improving the quality of our work experience placements by developing good practice models and exploring ways of tackling progress into work so we can measure impact. We are hoping to have this in place early in the new year. So although we have ambitions and plans in place to do more I hope you can see that we are already doing a lot to help people with learning disabilities from schools through to training, finding employment and remaining in employment. I am hopeful that we will continue to see improvement, outcome, improves outcome as we work alongside our partners to help this vulnerable group of people. Thank you Lord Mayor. Aren't you all quiet.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson .

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. When I started my comments on the SAP earlier I said I'd be collegial as was my intention to end with a collegial comment so in regard to the amendment I think it is a good amendment put forward by the Liberal Democrats and Labour and as there's nothing in it really you can agree with you can only add to it, disagree with sorry, so you can only add to it. But what has come out of this and when you really look into learning disabilities and the impact they have further in life as well it brings you right back to the beginning of the education system. I think 30% of young people who have a statement in Year 11 end up not in education, employment or training later on so there's clearly more we can at an earlier stage and that's or rather this Local Authority has a statutory function to ensure, encourage, enable and assist young people to get into education and training and more that our school systems both Local Authority control and Academies can do to help that and in I think it's the next Exec Board they'll be a proposal coming forward to expand St Luke's at Beeston Hill I think Councillor Pryor which I'm sure you'll comment on, it includes their proposals for an Autism Resource Inclusion Unit and I think actually that sort of innovative planning as such is something we could do more across the city where actually we have a lever in making sure that we can do more and it's not just all reliant on what Government policy is put down.

Welcoming the Job Centre Programmes that the Minister announced in the Yorkshire Evening Post not too long ago again that can make a huge impact because it remains the case today that if you have a learning disability your three times more likely to be not in education, employment or training and clearly there's more we can do here in this city to help that, help that along. So where we can do that I think we work together to achieve that and also make sure that we keep lobbying Government to put more in to make sure that where it is needed its targeted and we can look at further innovative programmes like it's coming forward to Exec Board and support them across party. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am really happy to to second this White Paper and I am pleased to see that groups can come together across the political divide on issues that unite us that are as important as this. Councillor Wray was absolutely right that in Leeds we do do well but equally that can't let us get complacent and we must do better.

I just wanted to share with Council a great example of how we as a Council are able to support the citizens of Leeds. When Corrillian went into administration 6 of our young people with autism were placed with Corrillian. We went out to the Child Friendly Leeds Ambassadors and actually within 3 days all those people had new placements and I think that really demonstrates what a Local Council can do. But let me just come to Councillor Cohen's amendment. I think we've heard a selection of agreeable speeches from the Tories but Councillor Finnigan xxxxx earlier talked about doublespeak and it did make me wonder whether any of the Tories speaking had read the amendment you've written down. Your speeches didn't actually match the content of what your amendment is. Your amendment is just saying how wonderful the Government is with disabled people so I thought would be potentially useful to remind people what the Conservative Government has done with disabled people. There was their cap on household benefits, the bedroom tax, the abolition of disability living allowance, the introduction of personal independence payments, a disastrous roll out of universal credit and the closure of the independent living fund, but it seems your blissfully unaware of that. One woman with terminal breast cancer described how she had been told she would need to be reassessed for her benefits every 6 months she said that she'd cried more than with the worry of losing that support and the impact of a family than she had over a terminal diagnosis. Since 2013, 17,000 people have died while waiting to hear of their claim for disabilities being successful. In fact according to a new analysis of NHS data nearly half of people surveyed on out of work disability benefits said that in 2014 they had attempted to take their own lives and this is why it sticks in the throat when you put down an amendment saying how amazing the Government has been on treating people with disabilities, your speeches were fine but they just weren't linked to the amendment.

I just want to share one quote from a person who is currently going through a work capability assessment. He says I'm currently awaiting to hear back from another form I've had to fill out about an update to my health, I'm terrified of what happened, as what might happen as I know they are taking it away from people. Right now my anxiety and depression are really been affected, they make us feel like criminals I have lost count of the amount of times I've tried to end my life'. I am proud that a future Labour Government would scrap the work capability assessment, end the punitive sanctions regime and change the culture of the social security system from one that demonises people not into work to one that is supporting and enabling and that's why it's disappointing to see that amendment because our initial White

Paper was so positive, it was setting aside the national and saying look what can we do as a Local Council because even though we can't do everything there is a lot we can do and there's a lot we can do better and it was just a change see you trying to politicise that. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay to sum up.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Summing up, thank you I'll just get back to the beginning. OK, thank you everybody for your interventions. Councillor Cohen can I thank you, would say we all need a win occasionally particularly Liberal Democrats, although we're doing well at the moment and I want to thank you for your honesty yeah, you are an expert by experience yeah. I hope you're 9 year old son will in time benefit from what we decide today.

Councillor Shemilt thank you for your support and for highlighting the psychological and emotional benefits of work for those with a learning disability, I think we accept that work is good for everybody and that should include people with a learning disability.

Councillor Khan thank you and thank you for your work with the Partnership Board. You are right we all want everyone to be who they are and it sounds like there's a real buzz about all the exciting things that the Partnership Board are doing, I look forward as been our party's member to been part of that.

Councillor Ritchie thank you, you clearly take your role as Disability Champion very seriously and I know that you will do all you can to help. Your right about unlocking ability rather than seeing disability and once again thank you.

Councillor Hamilton thank you for letting us know about the Council's work with Leeds City Council, with Leeds City College and our own mapping in the Council. Once we know where we are we can look to grow as a Council.

Councillor Stevens, Stephenson sorry thank you for a much more collegiate speech this time and highlighting the role of early intervention in our schools to help children with a learning disability prepare for their future and hopefully paid employment.

And finally Councillor Pryor thank you for supporting this White Paper. I knew that you would challenge the Conservatives treatment of disabled people. Some might say they've been good at getting those who can't work into work and haven't done enough to help those who have a disability and want to work get into work, I'll leave others to judge that.

Finally mention of autism, as many of you know a person with learning disability may have autism but the vast majority of people living with autism

don't have a learning disability and it's one of the reasons why I separated the 2 divisions really because I think there is something to be said about having a future autism White Paper around employment and around what we do as a city for people with autism but like I say most people with autism do not have a learning disability so it was really important for me that we concentrated on those people with a learning disability in this White Paper.

It's also clear to me that there is so much going on that's good in this city and we need to build on it and I think we have broad cross party support and we have a real chance to make a difference not just for this generation of people with a learning disability but for future generations as well. Thank you.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Lord Mayor ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: I think on issues like this it's so important.
Sorry.

THE LORD MAYOR: Before we go to the vote Councillor Cohen would like to say.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you. I think on issues like this where possible I think it is so important we speak with one unadulterated clear voice and to that end notwithstanding some of your comments Councillor Pryor I would seek leave of Council under Procedure Rule 14.10 though I am able to withdraw the amendment in my name so we have one (inaudible).

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We have a seconder Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Could I call for the vote on Councillor Cohen procedure motion. (*A vote was taken*). That's CARRIED.

(Applause)

I now call for the vote on the motion of Councillor Lay. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

(Applause)

You'll be pleased to know this is the end of the meeting. Thank you.
I've made it.

(The meeting closed at 7.30pm)