

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2019

VERBATIM

This page is intentionally left blank

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday 11th September 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 11TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

THE LORD MAYOR: Please be seated. Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this first full Council I would like to remind Members this meeting is to be webcast and that we have all remembered to switch off our mobile phones device and switch it to silent in the Chamber. Also notice that we are filming the first part of this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I'm also delighted to announce that Councillor Eleanor Tunnicliffe as given birth to a baby boy on Monday the ...

(Applause)

On Monday the 2nd of September, his name is Wilfred Marti Tunnicliffe-Cruz but for now we'll call Willy. Both mother and baby are doing well and I am sure that Members of the Council would like to join me in sending our best wishes and congratulations to all.

I would also like to inform you that I have agreed to include a late item of business, a report and updating members of Leeds City Council preparation for the UK exit from the European Union, I also have agreed to circulate a report and Leeds Core Strategy Review which was not available at the time of Council agenda so that's my announcement and we will move to the minutes.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10TH JULY 2019

THE LORD MAYOR: So we move to item 1 that's the minutes minutes of the last meeting, Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move that the minutes be approved Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Has any Member anything to declare.

ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3 which is communications and I will hand over to the Chief Exec, Tom, have you got anything.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Just one communication which was in response to a Council resolution from Nigel Adams MP the Minister of State for Sport, Media and Creative Industries in respect of the White paper on TV Licences for the over 75's considered at Council in July and the response has previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We move to deputation, Chief Whip. Sorry Exec, Chief Exec.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, promoted me there Lord Mayor. So Chief, there are four deputations, the first is a group of residents regarding Britannia Quarry in Morley, the second is a group regarding save TV Harrison Sports Ground, the third is Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) and the fourth is a group of residents regarding Climate Change and the Airport Expansion.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Like to move that all the deputations be received Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

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

DEPUTATION 1 – A GROUP OF RESIDENTS REGARDING BRITANNIA QUARRY IN MORLEY

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

MR HANDFORTH: Thank you. Good afternoon my name is Alan Handforth, live on Rein Road Morley. This is my colleague Philip Morris he also lives on Rein Road.

Good afternoon Lord Mayor and Councillors my name is Alan Handforth I've lived on Rein Road for 43 years. I have attended meetings at the Britannia Quarry for the past 15 years with Councillor Finnigan who has a vast knowledge

of the quarry and its regulations. There are two operators at this quarry, Booths use Howley Park entrance off the A650 who are filling the quarry with various materials and Calder Masonry who operate the quarry off Rein Road entrance who use the quarry for manufacturing stone.

Booths during the last three months the residents have been concerned on numerous occasions about the daily hours of working from 7am to 7pm, starting heavy equipment at 7am with plant and the pecker which is used for splitting stone creating a metallic noise and diggers moving soil about. I was made to believe that 7 to 7.30 was the hours for maintenance of plant but not quarrying. This causes a large amount of dust especially near a large bank of soil near the M62 which has cranes and diggers on top. Dust conditions are the worst from May to September particularly during summer months, dry months and the wind in a west direction. Dust monitors should be in four areas of the quarry the efficiency of these monitors is in question they are sometimes there, they are sometimes when they are taken away to be read and a lapse before they are returned. On advice from a Rein Road resident who is highly thought of in the medical world, the dust should be examined independently, the quarry management would not accept this to be carried out, further work has to be done with regards to the health of residents.

2. Calder Masonry. The entrance off Rein Road is approximately half a mile long and is made up of old spoil, road spoils and stone and soil. This road has been created in the last 2 years when the old road was quarried, which was a proper road, at the time the wheel wash was removed but not replaced. Heavy goods vehicles entering Rein Road during the quarry vary in size and weight, articulated lorries, lorries with trailers capable of carrying up to 42 tons, the largest having to use the width of the pavement to exit the quarry entrance. Rein Road has a restriction of 7½. Tons. They are also vehicles been, also these vehicles bring out spoils of stone and sand causing the gulleys to be blocked.

Bunding. Bunding, the area of the west of Rein Road has been in a present state for many years, a mound of quarried soil. This needs attention. There's been many excuses made as to not, why it has not been completed to do what it was originally made to do which was to reduce dust and noise. A time limit for completion should be enforced with conditions for maintenance together with bunding to the north, there also should be more representation from the EA at meetings. Also heavy good vehicles using the A650 to the quarry often are unsheeted.

I bring this deputation to the Council hoping it will recommend it to go to the Executive Board with their recommendations can bring improvements to the quarry, environment, health and of local residents and bring quarrying from the 20th century into the 21st century.

I will make myself available to work with Leeds City Council to implement recommendation. This is, residents who back this delegations are from 13, 14, 26, 50, 54, 55, 56, 57, 65, 77, 80 Wynatts, Grange, Rein Road Morley. Thank you Council, thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to a vote. *(A vote was taken)*.

Thank you for coming to today's, sorry this has been CARRIED.

MR HANDFORTH: Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for coming to today's meeting officers from the relevant department will contact you in due course. Thank you have a lovely afternoon.

MR HANDFORTH: Thank you.

DEPUTATION 2 – A GROUP REGARDING THE SAVE TV HARRISON SPORTS GROUND

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting please make your speech to the Council which should not no more than five minutes and begin by introducing your group.

MR LAMBERT: Good afternoon Lord Mayor and Councillors. My name is Aaron Lambert, Chair of the TV Harrison Community Action Group and Lee and David Williams MBE. Do I continue on.

THE LORD MAYOR: Please.

MR LAMBERT: I'm here today to talk about the TV Harrison Sports Ground, Oldfield Lane, Wortley. Hopefully the majority of you will be familiar with our city's neglected, abandoned though much cherished sports ground and also aware of the rich historical importance of our city's spiritual, sporting landmark. Our great city made great by our people, people like Thomas Vernon Harrison. TV Harrison ground, Oldfield Lane was first recorded as a sports venue in the early 1850's. Cricket, rugby and football all been played here. Two Rugby Yorkshire Cup finals took place and in the late 1920's a campaign was run in the Yorkshire Evening Post to purchase the land by subscription. The people of Leeds raised £2,200 and the land was purchased in 1929. In 1931 a ceremony took place. The land, took place on the land as the fees were handed over from the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Alderman G Ratcliffe, to a Mr T W Shortridge as the

land was gifted to the school children of Leeds. In the deeds it clearly states that the land shall remain open and unbuilt upon. Thomas Vernon Harrison was a World War 1 hero who was headmaster at two Leeds schools, Hunslet Lane and Christ Church Junior Schools.

TV Harrison believed that having a sports field for children would help with their school work and would also help them keep physically fit. With this sportsground been the first of its kind in the country he hoped that other cities and towns would follow suit. Unfortunately TV Harrison passed away before the deeds were officially handed over. Due to Mr Harrison's involvement in securing the land they decided to name the facility the TV Harrison ground. As well as school sports, sports day and children's day activities the ground was a home to Leeds city boys who are the representative team for our city at schoolboy level. All school football finals were played here the likes of Madeley, Reaney, Harvey, McCall, Deane, Batty, Whelan & Smith all started their careers here. Don Revie & Les Cocker often visited the ground, scouting the next big thing.

The trustees, LSSA, closed the ground approximately 15 years ago though people have still used the land in whatever capacity they could. We know of at least three sporting groups who attempted to resurrect the facility in Wortley FC, West Leeds ARLFC and Armley Amateurs FC. Negotiations with LSSA, the trustees and Leeds City Council were extremely protracted and ultimately futile on each occasion, a £2m price tag been quoted. While facilities for our kids are ever dwindling, school grounds been fenced off and green land been built upon Wortley and surrounding areas appear to be hit the hardest with very little funding.

TV Harrison has been a pride and joy of our area, the jewel of Wortley even Wortley's Wembley. It is a treasured landmark of Leeds and the pitch is second only in historical importance to Elland Road. It would be sacrilege to lose it especially when our kids need this facility more than ever. In the past I have read Leeds City Council plans to make Leeds the greatest city in England. This does not mean filling up green spaces with homes where the infrastructure cannot support it and where you are leaving little for the next generation in terms of much needed accessible facilities.

We as the people of Leeds want the best for our city, the best facilities for this and future generations, to get a grip of knife crime, obesity, gang culture, mental health issues and disillusioned youth. Prevention been far more cost effective than the cure. It will always stay with me hearing Eddie Gray speaking at the late great John Charles memorial, it is the people of Leeds that make this city great. There are many options available to us to develop the ground into a multi functioning sports and cultural hub that would meet the following points in the Leeds Economic Growth Strategy. Putting children at the heart of the growth strategy, best city for health and wellbeing, supporting places and communities to respond to economic change, building a federal economy, 21st century infrastructure and so on.

We ask that Leeds City Council work with us to explore the options for this ground before it is built on and lost forever. We feel the wider implications are not been assessed in terms of community benefit. Please let's not have houses built

on land which was the most special of gifts to the children of our city. You have the power, the people of Leeds have never fallen out of love with this special place ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you please finish your sentence.

MR LAMBERT: The people of Leeds have never fallen out of love with this special place the trustees did that.

(Applause)

(Inaudible talking)

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I'd like to move that the matter be referred to the Director of City Development for consideration along with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you.

MR LAMBERT: Thank you very much everybody and Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: And I'll second, thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Let's go for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

Thank you for coming to today's meeting officers from the relevant office will get in touch with you at a later date. Thank you.

MR LAMBERT: Thank you, thank you everybody.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 3 – SUPPORT AFTER RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE LEEDS (SARSVL)

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

MS DUNDON: Thank you Lord Mayor and Members of the Council. Good afternoon and thank you so much for inviting us to deliver this deputation to your meeting today. My name is Kristen Dundon and I'm a trustee at Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds otherwise known as SARSVL. With me today is Catherine Reed. It's hard to convey to you how thrilled and proud all of us at SARSVL are when the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Eileen Taylor and her Consort Mr Audley Taylor chose us as their charity of the year for 2019 to 2020. Our pride and excitement was partly because of the Lord Mayor's reputation and

record as a hard working ward Councillor of over a decade service. It was partly because of her pride in her status as a black female immigrant and the first black Lord Mayor of Leeds chimes with our own values of anti-racism, diversity, inclusion, anti oppression and our organisation's aims to reflect the community we serve and to meet the diversity of needs among women and girls in our city.

It was partly because the Lord Mayor's background in mental health nursing means that she has an in-depth understanding of the specialism of our work and of the impacts of sexual violence and abuse on victims and survivors lives which can be wide ranging, severe and long term and which include sleep problems, self harming behaviours, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, post traumatic stress disorder and relationship difficulties to name just a few. But it was also because as we are a small grassroots charity and relatively young celebrating our 10th birthday this year it felt like the Lord Mayor had taken a gamble on us and even more so because we know through experience that sexual violence and abuse can be difficult to even think about let alone talk about. We've even had the feedback from businesses in the past that their unable to support us because we our brand isn't family friendly. But the sad truth is that there are children, adults and families been impacted by sexual violence and abuse all across our city right now and what could be more family friendly than our work at SARSVL to on the one hand provide specialist independent holistic services to support victims and survivors to cope and recover from their experiences and move forward positively and on the other hand to raise awareness and understanding of sexual violence and abuse, its prevalence and its impacts and of issues like consent and healthy relationships with the aim of preventing, reducing and ultimately ending these horrific traumatic crimes for the benefit of everyone.

That the Lord Mayor of Leeds and Consort recognise this and want to help our charity raise not only vital desperately needed funds but also our profile across the city so that we can build, both build our sustainability into the future and crucially reach even more of the women and girls who need and want our service. Frankly it feels fantastic and it's something we're really grateful for and we're here today simply to ask you to do everything within your power to support the efforts of the Lord Mayor and her Charity Committee this year so that SARSVL, its services and the women and girls we help and support can benefit as much as possible from this phenomenal opportunity. We have a funding target of £35,000 aimed at helping us develop and sustain our specialist counselling service. This amount will help us reduce the time women have to wait to receive these life changing, sometimes life saving therapies and enable us to meet the unprecedented and increasing demand. But we also want to start a conversation about sexual violence and abuse, challenging myths, changing public attitudes and generally creating an environment in which it's easier for victims and survivors to live without shame or stigma and to have access to the specialist services they need, want and deserve.

We've got a range of exciting events planned from a fire walk on the 6th March to events to mark International Women's Day, the 16 days of Action to End Violence against Women and Girls and Sexual Violence and Sexual Abuse Awareness week to name just a few and of course the Annual Just One Day initiative. As the year progresses we ask you to think about what you can do to get involved and

help us achieve our aims, whether it's making a donation, taking up a sponsored challenge, promoting or volunteering at fundraising events or simply talking to your friends, colleagues, neighbours and loved ones about the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal and the work of Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds.

And for some inspiration I'd like to leave you with the words of one of our service users. Since been referred to SARSVL I have been able to completely change my life ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you please finish your sentence.

MS DUNDON: I have had the most amazing support, I genuinely would not be alive today without it.

(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 Communities and Environment for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Seconded My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll go 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 touch with you as soon as possible and have a wonderful afternoon. Speak soon.

MS DUNDON: Thank you.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 4 – A GROUP OF RESIDENTS REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE AIRPORT EXPANSION

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

MS LONG: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors can I introduce Helen Jenner, Chris Walsh, myself Drusilla Long and Barry Hewitt. Leeds City Council has declared a climate emergency meaning that the Council must take immediate action over climate due to a state of danger, it's what emergency means. What matters for climate change is how much greenhouse gas we emit into the atmosphere three of the big ones are flying, driving and eating meat and

regarding flying skipping just one round trip to New York from London is equivalent to recycling everything in your house comprehensively for 8 years.

We're a group of North Leeds residents concerned about the environmental impact of an expansion of the airport on the environment and how this is counterproductive even dangerous considering the climate emergency. In 2018 the UN Intergovernmental Panel on climate change reported that the global community has 12 years left to prevent a climate change catastrophe the report said that urgent and unprecedented actions were necessary to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees centigrade above preindustrial levels the point where catastrophic and uncontrollable climate change will occur.

In March 2019 in response to pressure from youth climate strikers Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency committing Leeds to carbon neutrality by 2030. The Council Leader, Judith Blake, said the climate emergency is real if we don't take radical action much sooner than previously thought it will be too late to avert climate disaster and all the extreme consequences that will bring. Many young people have expressed their understandable concern about this and it's right they are listened to.

So what we're saying is the Government is encouraging expansion of regional airports and the owners of Leeds Bradford Airport, an Australian company, planned to increase passenger numbers from the current 4m a year to 7.1m by 2030 and 9m by 2050. Leeds City Council has welcomed these proposals and plan to invest a £100m constructing a new road from the A65 to the airport across the green belt to accommodate the increase in traffic to the airport. As a group of Leeds citizens we believe that the airport development would be fundamentally incompatible with the aims of the climate change emergency declaration and will deliver a further great dollop of filthy air on Leeds.

In order to achieve a climate safe future for all our children we simply cannot accommodate any further increase in aviation or car emissions and must drastically reduce them. In order to reach carbon neutrality by 2030

Leeds must reduce the number of vehicles on the roads, transport's already the biggest contributor to our Leeds city emission budget and the airport development is fundamentally incompatible with ensuring a livable future for the citizens our Councillors have sworn to protect and democratically serve. It makes no sense to destroy our urban green spaces and the carbon sinks they provide which help to reverse the damages we've already done and continue to do to our ecosystems when it's to make way for more roads. We believe the Council should be investing in sectors that do not jeopardise its climate targets.

Across the world investment in carbon reducing industries is providing sustainable profits and employment opportunities. These industries include renewable energy, generation and construction, large scale retrofitting for more efficient domestic homes and commercial buildings and investment in sustainable transport. These sectors would provide reliable future proof jobs in Leeds and the UK.

This group of Leeds residents urges Leeds City Council to act now to withdraw its endorsement of the airport expansion and refuse to fund the expansion of the road network to accommodate it. We understand Leeds City Council alone cannot avert climate breakdown and we understand that meeting the requirements of a climate emergency is not easy for Leeds City Council particularly in any era of budget cuts from Central Government. It will require new ways of thinking and bold action at all levels of Government which will mean difficult decisions and courageous visions by our Local Leaders. It will be deeply unethical if you allow this. The ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry, can you please finish your sentence please.

MS LONG: Evidence that we need has been provided by researchers in ecological economics at Leeds University who say airport expansion means we are flying full tilt towards climate crisis. Thank you.

(Applause)

PUBLIC IN THE GALLERY: Public disturbance.

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me.

PUBLIC IN THE GALLERY: Public disturbance.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I'd like to move that the matter now be referred to the Director of City Development for consideration along with the relevant Exec Board Member. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second it My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

Thank you for coming to today's meeting officers from the relevant department will be in touch with about your deputation. Thank you.

MS LONG: Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: And good afternoon.

MS LONG: Thank you.

(Applause)

**ITEM 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD –
ADOPTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY SELECTIVE REVIEW**

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we move on to Item 5. Procedural motion ...

(Inaudible)

I'll hand over to Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. In accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 14.9a I'd like to seek leave of Council to alter the wording of the motion in my name to include an additional recommendation which will become recommendation D that's to deflect the Council's declaration of climate emergency in March 2019. The Council commits to including measures to address the climate emergency and subsequent Core Strategy Reviews. This should include a strategic plan to deliver more trees in the city, greater emphasis on how new housing developments are accessed ie not solely by the private car and a clear commitment to review spatial policy 12 of the Core Strategy relating to growth of Leeds and Bradford Airport as a matter of urgency and notes that the Council has already committed to bringing a timetable to Development Plans Panel this autumn.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Neil Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Second Lord Mayor and it's worth pointing out colleagues that the Core Strategy Selective Review was submitted in advance of us declaring a climate emergency. One of the things we have always tried to do as an administration colleagues is make sure that planning

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw you just need to second it.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: I do don't I, apologise Lord Mayor.

(Laughter)

(Inaudible)

THE LORD MAYOR: So should we call for a vote to procedural motion with the motion. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED. Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Members of Council are asked today to adopt Leeds Core Strategy Selective Review as everyone in this Chamber knows getting to this point of the Core Strategy and its Selective Review has been a lengthy process. The review itself took 2½ years of consultation, examination and investigation by the Planning Inspectorate nationally to reach this stage, the Core Strategy itself having begun to be formed in 2012. At the last Council meeting we as a Council adopted the Site Allocations Plan and from today we will have a fully adopted local plan with more than the magic target and 5 year housing land supply to fight off speculative applications from volume house builders and we will be able to move forward with a plan led system of developing our city. That's an important point to make this is about moving forward, it's not the end as my colleague Councillor Walshaw frequently says in this Council Chamber planning is the show that never ends.

Initial work is already beginning to be undertaken to prepare for the Site Allocation Plans Review which will begin in earnest once the CSSR challenge period ends. We should as a Council welcome this review, it's been through extensive consultation and inquiry with Planning Inspectors. The Inspector's findings were positive and agreed with the underlying work our Planning Officers have undertaken over many years.

The Government has previously said that once we have an adopted Local Plan they will support us in seeking improvements to the quality of housing and our built environment. It will help us to fight off that speculative development and ensure that homes are built, that are built are constructed to higher environmental health and social standards contributing to our reduction in carbon emissions as a city, to our ambitions to improve health and wellbeing for all and requiring more accessible and affordable homes to be built. I'm sure that for some Members in this Chamber the only thing worth noting in the CSSR is the reduction in the housing target from 70,000 to just under 52,000 homes over the planning period. Indeed I'm sure many of them will stand up today and claim the target should have been even lower. When the Council set 70,000 homes as a target it was based on the evidence at the time and was agreed at that time by an Independent Inspector. The new figure is based on Government methodology and balances the housing needs of our growing population with the city's economic growth. It's important to recognise that this review does more than reduce the housing target though, crucially it updates and improves accessibility standards, it raises spatial standards so that people can be sure that their new home isn't a cupboard in disguise, it increases provision of affordable housing so that more people can afford to live in our city and it approves the recommendation, sorry and in approving the recommendations in the report today we will also promote improvements to green space in our city, ensure that through the planning process we can reduce water consumption of new buildings, improve energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions and require every parking space in new housing to be provided with electric vehicle charging points. This process began long before the Council declared a climate emergency but it does give us some of the tools we need to drive up the quality of standards of new build in the city to deliver on those commitments.

I'd like to touch on this point of the amendments in the name of Councillor Carter as you can see we have already amended our proposals. The first point he suggested is disingenuous, we need to adopt the Inspector's findings and recommendations completely as one document. On his second point as I've said we have already set out plans to come to Development Plans Panel in this autumn with a timetable to review the other policies.

We're not kicking difficult issues around the impact of climate emissions on transport into the long grass or future Core Strategy Reviews. We're having those difficult conversations now with transport providers including the airport's who will be attending the climate of urgency Advisory Committee in just two weeks'time. The climate emergency will of course be fundamental to future Local Plan Reviews and we have already committed to take those, a paper on those options to Development Plans Panel this autumn as set out in our amendments.

I'd like to finish by noting the hard work that's gone into this process and thank officers for their professionalism and dedication in getting us to where we are now.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

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

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Can I begin by saying we support in it's entirety the somewhat belated amendment that the controlling group have tabled. Just remind Members they had two opportunities to do this at the Development Plan Panel and then at the Exec Board when other members, drew to their attention, the fact that the whole review had taken place before the climate change emergency was declared. We also drew their attention to the fact that they, in their own wording, were agreeing in principle to a new ground access to Leeds Bradford Airport. Now in particular at the Development Plans Panel said that we were not able to support that because we were, if you like, already giving the game away and saying that we did support such an access which we decidedly do not particularly as more and more information comes out about neighbouring authorities plans to link into any surface access proposals we might have and revisit, as somebody said, the Kirkhamgate Dishforth motorway of 1973;s fame. But My Lord Mayor we will not be voting for the amended , not because we disagree with the amendment but because other things have been left unsaid and so the people of Leeds are well aware of the contortions the controlling group have gone to. Back in 2011 we called for a review of the Core Strategy, in 2014 we tabled a resolution calling for a review which was supported by all opposition members, five years later with umpteen green field sites lost that needn't have been we have a Core Strategy Review and the numbers are still mystifying and I'll tell you why. All they've done is to extend the plan period by six years, by 2033 they'll have their 70,000 there is a crucial gap in the number of sites available we know that in 2023 the allocated sites will probably have gone, where are these other sites to come from. Are they to revisit the sites that we've, they say, under our pressure they have withdrawn is that what they're going to bring back and the residents who think and have been misled into thinking they've won suddenly discover they haven't won at all that six years down the line they have precisely the number of houses they started with on the same site. And on the question of accessibility to those sites and the sustainability of those sites when I asked 'well aren't we starting from scratch again now with the climate change emergency to look at those sites in the light of new evidence, flooding etc' oh we were told 'well we did that work to start with'.

No they did not and this lot have now rumbled it.

My Lord Mayor, yes your right but again belated, dragged to it kicking and screaming at every turn for eight years and that's why we can't vote for your resolution because we just don't trust you any more.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR: Here we go.

(Laughter)

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: I've got a reputation or something have I. Just to be clear before anybody tries to misrepresent what the Conservative view is, we are supportive of the CSSR as far as it goes and in fact a number of us were there arguing for it throughout the Inspector's hearings, we were there batting for your policy we were, a number of us, around the Chamber we were there batting for your policy when sometimes some of you were not there in order to do the arguments for us. We were the ones that supported and pushed through against the developers arguments the house sizes, we were the ones that push through hard on the green space changes as well it was because of the Conservatives who you like to vilify all the time we were there doing what we will be doing, we'll be arguing for the rest of the day needing leadership to move things forward in this city and that's what we've been trying to do.

To answer, you know there are things that also need to be included in this review. We need to look at the HMCA, are they correct, do we need them. Bradford a paper was brought to the Development Plans Panel and Bradford do not have HMCA's, they could be wrong, they probably are, but we need to look at ourselves as to whether or not our HMCA's are actually built for purpose or are some of them far too large and there isn't a lot of commonality in some of the housing market character assessment areas. We do need to look more closely at the policies we've got for heating renewables and water . We've got to start putting more and more of these in to our Core Strategy in terms of what we're doing and as far as the trees are concerned we've got to start been stricter with the developers when they are not replacing trees at a far better ratio in terms of what we're doing.

We do need to revisit the transport section because it's lacking, we do need to make sure we've got technologically flexible otherwise we'll get ourselves bogged down. Does anybody really think electric cars will be the way ahead by the time 2033 comes, I very much doubt it so we need to make sure that were technologically balanced in what we're doing.

There is more to be done we do also need to look at the impact of Neighbourhood Plans as to how that's going to feed into it whether they complement or whether there's any need for localised policies to move things forward. We've got to do something about it now because we are currently the

custodians of moving this city forward we've got to do something. Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: Thank you Lord Mayor. I welcome the chance to speak on the Core Strategy Selective Review. It is an important document to have in place and I would like to thank everybody involved for the long hard work that has gone into getting this before the Council today. It's an incredible amount of work that's been done by Development Plans Panel, we visited every site in the original one. One summer, it took up a whole summer. We've had six different Chairs in that time. It seems, as Councillor Walshaw says, the show that never ends well it seems to me with this coming forward at Council, I was hoping today might be the day when we could all get together and end it and move forward. We're already seeing many many positives from having a plan in place, we're already achieving on new applications 7% affordable homes in the centre instead of 5%. We are, our rooms are getting bigger we are forcing developers to consider things like electrical charge and I hear what Barry says about electric charging but it has to be the future because diesel and petrol fumes cannot continue as they are so bicycle, walking and other ways more sustainable.

I was at some of the reviews and I heard a lot what the inspector said, our plan was well received. She particularly made reference to the point I am making regarding the size of housing and I'll quote her directly 'while there was no evidence to suggest that the construction of the dwellings with less space than the contained, than that contained in the NDSS was affecting house sales'. Well it wouldn't if there were a shortage of houses (inaudible). That is not to say that the occupants living conditions are not being compromised.

As the inspector says reduction in space comes with compromises. Compromises on accessibility, on sustainability and ultimately on people's quality of life. I don't think that this is a compromise we should allow. Smaller homes have detrimental effects on people's health something that is not acceptable to ignore in Leeds is to be the best. Leeds with our wish to be the best city for health and wellbeing. I am really pleased to see the SS are addressing this problem.

As well as this we have pushed to improve accessibility standards in new build and make sure new developments have the homes simple for the different needs of people in Leeds (coughs) excuse me. 15 nearly 16% of households in Leeds contain one or two members with a disability, 24% contain a member aged 65 years or over ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor McKenna could you finish up please.

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: OK Lord Mayor and we will have the opportunity to address these things with the plan that hopefully will pass today and we can move forward this. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I remember when garlic bread was the future. Lord Mayor affordable housing comes in many different forms from different sources and means different things to different people. It can include council housing and social rented housing provided by registered providers. Both are considered genuinely affordable and the other extreme the term affordable is sometimes used to describe low cost market housing. In between there is shared equity and shared ownership forms of affordable housing which again are usually administered by registered providers.

If we adopt the Core Strategy Selective Review today with changes to our our Affordable Housing Policy H5 the requirement becomes 35 and 15% in Outer North and Outer South respectively and 7% in both Inner areas in the city centre. The increase in the inner areas and city centre from 5% appears to be a minor increase for these areas however it is important to remember they both have a proportionally large amount of the housing allocation in the city so the impact will be significant. We would all like to see a larger proportion of affordable housing across all areas but that ambition is held back by the fact that policy requirements for affordable housing have to be tested to demonstrate that the viability of typical housing developments across the district would not be undermined. It's clear that viability testing is a constraint, the need for affordable housing and more green space could justify much higher requirements but if policies are proposed that would undermine viability they would not be supported by inspectors through public examination. However these percentages will be reviewed in time and this Council will continue to push the market for improvements in future reviews. Our affordable housing need could be met by an increase in Council house building however the Government's HRA borrowing cap in place since 2012 and only lifted last year has robbed Councils of the chance to build more affordable housing at a time when the need for such housing was only growing. Despite that I'm proud this administration has delivered about a thousand quality new build Council houses over the last five years including some in my own ward of Bramley and Stanningley.

I'll close by returning to the issue of viability which as I said inhibits our ability to have a more ambitious policy for affordable housing targets. A developer profit margin of circa 20% the overpayment of sites to guarantee their window sites safe in the knowledge they will be able to argue down community benefits to make their money back later all contribute to the squeeze. This all in concepts of billion pound profits, an average Chief Exec pay of £2.1m per annum for the biggest volume of house builders. It's ironic that often those building the houses will never be able to afford to live in them. Council the Government needs to get a grip on this racket and help us deliver the vital affordable housing our communities desperately need. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: The Council has done an excellent job in completing the Selective Review in a responsive and timely way and this now sits alongside the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Plan forming for the first time in years in Leeds a legal planning platform in which we can actively and vigorously pursue our vision for the city and so we turn from the rigmarole of housing numbers to the outcomes of great design, innovation and creating inspiring places to live, work and enjoy. It places us, Lord Mayor, in an excellent position to attract the best of the best developers and to pursue planning applications in places where houses and the necessary infrastructure are needed and not where they are easiest and most profitable for developers to build them. It means that now we can and should hold developers to account to comply with our Leeds policies, our Leeds standards and our Leeds expectations. How disappointed we were then around the South and West Plans Panel table last week to consider a plan put forward by a developer, as Councillor Cohen put it, of such standard which did not comply with a single policy, not with affordable housing or room size, good design, climate change or green space. I have never seen such vigorous, incredulous or enthusiastic all party alignment in all the time that I have been a Councillor.

(Applause)

We we did the right thing colleagues we held our nerve and that plan has already improved in all of those aspects though I'll grant you probably not enough. I believe that the coming together of the climate change emergency and a now robust planning framework should enable us to put green spaces and green walls, the retention of mature trees, pedestrian play and play friendly layouts, car free frontages and energy saving technologies at the very top of our list and rather than been the myth, last minute add on or worse the forfeit in favour of the dreaded viability.

The CSSR strengthens both the provision and the protection of greenspace on housing developments and helpfully it puts site provision, on-site provision ahead of commuted sums for green space. It sets the scene for a fresh and greener approach to place making creating and protecting green space corridors for example and taken as a whole policies G4, 5 and 6 deliver a much needed and welcome increase in green space and the use of it to create healthy, attractive, liveable environments which contribute to local amenity and the quality of life in our neighbourhoods.

I am quite passionate about this. Green space is not a given for outer areas and a privilege for inner, it is a fundamental for applications in all locations.

COUNCILLORS: Here here.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: It links to many of our Council policies and priorities and values for example healthy and active lifestyles, mental and physical

wellbeing, recreation and quality leisure time and of course the pressing issue of climate change. We have no choice now, we have to ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen finish please.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Take responsibility to make Leeds a resilient to the effects of climate change and we simply cannot let developers get away with this any longer.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Collins.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. There are a lot of good and detailed policies and comments recorded in the city's Core Strategy and many of the new changes enhance it in a positive way. However the drive to keep our target housing numbers high has marred everything that this document sets out to do. The current administration is using smoke and mirrors to deceive ...

(Groaning)

To deceive the residents of Leeds. They are announcing that the target housing numbers will drop from 70,000 to 52,952 but what they don't make clear is that many of the development sites now identified within the Site Allocation Plan will not be counted towards this new 53k figure. This is because they have already been developed. The 52,952 target starts now not from 2012 when this all began. This means that we will still have many more sites to find between now and the new end date 2033, another eight years worth of development approximately.

Our green belt and open spaces will soon be under threat from Leeds once again. The current administration is the only party to blame for this, they are the ones who have set the target at 10,000 new homes higher than the Government's standard method calculates. The Inspector assessing the recent Core Strategy Select Review also gave Leeds the opportunity to adopt the 42,384 proposed by the Government. This was in her final report but this was ignored by Leeds. I previously accused our Labour colleagues opposite of been like a big red dragon, I now amend that statement and accuse you of being a big yellow taxi. You don't know what you've got till it's gone you are prepared to pave paradise just to put up a housing lot.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor and well said Councillor Collins. Yes very good literal reference.

COUNCILLOR CARTER: So good we've written it down.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor I can't, I agreed with some of what Councillor Gruen and Councillor Richie said but I can't concur that this has been a timely and competent process. It's made Brexit look plain sailing

(Groaning)

But in this instance any kind of deal, any kind, any kind of deal is better than no deal at all in this case. There are still many things wrong with this plan, the housing number is still too high. Why does that matter, because I would suspect every one of

us in this Chamber wants to see more housing in our communities but more genuinely affordable housing for young people to be able to stay and live in the communities they grew up in and for older people to downsize and live out the rest of their lives in the communities they've grown to love in among the residents that they cherish.

What we've got with this plan is the opposite and what people in communities around the city need to understand and where this administration need to be honest the implication of what's likely to be agreed today is the city will still have to identify land for another 20 to 25,000 houses. So for all those people who think they've saved green belt sites and green field sites around the city think again. The next step of this is to decide where the next 20 to 25,000 houses will go.

Now while the insertion of policies around climate emergency and accessibility are very welcome it is crucial that we see these actually applied. Councillor Gruen referred to, a week ago, at Plans Panel for South and West, she'll recall well one for North and East where this Council approved an application for a site that four out of the six Core Strategy Accessibility Standards and does not, is not in any way compatible with the climate emergency it will be entirely dependent on the private motor car that's why having an inflated housing target is a problem because if you allocate land for more houses than the developers ever plan or are able to build and sell that means they can cherry pick which ones they want to build on and that's exactly what they'll do and they'll do the reverse of what Councillor Gruen said, they'll pick the sites that are easy to build, cheap to build and expensive to sell. Leave brownfield land that we want desperately to be regenerated and redeveloped undeveloped and keep locking out young people from housing markets in the communities they've grown up in and want to live the rest of their lives. That is why we cannot support this motion.
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: This debate started well it was second, it started really fully with Councillor Andrew Carter talking about numbers and numbers the numbers game it's the the basis really of just about every objection that I can think of to the Core Strategy and the SAP that actually, I suppose there ruining parts of Leeds. I've said this before, all these numbers we want to get them reduced, you

say we've got them reduced. It's really like a bit of elastic we've stretched it out and moved the end date a bit nearer in so that it looks as though we've reduced the numbers. Reducing numbers is fine but it's what you give people back that matters and if you don't give people back some of their green belt that's been taken away willy nilly here with no thought of what it's doing to communities that is a real problem with this current house building process.

Councillor Gruen made this, some of the effects of this, sound like the sunlit uplands where everything was going to be beautiful but with wonderful houses been built for everybody, people who need them. Yes fine most of the building that I can think of that comes within my (inaudible) is actually going to despoil rather than create the sunlit uplands and really and truly I don't see how we can have any support for anything that is merely ruining communities.

I think there is a very clear lesson learnt about the way we went about this and I won't say we because we didn't, the way the Council control went about this in the very very beginning, the splitting Leeds into these HNCA's was probably a recipe for disaster from the start. It's a bit like trying to play chess with only allowing pieces to move in one corner, the whole point about Leeds is it's a city, we are supposed to be governing, looking after a city, we should have treated Leeds as one big site for the sake of argument so that creating very small sites where you wanted to jam houses in giving no room for manoeuvre merely gave people like me the unfortunate situation of having to stand up every time and sound like a moaning minnie because you are despoiling my community so I think if we ever come back to the point of been able to review this, if we ever come back to the point of been able to review this then we should bear that very very much in mind. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor and I think when it comes to this matter of housing I don't think the administration when they declared the climate emergency actually thought it through and this has been admitted today with the procedural motion. I think at first the administration probably thought oh well it will sound good, we'll have a climate emergency and thought we would oppose it which of course we did not but in terms of this whole business of the housing numbers and the strategy. This has been the most glaring example of the policy not matching the emergency and when you begin to look at sustainability which will actually make any difference to all the climate emergency targets almost none of the housing developments which we're hearing about today and are actually happening now, all across the north of the city almost none of them meet these requirements and almost all of these new developments will be medium sized, this is in the north of the city in particular, medium sized or large houses crammed typically onto small plots with small gardens, no hedges, no requirement for solar heating, no transport links except by car and this has latterly again being acknowledged in this procedural motion. No mention of, in this particular case, mass transit links because there aren't any. We've got the WYCA plan but that has links coming in from the west and the

south and nothing to the north of the city at all so every 300 new houses in these developments typically means 500 more cars already crammed onto the roads. No requirements for street , boulevards, green walls, green roofs and more importantly woodland planting which we'll hear more of later on which is so important.

Now when some wards are having these estates crammed in it cannot be compatible with the climate emergency. Again admitted today by this belated motion and in my ward for example a much loved small wood is at risk of being developed because of the slowness of action in actually acknowledging that the emergency should have some bearing, a major bearing upon housing policy and I've every sympathy with Councillor Walshaw and as he knows we want to work collaboratively on these measures. Councillor Collins is now chairing the Biodiversity Working Group but all these conditions should be placed upon these developers at the very least so that the climate emergency will not be just a token when it comes to these housing policies. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I just start by saying thank you to somebody or a large group of people and that are the officers of the Council who have laboured long and hard in an attempt to distil the views of the Council in relation to this particular matter and I do appreciate the time and effort they put in and particularly the time and effort they put in at the review to argue the Council's case and I think we may forget them this afternoon and I really would like to put that on record.

I am not going to talk about numbers, my colleagues over there have eloquently reiterated the points I've made on more than one occasion and I suppose what I would say to the Labour Group is you seem to have forgotten how long it's taken us to get here and how, is it fourteen times now, this side of the Chamber has attempted to persuade you to change your initial policy and on fourteen occasions you voted not to do that.

Now belatedly coming to that, coming to the idea that actually we don't need so many houses is nice, I'm happy about it, I'm still not convinced that you've got it right and that's why I'm slightly disappointed because you picked up Andrew's effectively second paragraph in his White Paper but you haven't picked up the third one and I actually think the third was the most important one because what we've all said is events are, I suppose overtaking us, and the idea that we might have a review sometime in the future seems to me shortsighted I actually think the agendas moving so quickly that we really ought to be having a rolling review.

Just quickly I would also like to say thank you to Councillor Carter because he was the, he tells me anyway and I have no reason not to believe him, that he was the person who insisted on the phrase 'must' when we talk about green

space affordables and house sizes and I know there is a lot of wiggle room on that and I know that developers come back and they did, as Caroline said, come back to us and say 'well we only want to not meet these standards on a few'. What Caroline forgot to tell you is those few just happened to be the affordable ones.

So Lord Mayor I think I would also pick up on something else that Caroline said, when she said 'developers won't be able to get away with it any longer'. What concerns me Lord Mayor is that they have been allowed to get away with it so far. I constantly say Policy says this ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cambell can you please.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor I will sit down.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor. What a glorious day, another full council dominated by climate emergency and development plan issues what more could a boy want and despite some of the commentary this afternoon so far I think it's important to state that today's a good day when we advance the CSSR. Colleagues have already mentioned it's an important step forward in how we move Leeds forward in terms of the quality of place making we make and let's be clear that place making is about homes and families and the future of Leeds.

There is a certain antipathy I think from certain colleagues in this this Chamber towards the communities and homes of the future and I think we should guard against that. Planning is at heart a legalistic process and you've heard me say in this Chamber a few times that the statutory instruments we have to use are clunky and there's need for reform as I've said before Lord Mayor there is a need for a new Town and Country Planning Act in this country and the sooner we get that the better and maybe with a General Election offering we may well get that, who knows Lord Mayor.

But as always when we have these debates in the Council Chamber there's a certain rewriting of history. In fact there's so much from Councillor Carter's comment I thought spacetime itself was being distorted and there's always a comment about the speed of things but been evidence led takes time, the statutory processes take time. Had we gone off on one, off at half cork as has been suggested by some fourty some Members opposite there would have been a developer's charter. If we'd have started the SAP from scratch, developer's charter. If we'd amended or junked the CSSR, developer's charter. People might as well come in with T-shirts with sponsors from landowners and volume house builders if that would be the case and it's not been the case has it colleagues.

Every time we've gone forward with this city we've been evidence led and solid and that's been found out time and time again by Government Inspectors. That's absolutely important. But what's important Lord Mayor and colleagues is

that we look forward, we look to the future and it's important that climate emergency is put into the heart of what we do as a Local Authority. We are already doing that, this city, this Council has a proud record of carbon reduction we started in 2012 with the ministern report. In fact that was 2011 Lord Mayor. In 2017 we set up the Leeds Climate Commission with the University, we have a proud record of trying to tackle this issue and it was important in March that we made that declaration. Colleagues that declaration is the next step in what was an emerging process, a strong process I think we'll say. We could all see for clear that's super important.

Colleagues have mentioned what we want to see, we want to see sustainable homes, we want to see a green living breathing city, we want to see cheap affordable accessible public transport, we want to see a decline in the use of the motor car, we want to tackle aviation, carbon fuel deviation, all those things are going to take time. But colleagues I sincerely believe as Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee we can do this. Forward we can move forward together despite whatever handbags we may have in the Council Chamber Councillor Buckley. It's important that we work together, this agenda is too important we only have eleven years and if you've ever seen the movie Dunkirk, I'm not huge on War films, but in the movie Dunkirk there's a ticking clock motif that runs throughout the film as Christopher Nolan told me it's hugely worth checking out. That perhaps we should have it projected in the CEAC meetings the next one's on 25th and we'll be tackling transport in great detail so I urge colleagues to come along and if colleagues across the Council Chamber ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Have a burning issue they can make a contribution to me in advance on the 25th Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. All I will say to Councillor Walshaw at this point is get your finger off the snooze button. That's the clock ticking and you've pressed the snooze button. This CSSR paper, I'm really glad actually that this amendment was put forward by the Tory Group because it just shows, it just goes, the speed of the agenda which is happening that it's the Conservative Party that is having to remind the party that was part of the original load of us that put forward the climate change emergency that actually the climate change emergency is ahead of you and you're doing nothing about it. It shouldn't be up to the Conservative opposition by the very nature of the word conservative to tell you, who is meant to be a progressive administration, that your falling behind and I will, I will, I will point out why there's some areas where this Council really needs to back the plans that it has up with practical policy. If we're talking about green space for instance in our new developments at the moment and I had a piece of casework today and it was a resident that said 'why am I paying £140 a year in service charges for the maintenance of my green space when my neighbour down the road gets it done for free by the Council' and I went

back to the Council, I said how do I understand why this is happening and why isn't the council at some point taking responsibility for the green spaces in the city and of course a very technocratic response came back. But if we're going to be ambitious for instance about the delivery of a tree cover in this city we don't just say to people oh can you please do some greenspace private developer and then just forget about it without any anticipation of our responsibility to find out whether or not that green space is actually being monitored effectively, we don't actually indicate whether or not that green space which had been produced is actually woodland or not we could actually be adding value like this as time goes by and it's one of the reasons why it needs to be a rolling programme in terms of the Core Strategy being improved year on year because the agenda is moving quicker than our processes can and sometimes we need to challenge as an authority in terms of the interpretation of what sustainable means. So for instance if we are presented with a planning application which involves the demolition of 70 houses to deliver 70 houses we have to think about the sustainability of what that demolition means and the sustainability of what it means socially as well and I know that's a live, a live position at the moment on the plans Panel but I think we do need to be brave about our interpretation of that.

And secondly Transport and Sustainability. Councillor Carter was right about the sites that have been put forward and there predicated on the use of the private motor car but they get passed because we allow deals to be made between the developer and private bus companies for time limited ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Temporary ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Bus services that is not sustainable, that is not going to help us deliver our climate change commitments and it should stop now.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's the ongoing episode, another ongoing episode of the book that's probably longer than War and Peace this int it.

I'm glad we've got to this stage but we could have been at it a lot earlier and as Councillor Carter said we're spreading it over a longer period and we've got a different starting date so we've still got two larger numbers. I think, I feel that we were wrong going for 52,000 we should have gone for less but we are where we are, but the fact is the damage has been done previously we have got places in our wards that have been developed that never should have been and when this is adopted we're then going to have to do another Site Allocation Plan and the very sites that we've been defending we'll be having to defend again. It's not good enough and regarding Councillor Walshaw you said we've got 11 years

right, well your right. But if we go with same progress as we have done with rest of this (inaudible) review well we'll be at that 11 years because we seem to have been doing this forever, I don't know about 2005/2006 something like that I think we started this process and the thing is it's it not quick enough in the circumstances, things are changing, our understanding is changing and we have got to do things. There was some discussion about trees I remember a number of years ago I think it was the Council's Arboreal Officer, I don't know if we've got one of them now, and what he said to me, he said the trouble is when we build your houses what we do is we build some houses and then we decide 'oh we need a bit of green space we need some trees'. What we should be doing is we should be finding that green space first, we should be putting the trees, deciding where the trees are and building the houses round it so it works but we don't and that's what we need to do. I welcome the acceptance of moving forward on climate change and reviewing it but I've got to say I am going to support Councillor Carter's amendment. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Laneside Farm, Owlter's Farm, Pitty Close Farm, Scott Lane, Daisy Hill, Snittles Farm. All greenfield sites that have been agreed for development voted for development by the Labour Group on Plans Panel so at the point where you hear these empty phrases about 'best of the best developers' sounds brilliant doesn't that but it's 1,500 of the 2,000 houses that are coming to Morley are going to Persimmon's. How is that best of the best developers when I think everybody would accept that Persimmon's are rock bottom. They voted for it time and time and time again.

We're hearing other empty phrases that it's not a developer's charter, well certainly in Morley it's utterly and totally a developer's charter, 2,000 houses all built on greenfield sites where the Labour Group showed itself to be a friend of the developer not a friend of the community and backed consistently by Councillor Dawson and we'll be making sure the community knows about that when he's up for re-election next year and Councillor Mulherin and Renshaw and Councillor Garner and it's not going to be his problem anyway from May onwards anyway as I'm led to believe because I don't think he'll be here following on from May.

But we are in a situation where you hear these phrases about we're going to fight climate change emergency and we're going to make sure that we stand up for local communities and against speculative development it all rings hollow, it all rings as fake news certainly in the Morley area. Because at the point where you have set a target and we've said year after year after year you've got this target wrong and it needs to be reduced down and after the fine work from Councillor Leadley who battled from 2008 saying you need to be reducing this target, you need to be reducing this target, you need to be reducing this target and you didn't pay a bit of attention to him at this particular point and this is a massive U-turn, a massive U-turn by the Labour Group at this particular point too little too late.

Now in the spirit of co-operation, in the spirit of supporting our good friends who back the developers and don't back local communities we have to say that

H9 is progress, EN1 is progress and EN 2 is progress we will see at Plans Panel whether they apply these with the same rigour that they're claiming they're fighting the developers during this afternoon's meeting. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I think most of the comments were actually quite responsible although some of them somewhat hypocritical so Councillor Lamb when you talk about the need for affordable housing but not at Spofforth Hill. The delays due to proposals coming forward that were largely due to sites in the north and east of the city that need to be reconsulted upon which actually delay the whole process. So when we look at the housing numbers, the calls for a lower housing target it's really important to note that the 42,000 homes figure takes no account of economic growth. If Leeds had proposed the figure of 42,000 homes it's highly likely that this would have been rejected by the Inspector because that's exactly what happened when Calderdale did it. Calderdale had used the Government's standard methodology with no uplift for economic growth, the Inspector noted that Calderdale were part of the £1b Leeds City Region growth deal and were planning for above baseline employment growth in line with that Strategic Economic Plan and their plan was rejected for their housing figure. So if the 42,000 housing figure had been chosen here it's highly likely that Leeds would not now be in a position to adopt this to the Core Strategy. That then would leave us still at the will of developers wanting to build wherever they like which of course is the issue that many Members have referred to in the course of discussion today.

From the question of where those homes should be built over the last five years 12,788 new homes have been delivered in Leeds representing 1.3% of the housing supply in England and 74%, that's nearly three quarters of it, were built on brownfield sites. The main urban area remains the main focus of the development in the plan with 78% of the allocated land as that's the most sustainable location for new housing given it's access to jobs and services and amenities and stocks of previously developed land because we have a brown field first policy. Leeds currently has 8,925 dwellings with permission either waiting to start or under construction in the city centre.

Now it would be remiss of me not to pick up on the disgraceful allegation from Councillor Finnigan that Labour Members are voting along party lines and are whipped somehow on Plans Panels. That is not the case. Plans Panel Members have to make decisions based on the balance of information presented to them and I would really like him to withdraw that allegation.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now come to a vote. Sorry. we'll now vote for the amendment in the name of Councillor Carter. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been LOST.

Now we'll call for the vote to approve the amendment of Councillor, sorry to approve recommendation of amendment by Councillor Mulherin.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Shall I read this out Lord Mayor.

(Inaudible)

The Lord Mayor's just asked me to read out the amendments so everybody's clear about it. It's an additional item D in the recommendations to reflect the Council's declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2019. Council commits to including measures to address the Climate Emergency in subsequent Core Strategy Reviews. This should include a Strategic Plan to deliver more trees in the city, a greater emphasis on how new housing developments are accessed, ie. not solely by the private car and a clear commitment to review Spatial Policy 12 of the Core Strategy relating to growth at Leeds Bradford Airport as a matter of urgency and notes that the Council has already committed to bringing a timetable to Development Plans Panel this autumn.

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

**LATE ITEM – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD –
UPDATE ON LEEDS CITY COUNCIL'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE UK'S EXIT
FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Could I start by thanking you for allowing this late item to come to Council and you know it would be the understatement of this century so far if we didn't acknowledge the difficulties we've got with the general situation around Brexit and the complexity of what we're actually facing as everything changes it seems from day to day, we've got another development today we don't know how that is going to be resolved. It's not the purpose of bringing this report to make comment on how things are moving forward but when we had the results of the referendum this Council took a very active part in pulling together partners from across the city and the wider region as well as cross party colleagues to come together to really start to try to assess what the impact of different scenarios would be. I felt it was really important to bring an update to Council because clearly, and you will all be aware, there has been a great deal of work taking place between ourselves with Government and within our communities and with wider partners within the city. The recent work we've done we had Executive Board last week where we brought the paper that is in front of you but the day before we had a Cross Party Working Group to bring everyone up to speed with the level of detail if you like of the work that we've been undertaking.

So the report is very far reaching but I think the really important aspect for all of us to understand is that we do have a role in feeding in to the national Government and agencies about the information that we're gleaming. I'm

privileged to sit on the body that's been set up through the LGA linking in with the the EU exit Local Government Delivery Board so that we can get regular briefings from Ministers about the level of the work that they're doing.

Tom is our Regional Lead Officer and works with the other eight, I think it is, around the country really putting forward the case to enable Government to understand the significance of the work that the councils across the country might have to do in the different scenarios that emerge. We've been asked to designate one of our officers to be the link person if you like along with all other other Local Authorities and that officer is Mariana Pexton. If any of you have any comments or queries about the preparations I'm sure Mariana would be very pleased to pick them up and deal with them if she can or pass them on to those that can. The other body is the Regional Resilience Forum which brings together all of the blue light services if you like the emergency services any issues of concern can be fed through them.

There are of course attached to the report the Brexit Impact Assessment that we had commissioned a few months ago which is of course interesting reading and a huge amount of detail but what we know from the business community is there is still a lot of unknown factors, there are still a lot of businesses out there who haven't done the necessary preparation.

I look forward to the contributions Lord Mayor continuing to take this work forward. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Unsurprisingly perhaps Lord Mayor you might be surprised that I'm going to concentrate my three minutes on the impact of Brexit on healthcare and in that vein really are just like to place on my record, on record my disgust at the Leader of the House, Jacob Rees-Mogg, who last week during a somewhat difficult week for Government and using Parliamentary privilege attempted to tarnish and smear the reputation of a leading UK Neurologist, Dr David Nicholl. Dr David Nicholl had been asked by the previous Leader of the Government to outline the impact of Brexit on the healthcare of the UK of course she and her Government never liked his answer but they never resorted to name calling. Comparing Dr Nicholl to the shamed former doctor an anti-vaxer, Andrew Wakefield, is unacceptable and that the Leader of the House is the one to be ashamed and whose reputation is tarnished.

Leeds is built, is a city built on Finance, Manufacturing and Healthcare. We have the largest health and social care economy in the country and probably Europe.

Leeds Teaching Hospital takes over 1% of the total NHS budget alone. Just think about that. That's, nationally, that's every hospital, every GP, dentist pharmacy, every community service, all of learning disability and mental health service and Leeds has over 1% of that. It is a huge huge healthcare economy.

So any impact on such a large service and those in primary care but support secondary care has to be significant. Shortages to medicines like insulin which can't be stored for long periods, isotopes we're a world leading cancer centre, organs for our transplant services to name just a few will all be affected. Just for those that might not know about organs, organs are first saw in the UK but if there's not compatible organ than we asked the EU through their scheme. No more, at least not in the short term will we be able to. People will die, that's not project fear, that's project reality.

The other area of concern has to be staffing we are already short of nurses and doctors. There has been a 93% reduction in EU nurses and we have seen a doubling of EU nurses leaving the UK. But it's not just about nurses and doctors we need more porters, more cleaners, more care support workers, housekeepers and a myriad of other roles. We know our own citizens will not do these jobs in large enough numbers. Low pay and undervalue these roles are similar to fruit and vegetable picking production workers and social care workers to name a few and are the jobs the UK can't fill on its own. In Leeds the impact of this will be even greater due to the size of our health and social care economy.

Finally the reduction in growth predicted in this report on numerous reports

...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay can you please

COUNCILLOR LAY: Oh I'm done sorry I'll sit down then. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I was a member of the Cross Party Working Group that the Leader's just mentioned under her chairmanship and with Councillor James Lewis, Councillor Robinson who is (inaudible) and Councillor Pryor and this was set up as Councillor Blake said to not to discuss the politics of Brexit because we were, and that we didn't do, it wasn't at all partisan it was to look at the impact and the impact on the city and we tried to track all the way through from 2016 with a wide range of stakeholders what those impacts would be and then it stalled a bit because the Government wasn't moving very much and then it started again with the commitment of the present Prime Minister to leave by the 31st October.

So now we have this document, a full document that sets out all the impacts on all the sectors and I suppose from the economic side of it and probably the health side and everything else. A lot of that be based on perhaps opinion assessment, it could be argued with but what we mustn't lose sight of and I'm only going to be brief on this Lord Mayor but what we mustn't lose sight of is the impact that Brexit will have whatever form it takes on the people of our city

and the people of the UK because millions of European citizens have made their home here and UK citizens have made their home in the EU and it's the deal that they are going to get as a result of Brexit that is the most important.

People came here over the last 40 years, they came and they settled, they were welcomed, they were part of our community, they never thought they would have to prove that they had the right of residence and now we are already hearing cases of people who have been here for that length of time, all their lives here, all their contribution here and then being told there was no evidence that they have long term residency. Does that sounds familiar, you'll know it's familiar Lord Mayor because this is Windrush again if we are not careful. We've got to see that that doesn't happen again we have got to support the citizens of Leeds who are here, welcome, part of our community who have come from another country and I am pleased to see in this report, I'm pleased at the meeting that we had that the Council is committing to do that through support ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley could you please.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Sorry. So I'll finish on that. I've just got to what I wanted to say Lord Mayor. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. First of all can I thank the Leader of Council for the presentation of this paper and also the tone in which she delivered it because I agree that Local Authorities particular Local Authorities of the size of Leeds have a role to play and certainly should be preparing as best they can for Brexit in whatever form. I have to say on Councillor Lewis's comments about the Leader of the House of Commons I feel inclined just to comment on the Leader of his party. I understand, I understand yes, no you, yes sorry I called you Councillor Lewis I do apologise. I wouldn't knowingly do that to anybody apart from Councillor Lewis. Where was I. Yes yes whatever your Leader said that if there was another referendum and the vote was still to leave you would ignore it. Now I just pose this question, that's what, that's what she said. Now I just pose this question to everybody in this Chamber. Every one of you included was elected through the democratic process. I wish somebody would challenge under the Trade Descriptions Act the name of their party as Liberal and Democratic because they are neither.

My Lord Mayor what runs through this whole paper from the Brexit Working Group is that the big fear of people in this city is uncertainty and I entirely understand that business is uncertain, people in employment are uncertain, people unemployed are uncertain everybody is uncertain and the uncertainty has gone on for far too long and what needs to happen now is that, I won't call them our betters in Whitehall, but the other branch of Elected Representation in London needs to get its act together and bring this to a conclusion that respects the vote of the referendum four years ago.

My Lord Mayor we are right to worry and we are right to look to what we can do as a Local Authority to mitigate any circumstances leaving or not leaving because that as well will bring consequences undoubtedly and consequences I think we don't want to see.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. To follow on quite nicely actually from Councillor Carter's comments there because I think, I've used this analogy before, Brexit's not an event it's a process and when Brexit occurred in 2016 if you imagine the economy of the UK and of Leeds as the river that flows through. What the process of Brexit did it put a dam at the top of that river. The flow of water has not stopped since, there's still foreign direct investment coming into the UK, there's a lot to invest that wants to flow down that river but the process of Brexit currently is causing it to stop, it's trickling through on the edges we're seeing that here in Leeds we have had more foreign direct investment than ever before but it's trickling through and what we need to do is break the dam because when the dam breaks the water is going to gush through. How do we break the dam is the problem we're all in today and I think rather than us all looking here at what the faults are of Brexit or otherwise is how do we get out of the situation we currently find ourselves in and that leads to the report quite nicely because Councillor Carter referenced it the biggest issue is uncertainty whether the dam breaks in one go or brick by brick as long as business knows how it's going to break they can deal with it. They need the certainty of a platform of which to trade on and for us politicians we need to recognise and respect what what happened and work to get that done. It's quite fortuitous that Councillor Pryor asked us all to bring our favourite book to Council today and I didn't bring the book I was thinking of just now but whilst I was sat there listening I do think the book 'The Leopard' by, I can't pronounce it, Giuseppe whatever he's called you know the famous phrase there if we want to, if things want to stay the same we're going to have to accept that they have to change. We have to accept that the public view has changed. In 2016 it voted to leave and we have to deal with that moving moving forward and that's why I think rather than as us all, it's nice for us all to debate it in here, it's nice for Executive Board to bring reports forward but actually I think the one thing we can all do, cross party, is perhaps write to every Member of Parliament in this city and ask them that the Government is currently asked the European Union for a revised deal it's up to them to give us one. If that deal then comes forward and we should be asking every Member of Parliament in this city to vote for that deal to bring certainty to this city and to the country because it remains the case Lord Mayor at present, at present the majority of MPs in this city who represent the party of this administration voted against the deal and brought about the risk of no deal and therefore we need to write to our Members of Parliament and ask them collectively to back a deal if it comes back.
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson will be speaking instead of Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Right the issues I wanted to cover in my view are the important ones. The first one is community cohesion. It is vitally important and the Council are doing great work on this I'm not in any way saying they're not going far enough but I do think we've got to emphasise the community cohesion and the resilience that we've already got in this great city and we've got to make sure that that isn't fractured irrespective of which way it goes at the end of the day because we could be in the position if we don't leave then the leave campaign get very upset at their extremes and equally if we remain we've got to be careful as to what's happening there.

But we've also got to also applaud the work that's been done in terms of the migration work in this city as well and how important that is in order to address some of the issues that Councillor Lay pointed out that we do have a good record in this city of welcoming people doing the best we possibly can to help them and this report works on that so from that point of view and also I'd like to you know thank the Council for what they've done in terms of the EU settlement scheme the work that they have done to try and help people through some of the issues that Councillor Lay has pointed out. The Council have done positive work in order to do it my only regret to be quite frank is unfortunately our friends in Europe haven't gone as far in the other direction and is causing some concern for some people in this city who have relatives living abroad, they're not quite sure as to what's going to happen to them at least they've got a greater degree of certainty as to what's happening if you live in this country whether it's the right thing or the wrong thing that's not the point the fact is the Government have come forward with something.

But we also need to make sure in terms of communication that we provide reassurances to people based on evidence not on hearsay or anybody's wishlist doesn't matter whether it's something that was said by the leave campaign or the remain campaign we need to make sure that we're communicating clear concise messages but also I do think the Council where they do have a role is to point out who is actually responsible for what in all of this, what is actually a Council responsibility and what is not, what is actually the responsibility of the Government for good or for bad and also and more importantly what is actually the responsibility of the European Union who have a lot of responsibilities in this debate and they have not been giving the clarity to a number of individuals who have asked for the clarity. They really do need to make it clear when it's the EU that are responsible for various things so on that basis Lord Mayor I congratulate the Council on the way that they have dealt with this today. Thank you.

(Applause)

LORD MAYOR: Councillor D Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I welcome the report coming to Council I've got to say there's still a lot of holes in it and I am not blaming our officers and the administration for that because as far as I can make out Boris don't know whether he's going anyway so how can anybody advise us where we're going to be. I think it's important that we keep on top of

this if the ultimate disaster, what would be an ultimate disaster in my opinion happened on the 31st December we have got to be ready for it.

(Inaudible background talking)

He might break the law you never know. But the facts of the matter is whatever deal is or whether we're gonna stop in we've got to be ready for those circumstances and I think we need to constantly update this report on the way forward and I would hope if things change that this will be brought to a special, a report will be brought to a special Council meeting so all our Members can understand and debate it.

I think maybe it's premature now I am not going to get into the pros and cons I think the last two speakers were sort of straying into that but I'm not getting into pros and cons because Parliament's been discussing that a lot recently and I think we have other things to do but certainly if things change please please bring it back to a special Council. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor and I wasn't quite sure what tone of debate I'd be getting involved in at this stage and it's quite pleasant that actually it's sensible, reasonable and rational and I will do my best to stick to that for once.

(Laughter)

I congratulate actually Councillor Blake for bringing this I think it's right, not everybody agreed that it was right to bring it here, but I think it was right to bring it here and have the discussion and I think actually the Council a cross party has done a lot of work to prepare for whatever the impact of Brexit may be when we know what they are and as several Members have said 'that's the big issue' we've surely moved the debate on or we should have moved the debate on from Brexit or no Brexit deal or no deal the issue is for business the people who are deciding whether to invest in our city, whether to employ people or not, where to put their infrastructure is where's the certainty because they won't invest, they won't employ people while they have uncertainty and they don't know what's happening.

In terms of the report that's been set out that flows through as Councillor Carter said and others have said throughout. We have done as much as we can to prepare for the things that we know about but until we know precisely what Brexit is going to look like, when it's going to be or even if it's going to happen at all, how on earth can we answer all of the questions that the citizens rightly ask, that businesses rightly ask, that communities rightly ask. We have to send the message to Parliamentarians it would do them well actually to watch and see politicians from all sides can have a sensible debate about this subject without name calling, without resorting to ridiculous rhetoric of betrayal and silly language, this is what should have been happening down in Westminster. They'd do well to

note I think we've done the best that we can in the circumstances so far as Councillor Stephenson said the message should go to all our MPs in this city and across the country. Get your acts together, sort it out and let all of us know what we're dealing with so we can get on and prepare properly. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Firth.

COUNCILLOR FIRTH: Thank you very much Lord Mayor. Well I must say that half of my lines just in case there was going to be a more lively debate are now to be crossed out which is good so the first thing I have to say is obviously commenting on this plan and obviously this came to Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on Monday having it been brought on at the end of last week. This is obviously a strategic response plan looking at the priority areas that we need to look into and make sure that we are looking after to obviously look after the city and its citizens in the wake of Brexit.

The only concern I have is the fact that despite the fact we'd say about detail there is little detail when it comes to the actual dealing an impact in which we're going to be having to plans put in place to actually make sure that these areas are looked after, insulated, supported and each time it says ongoing and without further detail there isn't any ability at that Board to actually scrutinise what potentially is going to happen. We understand that there is the fast developing nature of details changing but there is one slight concern although I appreciate we are in potentially a different situation to the 29th March, but on the 29th March had an extension not been agreed we would have left as in law if MPs would have allowed it with no deal and my only concern is that now we are discussing this when we should have potentially been discussing it a little bit earlier but I do welcome, because it is an independent study and it does look at how we can better understand the possible impacts across not just our city but the whole of the city region as far up as Harrogate and further down to Barnsley but there is also a mandate to look at the opportunities of Brexit, to not look at it as if it's glass half empty but it's glass half full but actually there is much less detail whatever your politics on Brexit, Brexit should it happen and it should happen means that we should look at how we can use any situation to our advantage. The report shows that our city our city region has been resilient, in July that retail figures were better than expected and actually not only that but were a record at the same time potentially two.

There needs to be more meat on the bone about the potentials that we could see rather than actually just looking at how we can potentially deal with the potential impact there is actual other opportunities about, actually the plans in place for inward investment and actually in terms of actually looking at how the whole city region rather than just putting the plasters on can actually say how can we strike out and deal with the situation.

I understand its controversial I understand that many Members across this Chamber have differing views on Brexit but in my opinion if we don't deliver it we

will have problems in terms of the fact that we pick and choose when the public tell us what to do what we actually do with it but I appreciate that and hopefully we can be looking at the opportunities.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Firth.

COUNCILLOR FIRTH: Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor and again I think the discussion we've had this afternoon is sort of underlined the benefit of bringing this report to Full Council which I know not every member around the Council Chamber wanted this report bringing today but I think the discussion we've had and been able to bring these issues into position where we've all been able to bring forward our views on the Council's preparation has shown it was the right thing to do.

There's a couple of things I wanted to pick up from the comments that Members have made and I think the first one is about the EU Settlement Scheme and the resource and work we've done as an administration around that. I think we've done that because it's the right thing to do and we've done it because we're an administration that recognises lots of people in Leeds, lots of people among us in this Council Chamber have come from all around the world, made their lives and homes and contributed to the city and we wanted to show as an administration by supporting people through what's a very difficult time or could be a very difficult time, that's the right thing to do and I think we should all be proud of that.

I think we also as Councillor Firth referred to we discussed this at Resources and Strategy Scrutiny Board on Monday and again just some of the people there raised some of the questions about how it is really important as a Council, part of our work is communicating effectively, what's happening and making sure we aren't, as members are referred to, allowing people to be wound up or worried by hearsay and things like that. It's inevitable that will happen but again committing the resource to do that I think is an important part of our response.

I think another thing as well in terms of our responses as Councillors as Councillor Blackburn and others have referred to, actually this is a report that sets out what we think the issues are as we get more certainty, as we get more certainty we'll be able to identify what our response is but I think it's absolutely the right thing to do to be clear about what we're doing as people have mentioned our officers of the Council involved in different activities around preparing for the (inaudible) and I think it's really important all that information was brought, not just to Exec Board, but to Full Council for everybody to be able to consider and comment on it so I think there are a lot of unanswered questions in there which

we need to address over time but know to bring it forward it's been the right thing to do.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. Like previous speakers I'm not standing here to comment on the latest goings on in Westminster but to talk about how we as a city are preparing for whatever happens at the end of October. Our continuing preparations centre on our Strategic Response Plan. The plan is comprehensive and structured around five themes, infrastructure and supplies, business and impact, citizens and communities, media and communications and organisational impact.

After Johnson formed a new Government I think it is fair to say that the prospect of a new deal did significantly become greater and ensuring the city's prepared as it can be is an immensely difficult task as the political landscape changes not just from day to day but actually anyone watching will see changes from hour to hour. Our work has not been halted though we remain engaged at a national level both through the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council with our overarching ambition to have a strong economy within a compassionate city remains and as Councillor Lewis says that we're supporting our staff members who are EU citizens with regard to the resettlement scheme with commissioned an independent study into the possible effects of Brexit on the Leeds economy and in particular around our inclusive growth strategy. The report has highlighted a number of possible impacts such as the cost of goods and services, job security and possible income inequality and an increasing inequality. The study identified Leeds as the eighth most vulnerable primary urban area outside of London and also goes on to speak how the Bank of England has estimated that particularly the uncertainty around Brexit has cost the UK economy £40b a year that's £800m every single week.

National trends of a slowdown in foreign investment and a drop in business confidence are being mirrored here in Leeds again through that uncertainty and Leeds is estimated to be in line for one of the greatest falls in GVA due to the amount of manufacturing and financial services based in the city. It's these sectors along with construction where particular challenges have been identified.

Leeds does have a good track record when it comes to securing European funding with over £100m secured in the four years up to 2018 and this has been used in for interventions in key areas such as employment support, education and training, business support and we'll be looking for that in a post Brexit landscape, the government will be replacing these funding streams.

As a Council we are continuing to work with partners to minimise the impact of the uncertainty that surrounds Brexit. It's an uphill challenge but something we are taking a lead on to protect the people of Leeds. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I just say thank you to everyone for their contributions and if there are any gaps or any further pieces of information that anyone requires please do let us know it's impossible in such an uncertain landscape to cover every base it just isn't possible and new things come to light all the time.

I want to reflect back I think the sense with which we hold very dear, the responsibility that we have to the people who live and work in our great city. It is an enormous responsibility and on many occasions we've had to step up to the plate to deal with emergencies of a whole raft of different types and I think we've proved that we can do that and we are resilient but I think what we need to do more than ever is it go out on a message of reassurance that we are here, that we are working together and we do understand the very real fears and risks that lay ahead of us.

Sandy I think you know your issue about medicines is really well made in the sense that we don't know what the outcome's going to be and the people who should know can't tell us and I think it's the fear of shortages of your dependence on medicine to keep you alive which is what we're talking about. You can understand why there is such an enormous level of concern. I think the issues that we have to pick out from the reports for particular attention are the matters that could well affect the most vulnerable people living in our city. You'll see all of the work that's been done across the country particularly for our looked after children the number of unaccompanied minors for example that are in our country, the uncertain status that they might go into is taking up a lot of concern. Social care as well as healthcare, school meals, all of these issues are absolutely crucial and of course we are looking at the opportunities and the work the Council is doing bringing in international investment, working in the United States, going out to China, Hong Kong etc is a very important part of the work we're doing as a region but I agree we need to write to our MPs and I want to just make this comment in my closing remarks that I think we should be writing to our MPs to say how disgraceful we think it is that parliament has been prorogued, that MPs aren't sitting there debating these matters of real concern to our population this is about closing down democracy, stifling debate and it is of enormous regret that we're in this position so let's write to our MPs express our views all levels of Government should be functioning at full pelt. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now call for a vote. Councillor Steven. We'll now call for a vote in respect of Leeds City Council preparation for the UK exit from the European Union. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.
Councillor Blake.

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

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 7. Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: I second My Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON ATTENDANCE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8 report. 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 go for a vote. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 9 – REPORT ON THE LEEDS AWARD

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9 report on Leeds Award. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Moving on to a very positive piece of our agenda this afternoon. I am very pleased to update Council on the recommendations of the Leeds Award Panel with regards to two awards that we're hoping to make. The first one I am very privileged to know Jamie Jones-Buchanan personally and he has just been such an inspiration to our city. He's a role model, he's not only performed on the pitch for Leeds Rhinos in a way and still is doing so with the level of courage that I can only gasp at you when I watch him play. But the real reason I know, I've got to become to know Jamie so well is because of the incredible work that he's done as an ambassador for child friendly city. His contribution to young people is just phenomenal, he brings to every occasion an incredible wit, an incredible intelligence he is such an articulate speaker and is really motivational when it comes to reaching out to people and encouraging them to continue to strive to be the very best they can be and his

work is going to continue obviously he's not going to continue playing but he is going to continue working with us as well as in Child Friendly Leeds but also on the Culture Trust Board. I think he'll bring a huge richness to the work that we're going to do for 2023.

The second award is going to a very well known Leeds person, Barbara Taylor Bradford. Many of you will have come across Barbara through her novels A Woman of Substance of course is the one that leaps out to all of us certainly it's been on television and really I think has enabled Barbara to come in to our hearts. But she's obviously born in Leeds, grew up in Armley and came back to Leeds to open the library there which was really special so she actually, I think, was a contemporary of Alan Bennett and also worked alongside Keith Waterhouse in the newsroom of the Yorkshire Post or the Evening Post. I happen to bring Keith Waterhouse's book as my book today which I hadn't sort of made that connection but just such incredible ways that they've captured the spirit and the history of our great city.

So it gives me enormous pleasure to recommend these two Awards to you all and I hope you'll all be able to give your full support. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I wasn't actually going to speak I just want to make two very quick comments really and that is how great education is in Leeds because Councillor Blake has mentioned that Sir Alan Bennett was a contemporary of Barbara Taylor Bradford. They both actually attended the same nursery in Upper Armley so obviously that was quite an interesting fact that such passion for literature came out of one nursery.

And the other thing was just a quick comment about Jamie Jones-Buchanan he is so proud of living in Leeds. I'd not actually heard him speak until a couple of years ago and one of the first things he said is "I'm proud of my city" I like this bit "I'm really proud of living in Leeds" he said but more than that he said "I'm proud of coming from Bramley the small Apple". Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott isn't speaking so we'll go straight into the vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 10 Community Committee update. Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I'm really pleased to be moving the Community Committee Annual report to Council today and which talks about all the fantastic work that's going on within our Community Committees across the city. At this point I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the officers who support this important work and I know that Shaïd is sat at the back here today doing a great job ...

(Applause)

Doing a great job leading that team that we know are doing some wonderful work out there with our Committee Chairs and our Councillors in the city.

I'd also like to thank the Community Committee Chairs who I know I'm looking forward to hearing what they've got to say shortly for working with me throughout the year to try and achieve some of the priorities that we have centrally across the city as well. I've really enjoyed working with you to get the benefits for your community as well as the across the city so I really look forward to hear what you've all got to say. Thanks Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Akhtar.

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I would like to speak about the work we have done as a part of Inner North West Community Committee throughout the Annual report 2018/19 period.

Community Committees play an important role in understanding and addressing issues of concerns to the local people. The area that my Community Committee covers Inner North West brings challenges period of the year. However we work together to ensure that our community has everything it needs to thrive. There has been big push on students clean up within Inner North West area, the improvement and how different companies third sectors and campaigns are coming together to work as a community. Leave Leeds Tidy was a huge campaign and I'd like to thank everybody involved in biggest clean up this year for our local area. It really makes a difference and it's plain to see impact this has on community for those who live here, visit and to maintain a strong community spirit. Being able to support local charities, diverting items from the student's change over period to people who would benefit from them has another positive to these campaigns. 1,400 students were engaged with the project and 13.3, My Lord Mayor, tonnes of household waste was diverted from land fill as a result.

We are still learning that new techniques are sometimes needed to ensure wide range audience is reached with messages. When there is a such an array

of diversity in the area using the likes of social media, meeting our residents face to face and even projecting messages in local cinema have proved a popular for Leave Leeds Tidy campaign.

We know Leeds is thriving city and with that comes the desire to high profile events and activities take our recent hosting of The Ashes, who can forget the excitement this has brought to our neighbourhood. It's about knowing how to communicate, work together to find the right solution. I know we have heavily populated student area but also families and elderly residents and it is about maintaining strong community relationships.

I am proud of our diverse community and has the like of Leave Leeds Tidy shows we would be proud in our Community Committee can work with the organisations and charities to better area we live in and encourage others to do the same thank you once again to everyone who worked with and I look forward working with you in the future. Thank you Chair, sorry Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Shahzad.

COUNCILLOR SHAHZAD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Inner North East Community Committee covers Chapel Allerton, Roundhay and the Moortown wards. I would like to share with the Chamber just some examples of the fantastic projects that could not have been achieved without the support of the Inner East Community Committee officers, the local groups involved in delivering these projects over the last 12 months. Exercise classes at the Regional Centre and Moor Allerton Community Hubs, Festive Lights, Meanwood Olympics, kitchen equipment for Brackenwood Community Centre, the Tom Cooper Junior Oval and the Meanwood Streetwise project are just some of the projects that have taken place in the last 12 months in the Inner North East Community Committee.

I am relatively new to the position of Chair however it is already clear to me how passionate our city is about supporting the heart of our communities. We recognise what it is our residents want working closely with community to see what is needed to create and maintain a thriving and inclusive place that everybody wants to live in and is proud of. One of the projects Inner North East Community Committee contributed £5,000 towards the delivery of financial education classes for children and young people at Carr Manor and Allerton Grange schools. Following this a Financial Inclusion fair was held at Carr Manor school opening up the chance for advice on opportunities from local third sector organisations to be delivered to all the groups and parents and receive advice on managing finances. Leeds is the first city to receive the Fair Funding City accolade and these events in the community highlight further our commitments to residents and communities working with other third sectors and educational establishments to target a variety of age groups and provide the financial support they may require. It was the first time any event of this type had taken place in any part of the city, what a proud moment for the Inner North East Community Committee. We are already aware from feedback that people who attended the sessions are using the information in their everyday life to alter how they are

shopping which is fantastic to hear. It is inspiring and motivational to organise future events of this kind as a result.

I would like to thank fellow Councillors who shared these experiences with me and the local businesses, third sector partnerships and the community who come together to ensure we are supporting our residents and providing projects they will find useful to their everyday lives. I look forward to the future, what this Community Committee brings, to the neighbourhood and what we can achieve for our residents and communities. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking for the Inner East Community Committee and I'm here as Deputy Chair as Councillor Arif is ill at the moment. I feel it is important for the community to have a sense of ownership and be proud of where they live. Delivering on local priorities is key as a Councillor we always have residents and communities at the forefront of everything and our actions we do. Working with community opens up new opportunities and allows residents to see what can be achieved working together. It allows us as Councillors to really understand what is of utmost importance to people where they live.

Members of our community really love to be involved with projects and events that are run within the area the Community Committee covers. They feel inspired to find new ways supporting where they live. A strong example of this is the annual Lark in the Park event which celebrated its 10th year in 2018 with between 2,500 and 3,000 people attending throughout the day, what an amazing turn out.

The family and friendly event brings craft, entertainment, activities and lots of fun for all the family to East End Park. Local third sector organisations, council services and volunteers formed a strong planning committee allowing the event to go from strength to strength over the last 10 years.

I don't think enough words can be found to describe how thankful we are for the incredible people who worked tirelessly to ensure events like this can be delivered for our community at a low as a cost as possible for local families to attend. It is this partnership way of working that shows off how strong we work together in the city and within our communities that we unite as one to enjoy events like this, it really brought our community together and it makes me very proud to be involved with the Community Committee for the Inner East and working with all the other Councillors within that Committee. I look forward to what more we can achieve in the future. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: My Lord Mayor I'm speaking about the Inner West Community Committee. This year has been a busy one for us during the year we've done a workshop on the effects of universal credit on our residents so we can best provide support. We've also looked into air quality within the area and the impact of changes to traffic lights and systems can make to wait times and therefore air quality. We've also used the funds that we have to do some great work in the community. This year Armley has funded a couple of defibrillators for the local area so that people can access these 24 hours a day should the worst happen. These bring comfort and security to people and are likely to save lives in the future.

This year Bramley supported the making new of an old community asset they put money into fixing the Fairfield Community Centre, this is now a resource for the whole community with a great upgraded kitchen and main hall and a number of breakout spaces. In Kirkstall we have a real lack of community space for good youth work provision because of this and the importance we as local Councillors and this administration put on good quality youth work we've had to think outside the box to provide these services. This is involved us working with the climbing lab in Kirkstall to run youth work from within the setting of the bouldering walls. This has already reached 31 different young people from some of the hardest to reach groups and will continue to grow.

Inner West is continuing to strive towards innovation with a lot of work myself and Councillor Heselwood are doing in the area for example on setting up a pilot uniform exchanges and piloting an incredibly successful menopause cafe. One of the things I'm most proud of within our community area is the importance that every one of us members puts on the young people in our ward. We have a thriving Children and Young People's Sub Group which has done work with officers to look into the children looked after in the area and has real scrutiny of our exam results. We're looking in the future at play and have our exciting new summit coming up. After the constant undermining by the current Government of the arts provision in schools we decided to do our Youth Summit at the Art Gallery to show how art is a viable career and that culture is incredibly important to Leeds.

Moving forward we will be doing, we will be looking to shake up the way we do meetings. We've previously done our workshops on the same evening as the business meeting and this meant that we were not engaging effectively with the wider community. To combat that this year we've moved to separate workshops the first of which is on employment where we are inviting people to assist with skill building for future employment. I look forward to working with a range of stakeholders and the wider community on this.

We are also going to be fighting for improvements to road safety including road safety workshops and a campaign to make the A647 an average speed check. I'm really looking forward to the work we're going to be doing in the Inner West Community Committee this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community co-optees for their hard work and dedication and the Members for the support they have shown me in this new role.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gabriel.

COUNCILLOR GABRIEL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on behalf of the Inner Area Committee which covers the Middleton Ward, Beeston and Holbeck and Riverside and Hunslet. Just to give you a bit of a history, I'm one of the longest standing chairs of the group and when I, I know it doesn't show, but if you remember when I first became a Councillor we were a very inward facing Council, we met all the time in the Civic, we never met our community and we started with CIT's and we then I think are now the outward facing section of the Council where we meet face to face with members of public at all meetings. We try and hold our meetings in the community and they're usually quite well attended.

I would like to say that when we had the boundary change that came to Leeds one of the reasons why 99 of you are all sat here is because of Community Committees and the work that Community Committees does and that the sub groups that we have Andrew Scopes who is the Chair of the Young People along with Judith Blake and Paul Wray who sits on that sub group, they do the grants for children so that kids have activities throughout the summer, they also organise the Young Peoples Summit which is a great event and we've already got one booked in the diary. I look towards Paul Truswell who keeps us all in good health and is our health person

(Laughter)

And himself and Gohar are actually going to go on the Joint CCJ and are going to be representing us there.

Adult is Gohar, my ward colleague, who is organising an event for heroes and is going to (inaudible) all the volunteers that do good things in our communities. Myself and Mohammed Iqbal we cover Environmental Health and the Police and our big project this year as you can see from art is been dog poo. I remember somebody saying to me when I first became a Councillor do not be the dog poo Councillor, 20 years later I'm still doing it.

So I would like to thank all those forementioned colleagues for the help and support throughout the year. I'm also Chair, I'm just changing (inaudible) from topic, also Chair of Leeds in Bloom who yesterday won gold in Yorkshire in Bloom

...

(Applause and cheers)

I'm also the Chair of Beeston in Bloom, Cottingley in Bloom and Holbeck in Bloom and Cottingley won, Beeston won gold summer and spring, Cottingley won silver gilt in spring and gold in summer and Holbeck Moor one silver gilt. thank you all for your time.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Graham.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you and how do I follow that Councillor Gabriel. So thank you Lord Mayor I'm pleased to be given the opportunity today to speak on the wonderful work that the Outer East Community Committee is doing to support our residents. Community Committees use a common framework of principles, it's really important to hold meetings with communities and neighbourhoods that the Committee's represent. Supporting our residents and communities to understand what they want is key and it is rewarding when we are able to improve lives for the better. This demonstrates, sorry this report demonstrates just why it is important to involve residents in workshops within their neighbourhood sharing their vision and passion for the city.

The Outer East Community Committee funding has been used to help promote luncheon clubs in the area with a number of new clubs being opened as a result. It is fantastic that we are able to support our community in this way there are often concerns of social isolation particularly among older people in the Outer East due to the geographical size of our area. With themed events and outings throughout the year it really makes a difference to a lot of our residents and provides the opportunity for them to celebrate with the community when previously this may not have been possible.

Projects like this are vital to our residents who may have very little communication and few or no family members in the area. I'd like to extend my thanks to the other members of the Committee as well as our partnership organisations and volunteers who share our vision of being a compassionate city. This is really starting to improve the way the Council as a whole is working on a more local level, I'm proud of our partnership way of working and it is evident to see through the involvement of public health who have provided knowledge to educate individuals during hydration awareness week and International Day of Older People.

With training opportunities providing food hygiene, safeguarding and dementia awareness we're making the most of what can be offered to the community to work cohesively. As part of our best plan we vow to support our residents to live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible. This is what we are working to achieve through our Community Committee and I'm looking forward to working with Councillor Coupar and her team and the rest of the Chairs and Committee members. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Good afternoon. Like my fellow Councillors I too would like to share some of the excellent activities that have taken place within the Outer South Community Committee. I'd also take the opportunity to update Councillor Finnigan after his self imposed absence in 2018/19 on the Outer South. All right Robert.

Firstly I would like to thank the hard work done by officers to support the Committee and in particular the five sub committees which oversee much of the

activities of the work of the Committee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor the former Councillor Karen Bruce for her hard work and contributions in the seven years that she chaired the Outer South Community Committee.

The Outer South is a very diverse area politically, socially, demographically and its geography is a mixture of rural area, urban areas, commuter belt, it's a very mixed area. Therefore taking over from Karen I thought it may be very daunting but I remembered a quote from my favourite book which is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and the quote is from Atticus Finch who says "you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it".

The Outer South has continued to support many activities over the past year. The very successful Morley Arts Festival and I'm pleased to see that we've all got a booklet about this year's Festival, it starts on the 25th September so I would encourage all members and families to come along to Morley and take part in the activities over those two weeks on the 25th September.

We also had a very successful St George's Day event when actually when a real knight in shining armour does come to Morley. We have a children and families sub group in the Outer South, it works very well under the chairship of Councillor Gettings. I'm very pleased that our Children and Young Persons Sub Group ensures that children and young people in attendance and it is co chaired by a young person.

Earlier this year we had a very successful Youth Summit held here in the Civic Hall in the Banqueting Suite, 105 pupils attended from 21 different schools in the Outer South area, covering all the four wards in the area. It is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn about how decisions are made and the meetings that take place in the Council Chamber and how the Council operates. As a Councillor we want to inspire others and the younger generation are our future. To be able to share their knowledge of this Council and what it does is really positive for us and for the young people as well.

To celebrate the International Day of Older People we held an afternoon tea dance at Blackburn Hall in Rothwell, over 120 people attending and we had a similar event on the same day in Morley Town Hall provided by the excellent Morley Elderly Action over 150 people attended. Live music, food and entertainment ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson could you please.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Provided the opportunity for attendees to reminisce and dance to some of the classics. The feedback from the event was brilliant, it helped people to socialise that wouldn't have done had they not had the chance otherwise and people that may have been socially isolated. Again I'd like to thank all the volunteers ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson your well over, sorry.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: It's alright. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry. Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Chair. I am speaking obviously about the Inner North West Community Committee which is the only one I can speak on but it's been really interesting hearing the other Chairs and all that is going on in their Committees and their areas, there seems to be a lot of creativity and high level of community engagement. Last year when I spoke on this report I highlighted the work that the Committee had done in improving youth provision in my ward and the impact that had on anti social behaviour and crime. Unfortunately this year there's not been a similar sort of high impact project that as far as I can see, I know we've helped the students regularly with cleaning up the mess that they make and we've obviously administered the Wellbeing Fund but it's hard to see how we have engaged the same way as other Community Committees are doing which is a shame and I'd really would like to learn from that.

When I became a Councillor seven years ago it was then the Area Committee and that always use to be attended by a large number of residents, it was a good debate in an open forum, we would receive a comprehensive report from officers of all functions they were debated by members of the public and members and councillors. We had an engaged Planning Sub Committee including residents, we had a very engaged Environmental Sub Committee including residents who involved in getting things done and getting things resolved but over the past seven years all that seems to have gone we now have no Planning Sub Committee, residents are not included in the Environmental Sub Committee and I sit on that but I've not been invited to one since the beginning of this municipal year. I don't think we've got a Children's and Young Person's Sub Committee although although I'll be corrected if someone wants to do that. We only have four meetings a year and they all seem like business meetings to me. When the Community Committee was first introduced we did have workshops and then had a quick business meeting at the end but we never had any follow up of those workshops, so what I would really ask and this is a genuine ask because I am really concerned, what I would ask is if perhaps we could get another Community Committee Chair or yourself Councillor Coupar to just come in and advise of how we could up our game to be like the other Community Committees in the city. I don't really want to be negative but it is a real concern. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I shall be talking on behalf of the Otley and Yeadon Ward Members with regard to the Outer North West Community Committee and like others first of all I would like to thank the officers that support the Committee and I am sure Councillor Wadsworth is going to say a bit more about that.

Secondly and I find this rather strange really there's now only three Lib Dems and nine Conservatives on our Outer Community Committee and yet I find them rather personable on an individual level and even collectively as a group. It's a shame because it's a bit like, you know when people say to you and I would never say this but it's a bit like when people say "ooh you know I don't like America but I've never met an American I don't like". It's a bit like you lot you know, I don't like what you stand for nationally and yet your all really quite nice at a local level you know.

So I'd like to thank Paul as Chair it is the proverbial sort of hounding cats at our Community Committee, we all talk over each other, we all talk loads of nonsense at times because we like to hear our own voice, I'd like to thank Pat for her Children's Services I have to say the Voice and Influence Day is my favourite day of the year and we've been doing it probably five years now have we. I'll let you talk more about that but just to let you know I continue to thoroughly enjoy meeting our young citizens.

Barry thank you for everything you do on the environment you keep us to date and that's about it really about thanking you all. The things we do we, close to my heart, is that we as a Committee give funding to a holiday scheme for young citizens with severe and profound learning disabilities that they can have their summer activities much like those children who don't have disabilities do. So that's close to my heart and I know that's close to Councillor Graham Latty's heart as well as the community.

My usual plea please for more money, we used to get prior to me being a Councillor any how, over £400,000 we're now down to £93,000. I know you're going to say we've taken all the money away from you in the five years that we were in coalition but when post the General Election your lot, my lot and probably the Greens and SNP are running the Government will be able to have a better conversation alright.

So finally £8,000 for CCTV you know my view I bring it up every year ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: It is a community safety issue I believe CCTV should be funded from the centre and not out of community moneys. Fund the cherry, you fund the cake, we'll put the cherries on.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Before the next speaker Councillor Hutchison I'll be sending you an invoice for my charity your phone just went off. Sorry. Councillor Amanda.

(Background talking)

Thank you. OK Councillor Amanda Carter.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. First of all I'd like to concur with some of the comments from Councillor Coupar. It's a pleasure to work with Councillor Coupar and it was a pleasure to welcome Councillor Coupar and other Community Chairs to the historic Pudsey Town Hall the other week but we had a very interesting discussion and found that we agreed on quite a lot of items. First of all I'd really like to say thank you to Councillor David Blackburn for his hard work and the way that he chaired the Committee in previous years. We find ourselves often agreeing with David he's a very very strong man for the community, I'll put it like that shall I Ann and I won't comment on how he ignores you Ann because you've got a better chair now of course.

Councillor Lay we neither agree with your government nationally but we do like you, we do like you all personally individually.

Back onto the agenda the Youth Summit is going to be welcome this year by our Outer Area and it was started again by the Latty's, well done Councillor Latty's, it's taken now across the whole city and we're very keen to know what all our young people have got to say and encourage them into hopefully into politics because one day we won't be here anymore.

We contribute to a wide and diverse amount of grants across the city from Dazzle which was started by Councillor Ann Blackburn to similar things that the Pudsey Councillors do in their area which is the the Lights and the Carnival. In our areas we do the lights as well in both Calverley and Farsley as well as supporting the In Blooms. The In Bloom isn't just about making the place look better it's about making people feel better so if you want to go for a walk somewhere in the Park it's nice to see the flowers, it's great to get the kids involved in these projects. We're looking forward to having the Climate Change officers come and talk to us about that no doubt we shall have an interesting conversation about that we'll also be asking the Waste Collection officers to come and explain why we've had such a poor waste collection this year particularly in our areas. Thank you very much My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll start off with the In Bloom I was going to mention the In Bloom and somebody got in in front of me. I know Councillor Gabriel I knew you'd be passionate about it and I think we also should recognise the groups are in the competition and the groups that are not because they're all providing a worthwhile service to the community and put that yet again what Councillors Lay said the cherry on top of the cake and I've got a number of groups to disguise the In Bloom and Litter Free guys that do an awful lot of work who are not in the competitions. But I would like to congratulate

Rawdon in getting a silver gilt, Horsforth in getting a gold, Bramhope in getting a gold and Otley in getting a silver gilt, I thought you might have mentioned that Councillor Lay but you ran out of time so I've done it for you.

(Applause)

Moving onto the Outer North West Community Committee report which if you look at, and it's the first time I've actually seen in colour ,and it does look better in colour than in black and white I have to say but I wasn't aware really of what was going in it and so technically I suppose I was supposed to speak for three minutes on yoga which as much as yoga and the grant itself.

(Background talk)

No no I'm not going to the floor may be mine but not that one. The grant may be very worthwhile but it's not, it says that this is all the Community Committees done which really we done much more but not as much as we would have like I have to say and that's really because staffing as being very much limited we we did start the year quite well and then unfortunately a very good officer left for personal reasons and since then with regards to staffing we've gone quite a way downhill and have got to say I have four Champions who have done a sterling job on their own, Councillor Anderson at Environment and Community Safety, Councillor Pat Latty at Children's and Councillor Downes Employment and Skills and Councillor Lay you're the fourth one and you've took Health on in absence of Councillor Graham Latty and I think you did a sterling job on your own not that Councillor Latty didn't do a sterling job before you but you did, it's one of those things again where I don't agree with your politics always but I like you and I like what you've done at Health.

(Background noise)

So I would hope that we can rub along together next year as I think it's it's it's been quite disappointing that we've not any workshops and I'll have to move on cos I've got a lot to say. With regards to workshops and I hope that that's going to change and we have given out quite a lot of money to local groups and Councillor Lay mentioned one very worthwhile cause and I think the highlight has been the Youth Summit, I know Councillor Pat Latty is going to talk about the Youth Summit in more detail. It is a highlight it's something that we started and has spread amongst the city and I'm really pleased about that.

I was really sort of pleased that on Friday that there was a move to improve the staffing from Shaid, it was very welcome was that and it was much needed and on the back ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: There are two new officers and I hope that they are going to be a breath of fresh air. I've met one of them and one certainly is so I hope ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth I'm sorry to interrupt you.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: That next year we can have a more positive report. Sorry your Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you My Lord Mayor. As the new Chair of the Outer North East Committee, Community Committee this year I'd first like to pay tribute to my predecessor Councillor Gerald Wilkinson who has had a long and distinguished period as Chair of this Committee, responsible for major improvements to our area and for ensuring that the Committee has delivered against local priorities for many many years.

Whilst I have only been the Chair of Outer East, Outer North East since May 2019 It's become clear to me just how lucky we are in our part of Leeds to have such an active local community, packed full of volunteers and committed local people all keen to support initiatives and goals that are close to our hearts. One only has to look at how Neighbourhood Planning has taken off in our area to see how committed people are to protecting their communities.

In recent years we've been very keen to deliver opportunities for young people and families which sponsors summer play schemes and supported numerous sports clubs and facilities and the arts festivals held locally across the whole of the Outer North East area. Also taking into account the views of youngsters that we found out at the Youth Summit that we held in the summer.

This year the Annual report focuses on a project that we're doing in partnership with Wetherby Town Council known as the Devil's Toenail and it's a bike park for those of you haven't seen the report yet. I was fortunate to be the Mayor of Wetherby for two years and this is a project that was first developed when I held that role so it's really pleasing for me to be able to see it come to fruition and to be so popular with young people and families not only in the Wetherby area but from outside the area too. It's been a real partnership effort with £32,000 coming from the Sport England Community Asset Fund, £5,000 from the Leeds Outer North East Community Committee and key support from Wetherby Town Council and vital assistance from volunteers from the Wetherby Bike Trails and Single Traction. Local communities volunteers included the armed forces cadets, scouts and local fire services so you can see there's an awful lot of people who have been involved in this project and there's no small thanks to the gentleman who actually donated the land to the Town Council for a sum of a pound which was really really helpful.

We all know how popular cycling has become in the wake of the Tour de France and the Tour de Yorkshire and of course the UCI World Road Race later this month and it's really important to ensure that we encourage people to get involved. It's fun, it's good for you and this scheme has helped to regenerate an area of Wetherby that was in need of improvement, turning it into a place where

young people can develop their skills and have a fun family day out. It's been another positive year for the Community Committee and I look forward to working with colleagues in the year ahead, thank the officers particularly from the localities team and my Councillor colleagues for their support especially those who are the community champions. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR P LATTY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I would just like to say probably blowing our trumpet in Outer North West that we were the first ones to start a Summit for children which was four years ago and I believe that all the other Community Committees followed suit so I'd just like to say that. We had a very good, it's been a bit difficult this year because I was Lady Mayoress at the time so I didn't have as much input so I would like to say, I'd like to thank Richard Cracknell and his, of the Children's Voice and and the community officers and the clusters who all worked very very hard. They did a consultation December and then to January sent out forms to all the schools and had a thousand back to tell us what the young people wanted and how they wanted to spend their money which was the youth money and so we had a very good day, they came in, we had a, Richard did an icebreaker with them and then they had a democratic where they learnt about the Council, what we all do, what we would like to do and as I say it was a democratic path and then they all went over to the Rose Bowl which I think was the highlight because they thought they were quite big you know having their their meal in the Rose Bowl where all the other young people have from the Universities and then we came back and had a question and answer in the Chamber and it's always very telling there because they always ask the Lord Mayor have you met the Queen, no we haven't, do you live in a big house, no we don't and there is something else they usually ask but the questions were very searching this time from them all which is very enjoyable, they came back and then they've talked about the activities so we know what the best activities for the next one which we've booked for February. It was a bit late this year because we've, as Councillor Wadsworth said, we've had a bit of an up and down with officers, we haven't had the same amount of officers, shall I put it that way. I haven't really much else to say only that there always very very successful are our summits and I'd just like to say the Sub Committee who worked with me worked very well and all of them I think managed to come to the the day and mixed with

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR P LATTY: (inaudible). Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar to sum up.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you Lord Mayor and I have to say that from everything that chairs and members of the Community Committees and Children's Champions and so on have said this afternoon it just goes to show you

the wealth of what's happening out in our communities and I'm really pleased to hear from chairs of what they've had to say this afternoon.

I have to say Councillor Bentley that really you were the only one to pour cold water on the work that's happening in our communities and really I work and meet regularly with all Community Committee Chairs in the city on a regular basis and we actually go round visit different areas including yours that we've been to and visited and we've actually seen, you've had your turn Councillor Bentley, and we've actually seen the good work that's happening by your Community Committee Chair I have to say and all the champions within that committee that are dutily doing their work. So all I can suggest to you is that you join them and start doing the work with them.

(Background noise)

I have to say that the Community Chairs play a really important role in empowering all our communities and ensuring that local people are at the heart of providing local solutions. The total value of wellbeing projects approved last year across the city of Leeds was just over £1.4m and this attracted match funding actually of almost £655,000 generating also 81,000 volunteer hours and supported 460 projects across the city. A fantastic achievement I'm sure it can be said.

Community Committees develop community capacity and pride generating a sense of belonging, encouraging local residents to volunteer and become involved. The Council will continue its commitment to locality working and the increases in local budgets in 2018/19 in both the Wellbeing Fund and Youth Activity Fund demonstrated that commitment to local decision making through local Community Committees. Each Community Committee will continue to develop its own approach to engaging local people often taking the important discussions on the key decisions for the Council, NHS, Police and into our local areas involving residents in ways which suit them. We will build on the good work described in this report.

I have to say thank you to Councillor Carter for hosting us and oh she's left the room unfortunately but for hosting us in Pudsey last Friday which actually it just goes to show that maybe it's not just within your Community Committees that you get along cross party but across the city that we get along cross party when we're dealing with our communities.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.
(Applause)

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

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to Item 11 question time which will take no more than 30 minutes. Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. would the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles like to take this opportunity to apologise to the residents across the city who did not have their bins collected over the summer months due to numerous route failures.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I'd like to present some facts on the Council's performance of our collections over the summer months. We collected over the last three, twelve weeks in fact we collected 5.64m bins over a twelve week period from June to August. This year the the misses of 6,346 reported out of which 2,338 were black bins, 2,503 were brown bins and 1,482 were green bins. This equates to about 0.1% of collections over the summer period. If I could just compare those collections over the summer period over the last seven years going back to 2012 and the figures are here so in 2012 and which was slightly trickier because we introduced different routes and alternative weekly collections the figure was 4,277,000 2013 was 4,569,000 this is on a similar period in 2014 was 4,788,000, in 2015 it was 5,062,000, in 2016, in 2016 well hear the facts, 2016 5,311,000, 2017 was 5,469,000 and 2018 and this year was similar which is 5,649,000 so given that actually we are collecting more bins than ever with more cars on our roads than ever which actually and more budgetary pressure than ever I think that's actually a, you know we should appreciate that hard service are kudu over some difficult and adverse weather conditions rather than actually kind of mocking and having a go at the Council on a service Councillor Wadsworth.

The service in undergoing a complete review which aims to eliminate as many missed collections as possible. An update will be going to Community Committees on this hopefully before the end of the year in the meantime we are taking some actions to reduce the impact on residents such as prioritising black bin collections and we've missed fewer black bin collection this year than over the same period 2018. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Any supplementary Councillor.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Yes Lord Mayor I do have a supplementary that didn't sound like an apology to me and it's no consequence to the customer, the Council taxpayer, like myself that has a bin sitting outside waiting to be emptied and has been waiting to be emptied from the Council for a week, they can't decide where it is yet but when they find out they'll maybe empty

it. But could he also explain how he intends to get the service with regard to the missed bins back on track and also on the end of day reports we get a lot of route failure with nothing else, massive numbers of, that just say route failure. What route failure actually means ...

(Inaudible talking)

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor we always aim to provide a first class service to our residents and one miss for me and for this administration one missed bin is too many and I would never hesitate to apologise to our residents for finding any inconvenience caused when we do get it wrong and often more than often is not due to the fault of our crew who work, as I said, very hard day in day out, almost every day of the year throughout the year.

I'm surprised to hear Lord Mayor that Councillor Wadsworth demands an apology when as far as I can remember nobody in his party apologised for the missed collections which you were on the Council in 2009, in 2009 when your administration's arrogance led to a three month strike and a mess on our streets so don't give me a lecture on an apology. OK.

(Applause)

I also note Councillor Wadsworth, I also note that Councillor Anderson's Scrutiny Board held an inquiry into Waste Management back end of last year and the board has been satisfied with the progress in implementing the recommendations. In fact we went to Scrutiny Board just in July this year in going through the recommendations so Lord Mayor the Council continues to collect over over a three month period in each summer if you look at calendar months that equates to about 60.3m bins despite huge cuts to our budget from your Government Councillor Wadsworth. Without these cuts we would be able to properly invest our waste collection service and our fleet. We have got an ageing fleet and just on that point when he say's route failures the route failure is due to heavy presentations often is due to supplement and brown bins which we provide free of charge. We are one of the few Authorities in the country to still to provide free brown bin collections and it's time that his party take responsibility for starving Local Authorities of fundings instead of pushing the blame onto the people picking up these, picking up these pieces. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Communities confirm whether she believes airey homes are a social and architectural legacy worth preserving or outdated defective constructions unworthy of investment.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you Lord Mayor and thank you for the question Councillor Golton. As a matter of fact and not opinion airey houses are deemed to be defective under the Housing Defects Act of 1984. Members of Council who have airey properties in their wards will know that banks and building societies generally refuse to grant mortgages on these types of property. There are a lot of airey homes in Leeds, there are 1,449 properties of airey construction in Council ownership across the city with a further 632 properties which have been sold through the Right to Buy scheme. Original unimproved airey homes are rare but that is for a reason they have inherent structural problems. The Council in the late 80's decided to undertake work to the external fabric of airey houses across the city which has prolonged the lifespan of these properties but the initial construction type remains unmodified and so is still classed as defective under the Housing Defects Act of 1984. Investment in airey housing stock is costly and disruptive and has limited durability. Our recent findings have shown that the concrete structures that hold the metal sub frame have perished and demand repair. In addition works on renewing kitchens and bathrooms or rewiring often have onerous asbestos implications before we commence works.

Given the commitment to build new homes to exact in environmental standards it is questionable whether the Council would make the same decision to invest so heavily today in this housing type.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Have you got a supplementary

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: By way of supplementary Lord Mayor if the Executive Member feels that these homes are such appalling constructions why is she still charging rent with no discount to 1,500 families who actually feel that these homes are providing them with decent, affordable, safe environments to live in.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR : Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I think I have given a reasonable enough answer to Councillor Golton. If he wants to know anything more he's more than happy to contact me outside of Council. I've already answered the question once Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jenkins.

COUNCILLOR JENKINS: Please can the Executive Member comment on the Chancellor's recent Budget Statement.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord. Members might remember back in October 2018 we had a prime Minister called Theresa May. I believe, I've just checked on twitter before I've stood up, but I believe she's still a member of the

Conservative Party and at that time she announced the austerity is over. What I can the same in response to Councillors Jenkins's is in terms of the Government's announcement for spending for the next year for Leeds City Council austerity certainly isn't over. Just to go through some of the details of the announcement. We've got the Government announced £1b more for Adult Social Care. That's not £1b more of Government money because half of that is allowing us to take more money off council tax they could have gone round you know maybe more accurately collecting taxes from big business and things like, they haven't chosen to do that, they've chosen to put the burden even more on council tax payers.

They've also confirmed some of the spending that continues for another year so for one more year we've got winter pressures money, I've checked my calendar we have winter every year but as far as the Government's concerned we only have one more winter coming again I think this illustrates their passed motion short term approach to Local Council Funding. What they have delayed is their Fair Funding Review, they've delayed the Comprehensive Spending Review and more critically for Council they've delayed the implementation of the Business Rates Retention Scheme which they even as early as, even as recently as this spring the (inaudible) Secretary of State was saying that Councils will move over to Business Rates Retention instead that's not happened they have stopped, their not allowing us to continue with a pilot we've had and that will cost us over £10m income for the following year.

I'm reassuring Council that Councillor Blake and the administration are going to continue to lobby the Government to make sure that money is made available both for our own resources and also for the cultural and sporting event city funds with our colleagues in that pool.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Any supplementaries.

COUNCILLOR JENKINS: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor ...

(Background talking)

Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Does the Leader of Council agree with me that following the granting of planning permission for over 2,000 new homes on Morley greenfield sites that Morley needs a new primary school to provide additional school places.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you. Despite the question I'm the relevant Executive Member so I'd like to correct Councillor Finnigan there are twelve green field sites in Morley North and South with a total capacity of 1,559

houses splits 882 on seven sites in Morley North and 677 on five sites in Morley South, not over 2,000.

The need for school places arising from Site Allocations Plan were set out in the background infrastructure documents in the Morley planning area a total of 2.6 form entry primary school places were identified as being needed. The housing site HG2150 land east of Churwell was identified to provide new two form entry primary schools. The remaining 0.6 forms of entry would at that point be met by the expansion of existing primary schools. If the schools have already been identified on reserved land at sites HGT2149 Laneside Farm in Morley which was granted outline planning permission on the 19th of October 2017 then this may no longer be required, Children's Services has been consulted on both applications.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan supplementary.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: I think that was a yes Lord Mayor but by way of a supplementary can the Executive Member confirm what action she has taken to provide a new primary school for Morley and what financial commitment can she offer from the 85% Community Infrastructure Levy contribution Leeds City Council is receiving from the new developments in the Morley area towards the cost of this new primary school.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Councillor Finnigan may or may not be aware that the Council are no longer allowed to build primary schools or secondary schools we have to go to Government for free school bids to be made for such provision. There are a number of sites across the city where school sites have been identified in the Site Allocations Plan and we are very much dependent on preschool rounds and free school bids to be made with appropriate sponsors to be identified for those schools to be delivered. So I am not aware, perhaps colleague to my left who is the Executive Member appropriate for Children's Services Education may be able to answer your question, perhaps maybe ask him next time in terms of free school rounds that have been submitted and places that have been allocated through that process for schools in the Morley area.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Akhtar

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Thank you My Lord Mayor. Please could the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment of the Council on Year of Reading.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Akhtar for the question. The Year of Reading officially launches tomorrow and our aim is to raise the profile of reading across the city and in particular to engage

children and their families to generate a long term book of reading. We want Leeds to be a city of reading when storybooks are fun stories and books are valued and integral parts of everyone's lives. Leeds is the only core city graded outstanding for Children's Services but we still have a gap in both educational experiences and outcomes for some of our most deprived communities. Leeds is home to 190,000 children and young people aged 19 or under and our ambition is to be the best city in the UK for them all to grow up in. The push around reading and a love of reading is key to this. Reading is a vital skill, there is a cornerstone of successful learning, research shows that reading clubs nurture the linguistic and creative skills needed at every stage of learning from the early years through to adulthood.

Reading in the early years can be an important part of family activities and build bonds between adult and child. Reading in later years is vital to unlock the wider curriculum and to develop the critical and academic skills needed for work and in later life. We know that we need to continue to work towards constantly improving our educational outcomes and this focus on reading underpins that work but we want everyone in Leeds to read not just for learning but also for enjoyment and all parts of the city will be asked to be involved in a number of ways including supporting reading sessions in schools, book swap days and much more. The Leeds Year of Reading will be inclusive and reflect the diversity of the city and incorporate the different cultures and languages that make the city what it is.

I am really excited about the upcoming year and I would like to thank all those Members who did bring books in today as part of the Year of Reading I did bring a few extra books in because I thought some Members may have forgotten theirs. Councillor Robinson I know your very keen on Brexit so I've got a book for you about a future Britain under a no deal Brexit, it's called 1984 ...

(Laughter)

By George Orwell I hope it's got a happy ending but I bring one for Councillor Carter, I mean I don't know the internal group dynamics of the Conservative Councillors but if you're anything like the Conservative MPs I've brought in Lord of the Flies ...

(Laughter)

I thought that'd be quite useful and Councillor Stephenson not here as well I brought him Machiavelli The Prince.

(Laughter and applause)

I really do look forward to this Year of Reading and I hope that all Members will be involved at every stage. Thank you.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Yes please My Lord Mayor. Thank you Councillor Pryor it's good to hear how Leeds is investing in our children's and young people, would you say the Government is just as committed to helping young people to achieve the best possible start in our city.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Councillor Akhtar that is an excellent question.

(Laughter)

We've seen various announcements of funding over the past few weeks in the press about money for schools but we don't know where that money is coming from, how much we can expect to receive or if I'm completely honest whether that money will materialise at all. In fact we've had no communication from the Government directly about any additional funding for anything it's almost as if it was an election announcement rather than something for schools but it wouldn't be the first time in recent history that an outgoing Prime Minister made promises around election funding that were quietly scrapped. We've learned to take all announcements with a pinch of salt. Johnson has said that he's pledging funding for thirty new free schools but we've heard nothing about funding for Local Authority maintained schools. Of course we shouldn't be surprised after those infamous leaked documents showed a renewed push to force all Authority maintained schools to convert to Academy status but perhaps more worrying than the electioneering from the Government was the language around increasing the powers of Headteachers to exclude pupils and use of what has been termed reasonable force. All of this comes at a time when rates of exclusions of pupils from certain groups in particular is under intense scrutiny following the Timpson review and comments made by the Children's Commissioner. We know for example that children with SEN are far more likely to be excluded off rolled or put into isolation than their peers and it was incredibly disappointing to see the Government not only supporting this but actually encouraging more of that activity.

Councillor Hall has got a question later on funding for schools. I don't think we'll quite get that one but I think it is relevant here as Councillors will know I did write to the Government asking for funding for boys in other schools, that letter to which I wrote to the secretary of State was passed to a Junior Minister who passed it to a Civil Servant who met with me. who made some nice sympathetic noises in the room and has since written back to say there will be no money for funding of any school maintenance. But this funding is vital it's essential and this Council will continue to fight for those schools and we will be contacting Government again to urge them to fulfil their responsibilities and to properly fund education in Leeds. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Taylor

COUNCILLOR J TAYLOR: Does the Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development agree with me that the recently concluded Selected Review of the Core Strategy should have included a review of Spatial Policy 12 managing the growth of Leeds Bradford Airport.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor and this is an item obviously that we've covered in some detail earlier in the day. Scope of the Core Strategy Selective Review was agreed by Executive Board including Councillor Carter on the 8th February 2017 at that time it agreed that the review should be selective and focused so as to swiftly progress a revised housing number and policies on housing quality and standards. That review was subject to two rounds of formal public consultation the first of the scope of the plan from June to July 2017, the second on the publication draft of the plan from February to March 2018. No representations were received at the time regarding the need to include Spatial Policy Number 12 within the scope of the review. Plan making as we discussed earlier is evidence based, it takes time and must follow clearly defined regulator stages. There's no scopes go back a stage without incurring significant delays. So to introduce a review of the Spatial Policy 12 at any stage after the February 2017 decision the need for Executive Board approval, further technical work on that would have created further delays to the process of adopting the Core Strategy Selective Review that we've adopted today leaving the city open to even more speculative development in the meantime on green field and green belt sites.

As you know earlier today we committed to address the climate emergency and subsequent reviews and Spatial Policy 12 was specifically referred to in the motion we adopted earlier. A paper on options for the Local Plan Review is scheduled to be presented to Development Plan Panel this autumn which obviously has members from all parties on it.

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

COUNCILLOR J TAYLOR: Yes please Lord Mayor. The Core Strategy Spatial Policy 12 also includes continued support for development at LBA and surface access. Councillor Mulherin you've shown that you can show true leadership in overturning previous transport in previous transport initiatives such as Lawnswood roundabout. Will you commit now, the deputation earlier have to wait for their answer but would you commit now to cancelling the two link roads that your planning across the Bradford and through Rawdon up to the airport.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. So the consultation regarding the Airport Link Road took place earlier this year. The reviews been, the consultation responses of that are been analysed and will be published by the end of the year. It's important that people's views are carefully and thoroughly considered so that they can help inform any decision that we make and that

gathering of people's views in light of the climate emergency is also taking place as part of our big climate conversation in the city where we're asking people questions about how they would be willing to change their lifestyles to travel, to fly less to use alternative modes of transport and so on. That climate conversation now runs until the 31st October and I'm sure that the recently established citizens jury established with the Leeds Climate Commission, our partners in this conversation will also want to consider how best we respond to air travel, to decarbonise transport, to have a just transition also for the people who are employed in this sphere.

So in the short term the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee as you know are meeting in two weeks time to consider the Airport amongst that transport discussion and the Airport Chief Executive will be attending as well researchers from Leeds University who have published peer reviewed research findings on air travel. So we're gathering evidence still at this point and we will be, as we promised, bringing a report to Executive Board in December which will be looking at the picture in the round in terms of the climate emergency.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member please tell Council how much income has been generated over the past two years from the use of Beckett Park as a car park for spectators at Headingley Stadium.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. The car park is not operated on a 'profit' basis and appropriate fees are levied to ensure that it operates at no additional cost to the Council. Over the last two years Beckett Park has been used over 13 of days and has received around £27k in income which matches the cost associated with providing this facility. Thank you Lord Mayor.

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

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Yes please Lord Mayor thank you. Does the Executive Member think that in a child friendly city aspiring to be a carbon free city where open green spaces are a valuable resource it really is the right thing to do to regularly hand over large areas of a community park to meet the needs of spectators wanting to park as close they can to the stadium. Isn't this a case of motorists needs being considered ahead of those of residents and visitors who simply want to use the park for what it was intended. So will the Executive Member agree to meet with me, local residents associations and the friends of Beckett Park to determine how this unacceptable situation can be resolved.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2018 – 2023 includes ‘maximising the economic benefits of culture’ with specific reference to ‘increasing visitors and enhancing the image of Leeds through major cultural and sporting events and attractions’. A new culture strategy for Leeds was unanimously adopted by the Executive Board in 2017 and acknowledges the importance of Headingley Stadium as a venue for world class cricket. In order to facilitate large sporting events of this nature it is necessary to provide a range of suitable transport options for the many people who attend, and Beckett Park is used as a car parking facility for major international cricket matches such as the recent Ashes Test which we won with a very narrow margin to much acclaim across the world as Councillor Akhtar earlier pointed out in his Community Committee Chair Report.

Beckett Park can accommodate over 400 cars, Beckett Park accommodates over 400 cars and local residents benefit from this as this reduces the number of vehicles that might try to park on streets near the stadium causing inconvenience to local residents. The park is over fourteen hectares in size and has plenty of open grassland, tennis courts, play area, a skateboard and outdoor adult exercise equipment. All of these facilities are still available to people who visit including grass areas for recreation. As the cricket matches take place during the summer months ground conditions tend to be more favourable and there is ample time during the remaining growing season to enable reinstatement with minimal impact on those who visit the park.

Councillor Bentley I’m more than willing to meet with any member if they’ve got any issues in their ward (inaudible). I’ll leave it there. Thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Brooks.

COUNCILLOR BROOKS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults comment on the Chancellor’s recent announcement on the outcome of the spending review specifically in relation to Adult Social Care.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you Councillor Brooks for the very important question. Councillor James Lewis touched on some of the social care funding issues earlier I won’t repeat those but I would just say about council tax and the main theme to the answer to this question is that the Tory Conservative Government seem completely unable to give the vision, a long term vision, for social care for this country. It has, we’ve raised it here before, it has taken them years of delay and delay and more delay about their promise to deliver on a social care green paper. It was first meant to appear back in March 2017, two years ago and accompanied by a Tory manifesto commitment during their 2017 General Election and since then they have just avoided it entirely.

We adapt, we are crying out as a country for the Government to talk about and be able to pass legislation, by the way, on things other than the Brexit situation. We've got to, we've got to get a future vision for social care and you really need to publish your Social Care Green Paper. There is extra money in the Spending Review and a billion pounds would be for Adults and Children's Social Care so for both that is nowhere near enough and the other thing to say is that we keep getting bits of money, winter grants and and this that and the other and you cannot plan long term using pots of money that come down because you know they've found a bit back down the back of the sofa, here give that to Local Government because it's causing pressure in winter when people are stuck in hospital because of the lack of resources. We need a long term, sustainable funding solution as you all know and I'm sure you all want that as well that gives our people assurance that the vulnerable residents that we serve will have access and benefit from the services they need to lead happy lives. I feel like I've ...

(Inaudible background talking)

Alright. In July the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee published their report Social Care Funding - Time to End a National Scandal Today and it recommended the Government spent £8b to restore social care to acceptable standards and to introduce free personal care over a period of five years and all we've had today is a pledge for £1.5b so really we need to, they've got some vision in the Government benches, they've got some vision in the House of Lords you know it's a massively important issue. Can we ask our Conservative colleagues to put pressure on their Government to get this out and where their putting sticking plasters over a Spending Review it isn't enough and if it goes into the better Care Fund the Department of Health will also have a say over what that money is spent on. It won't necessarily come to Local Government in the bottom line for our Social Care Services. We need a proper settlement and I would urge our Conservative colleagues to back us on that. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: This is the last question the others ...

(Background talking)

Do you have a supplementary Councillor Brooks. No. OK.

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

So we have now passed ten past four the point at which Councillor (inaudible) of Item 12 minutes as concluded so therefore I'll ask Councillor Blake to sum up and move the minutes.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Seconded Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'd now like to go to a vote. We'd now like to go to the vote to receive the minutes. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

Thank you we'll now have a tea break and I'd be grateful if members would be back in the Chamber for 5 o'clock. Could I also invite the guests in the chamber to join us for tea. Thank you.

ITEM 13 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now moving on to the final part of the programme so we are on White Papers.

(Inaudible background talking)

Sorry everyone and report the Devolved Matters. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Another opportunity to update Council on progress with devolution and where we are with devolved matters and different things that are connected to the work that WYCA does and the LEP.

Just to confirm what I think I said last time that obviously we've got some new Leaders across Yorkshire as a result of the Local Elections and that we're all still very much on track working for the One Yorkshire model. The frustration we've got I think is that yet again a new Prime Minister and a new set of Ministers so trying to have a consistent conversation with, to move this forward is frustrating but I am pleased to say that discussions between officials and officers are ongoing the one piece of consistency that we've got is that Robert Jenrick was a Minister in the Treasury and he has now moved across to be Secretary of State covering Local Governments and he's very keen to talk to us to move this forward. I think, I have to report to you that we've got some support from I think possibly slightly unexpected source in that Boris Johnson as you know was in Leeds last week and famously in Wakefield. I think everyone knows about his visit to Morley which has been very well trailed, I don't think anyone knew where Morley was, sorry sorry I didn't mean that.

(Laughter)

Not so many people, everyone knows, everyone knows where Morley is but because it's a positive comment I have to say Wakefield and Leeds, you know Wakefield's trying to claim ownership for Morley which we have to fend off but as well as his visit, the very difficult visit and unfortunate visit from our point of view to the police he was asked by local journalists for his views about moving One Yorkshire Forward and wouldn't it be a good thing for the progress in the North if Yorkshire got it's devolution and his replies went along in the vein of "I completely agree, I will get Jake Berry to talk to you. Well that will be something of a way

forward. In principle I'm mad keen on it" and following up by "It is the right thing to do" and suggested that we speak to different officials who have worked with him when he was Mayor of London so we have to, I think, we have to seize the moment if you like and just get him to make the commitment to moving this forward when he is still in a position to do so.

The other major piece of work I think that has really affected the work of the Combined Authority has been the fact that he's also announced a major review into HS2 chaired by Douglas Oakervee who has been up as the Chair with his deputy chair Lord Buckley and Stephen Glaister who you'll recall did a major piece of work, came to meet us at WYCA to talk about the review and to really get our views and particularly interested in the economic impacts and the economic benefit the links to Northern Powerhouse Rail which seems to have gone up in the discussions to a large extent.

I just want to emphasise what, you know, that Councillor Lewis referenced ceasing the pilot of the business rate pool for us. It's a one year settlement we would argue and we are arguing that he should roll this forward it's a massive loss for us, it's a massive loss for North Yorkshire and the whole of West Yorkshire and we'll keep the pressure on to make sure that that decision hopefully is reversed. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

Thanks Lord Mayor. The thing about Mr Johnson is that other than on Brexit he just wants to let people like him and if you say you want something at this moment in time he's very good at saying "Well I'm I'm I'm I'm I'm I'm quite happy with that" so so ...

(Applause and inaudible background talking)

So I hope you will forgive him.

(Laughter)

I can't do the pull of hair but I hope you will forgive me if I don't really put a whole lot of store into anything that he says around supporting One Yorkshire or even the Leeds mass transit system although considering that we've been waiting for so long about a mass transit system in the city and the Leeds Transport Plan which has been produced is, let's be fair, a shadow of what the city hopes to achieve in terms of getting modal shift and getting people out of their cars on to public transport, we really should be taking Mr Johnson to task on that one and we really should be saying to him 'right deliver, give us a short track way in' to

getting Government finance to giving us, what you have pointed out, is so iniquitous that we are the largest urban area in Europe that doesn't have a proper mass transit system and I would suggest that if we spent more time on that and stopped being the chief cheerleaders for HS2 we might actually deliver something which might go towards enabling us to achieve our climate change emergency carbon neutrality by 2030 especially given the Government's very much lukewarm response to HS2 as their major trade investment and the fact that the Minister in charge has now said that it wouldn't be getting here until 2040 anyway so if we put all our eggs in one basket and all that we can think about is HS2 HS2 HS2 we're going to miss the opportunity of getting any kind of transport improvements immediately to deliver the commitment that we set ourselves to the climate change emergency. Let's concentrate more on getting improvements to the current rail structure that there is out there and following up on the Blake review in terms of making our train operators far more accountable and getting a mass transit for our city than chasing rainbows which is what HS2 is increasingly becoming.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb instead of Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. First of all just on HS2 I think I'm more inclined to agree with the Lib Dem Leader of York Council than the Lib Dem Leader in this Council when he says we should be getting on with HS2 now not waiting so I think many of us would share that view. I'd like to touch on the business rates retention first of all and I think actually we share your disappointment and frustration and I'm quite happy to say you can count on our full support to lobby the Government to try and reverse that but it does bring us on to the devolution situation because if we devolved Mayoral authorities I'd have kept their business rates retention.

I think our view has been for some time we need to get on and deliver what is deliverable now because we can't keep waiting it doesn't rule anything out in the future earlier today we agreed to establish a North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We already have a business rates pool on the same footprint it is surely a pretty short step to say very quickly we could deliver a Devolved Authority on that footprint which doesn't rule anything out going forward, it doesn't put an end to One Yorkshire or any other form of devolution but it could be done quickly it just needs some leadership to get on with it. We've talked about all kinds of devolution, all kinds of footprints, all kinds of arrangements. The people of our city and other authorities are missing out by not having any form of devolution.

One thing I think we all agree on in this Chamber is there should be devolution. There's no disagreement. We perhaps all have different views on what it should look like but I think if there's a will on that kind of footprint something could be delivered extremely quickly. The business community would support it I think most of the authorities would support and crucially it does not rule out any other form in the future.

So if you're willing to go for that now taking nothing else off the table again you can count on our full and wholehearted support to try and get that delivered as quickly as possible. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor D Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. What you're saying about what the Prime Minister said is encouraging but clearly with the current situation we do not know how long he's going to be there and who's going to be there afterwards and I think it's clear that as a group of councils what we need to do is we need to approach all the Party Leaders and say to them 'this is what we want, this is what we expect' and whoever is the Prime Minister when we have got this awful mess sorted out then we will expect them to deliver it. I mean it just made me think, I mean Boris reckons he'll be able to sort out some deal with EU by October 31st and from what Alan was saying there, well if you actually come and negotiate with us or his Ministers come and negotiate we probably could get that sorted out for August 31st I don't know about whether they'll get Brexit sorted out but as I say we need to do that. We all have our different views of about assemblies or Mayors what have you but the facts of the matter is particularly if we are coming out of European Union we do not want to be in a country that is dominated by the South East of England we need some control ourselves and we should have it you know the population of Yorkshire is bigger than Scotland they've got a Parliament, well we need something for Yorkshire.

Moving on to HS2 I tend to agree with Liberal Democrats on that with Stewart Golton. I'm no great fan of it in fact I don't think it's a good idea. What we need is, what we need now is investment in the railway structure that's here because it's not very good and having some link to South of England to me doesn't help that situation. What we need is our railway services here up to scratch and up to capacity.

Then I'll finish off with business rates I share your disappointment there. I think that was a good move forward, I think it's short sighted of the Government to not extend it another year and I think it should be made permanent. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor and we absolutely need a devolution deal and we need it now and here is the reason. We've got First operation, bus operation up for sale. I'm sure if we had a devo deal we would be going for the acquisition of that, we would be putting people before profit. The cuts to, from Local Government affects the levy and that means that services in West Yorkshire and around will be at cliff edge by 2021 if we don't get a deal. We need to make sure that the services are working for people and that's not a lot to ask and we know the (inaudible) better, stronger communities, driver and prosperity improve mobility through innovation and reducing carbon emissions so

the Government needs to really get behind a good bus strategy and bring it back into public ownership. The Government could set out a clear policy of direction for the bus sector and it would send a clear message to communities that they are on people's sides. The Blake Jones Review needs to be included in our Rail Operators Strategy, we definitely need HS2 the network is full to capacity, we need MPR, we need investment at Leeds station, we need the Transpennine upgrade to continue, it's gone very quiet and that affects Morley station, it affects the east of Leeds. We need the funding for Neville Hill, we need platform extensions at 11 to 17 to make Leeds station work. Leeds station is one of the busiest transport hubs in the country the investments simply has to come to Leeds. We are having to bid because we haven't got a devo deal for transforming cities with all the other non mayoral Authorities, we've worked with all our district partners to put a strong bid forward I'm pleased to say every feedback is that it is looking positive but we have still got so much more work to do with little resource. We have to build an economic case where Liverpool, Manchester are just given the money and Liverpool this week announced their building two more railway stations.

Today on spending in the Yorkshire and Humber through the Treasury data from 2013 to 2018 Yorkshire and Humber has not changed and if we'd have kept up with the West Midlands that would have meant an £800m per year more to spend that is before the devo deal. The devo deal can bring so much more for people of Leeds City Region or Yorkshire and the Government need to stop playing political geographies. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hall. Councillor Hall.

COUNCILLOR HALL: Sorry I didn't realise I was down to speak there. I'm glad I've got the opportunity to speak because today in the Yorkshire Post and the Guardian Northern Rail yet again make the headlines for the wrong reasons. So for a period between 21st July and August 17 this year 7.4% of Northern trains were short formed leaving passengers stood on platforms. 5.6% were cancelled, 77.9% were within five minutes of their scheduled arrival and only 49.9% actually arrived on time, that is less than half. It's an absolute shambles, they've introduced a new ticketing system which is causing even further chaos and leaving more passengers stood on platforms or at risk of the unfair penalty fare fine. My disappointment is that we are not taking that company to task hard enough. At a recent WYCA meeting I was challenged because I was accused of using some of the time asking for some answers as to what their appalling record and accused of using it as casework. It wasn't casework we have got to put pressure on them because we don't have a devo deal, they've got a franchise that they refuse to wriggle out of and the Government refuse to do anything about and I think it's income incumbent upon this Authority to stand with our commuters and passengers and businesses because those are the real losers, people cannot get to work. They can't get to work on time, some people are changing their work habits and it's also affecting our green agenda, people are giving up they can't get to work on time so they're just getting in their cars no matter what the cost and around the city we're seeing an awful lot of very informal Park and Ride springing

up. I came in this morning and they were about three different lay bys and this was at quarter to seven that were full of people who'd just left their cars and then we're going in on the bus so we have got to start taking Northern Rail to task further and that's what I would really really like to see this Local Authority do.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Perhaps I could start with the contribution from Council Hall first . You obviously are not aware of the meetings, you haven't had fed back to you the pressure that we're putting on through Transport for the North.

I'm the representative on Transport for the North on the front page of the Yorkshire Post today. This is not the issue, the issue is that the Secretary of State is accountable for the franchises, it's him that you need to be putting the pressure on, you need to be joining with us to end this nonsense of the franchised way that the railways in this country are organised.

(Applause)

We have an opportunity with the Williams Review I spoke to the new Minister with responsibility for transport. I've gone through three so far and it was the Blake Johnson review then the Blake Jones and now I am moving on to delivery with Paul Maynard. He's very clear of our views and how unacceptable this is. He's actually an MP for Blackpool if anywhere has suffered really badly from the absolute scandal of the way that the timetables were implemented last year it's the North West in particular. We are very much aware of the fact that there are problems on our railways and we are doing everything we can but you know we have this nonsense of a franchise system that it really hampers our ability to take direct control.

I would just like to say as well as the Leader of York, Alan, you know perhaps you should listen to Tim Fallon as well who has come out very strongly for HS2 saying building better infrastructure across the North is vital if we're to rebalance our economy, HS2 is vital to do this you know so let's, what we can't afford to do is keeping having this fragmentation, what we need to do speak with one voice, we've got the Convention for the North on Friday we all of us need to come together and make the case for more investment in the North. With regards to mass transit you notice that Boris Johnson made the commitment during his selection process to become the Leader of the Party. I've written to him to ask him for more detail, he mentioned Leeds specifically at least probably twice if not more during his personal campaign he's gone completely silent on the matter.

I've had an official acknowledgement nothing more.

If we can join together to actually force him to put his money where his mouth is then so be it these are unprecedented times I think all of us know that we're going to get wild promises and offers of money suddenly were very popular here you know he's probably going to be here again before the end of the week you know but what does it all actually mean we deserve better we know we do

and we're all working together to get the devolution deal that we know will help us to deliver services for our people. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

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

ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – WASTE STRATEGY

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move on to the White Papers which will last no more than 45 minutes. So Item 14 Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's with a little bit of disappointment that I have to bring this White Paper because I wouldn't have thought it was really necessary to do this but the White Paper comes forward from the Executive Board report on the Waste Strategy that came in July. This was on the back of a previous report which came in November 2017 and the outset it seems like a good piece of work, you can either have a strategy for dealing with Leeds Waste and Recycling Leeds Waste it seems really good on a long term vision it seems to be what we need to do and so we had a big conversation about what we needed to do and you would have expected to come out of that conversation, you know, extra collections for food and glass at the kerbside which we could deliver through existing collection you would expect as the wagon's already in the area so you could expect a split collection in some shape or form. A wider range of items to put in the green bin because what the public want, the public want to recycle more but we tend to restrict that. You were expecting more electrical bins in supermarkets and more recycling of batteries and that sort of thing and the removal of household waste charges at our household waste sites for bulky items and perhaps even we could have been so ambitious and gone onto a reverse vending system for single use plastics and disposable coffee cups although a charity have taken on the coffee cup situation and put bins in the city centre which blow bubbles at you when you put the coffee cup in which is very nice but it's not really what we want from a long term strategy and so when the strategy came it just seemed to be let's wait, well why wait you know we're in a climate emergency we need to do something now rather than wait and the waiting to be 'let's wait because national Government have a strategy and they're going to possibly give us some money'. Well you're going to have to wait now aren't you because we've prorogued Parliament and Michael Gove has ...

(Background talking)

We could have done it another way we could have had a General Election but Michael Gove he now has a budget for something else and an agenda for something else so he's not going to come and talk about our Waste Strategy to us. So it's just so disappointing that we didn't have that vision and get on recycling Leeds waste and lifting our target and doing more and Councillor

Walshaw might prick his ears up because it's all part of the climate emergency, it's more what we recycle would be better for the city's carbon footprint.

And then we move on to refuse collection and Members who are going to talk about how good refuse collection is in their wards just need to be aware of some of the statistics that I'm going to give in a minute. The refuse collection, Councillor Robinson and I were last year quite concerned about refuse collection and along with Councillor Dobson made a request to Scrutiny and we had a very good hearing from Councillor Anderson, what you can always say about Councillor Anderson he's always very fair, really fair and down the middle and he gave us a very good hearing and you know they came out, the things that came out was that the worst area for refuse collection then was Morley and the best being Guiseley and things did seem to settle down after that and things tended to improve and there was certainly less missed bin collections until this summer when you know it seemed to come to a head and you know according to the engineering reports which I receive every day from the team that deal with the vehicles that come back in the 12 working day period between 22nd October, 22nd August sorry and the 5th September 841 streets in 32 wards were missed and three of the top five wards were Calverley and Farsley, Pudsey and Horsforth. They were actually the top three in ascending order Morley followed in the next one and Wickham Street in Hunslet and Riverside ward was missed seven times in 15 days followed by Longfield Road in Pudsey which was missed six times in 15 days and 941 streets have been missed citywide during that period of 15 days. The Department also told me that between June and August 6,345 properties were missed and just to add to the question I asked earlier about route failures there were 590 route failures during that period and that was due to over presentation was it Councillor Rafique because if it was something really should have been done about that presentation and some back up crew should have been put in and the recovery has been very poor and what are not recovered within 48 hours, I've spoke about my own bin it's been there a week and it's not been recovered, as I say the Department haven't actually found out where it is yet but maybe by next week when it's due for it's next collection it will be collected but I live in hope and the Department introduced charge hand post to try and rectify some of this and they've spent £495,000 a year on this post and it's solely gone to drivers and I find that just surprising that it's gone to drivers to actually deal with improving the routes when really the drivers should be responsible for the vehicle and driving it and not actually be responsible for the route as such ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Disappointing very disappointing. I've run out of time Lord Mayor. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I rise to support this White paper but also to reflect back on the answers that Councillor Rafique gave us earlier on. At the moment a missed bin what is it. Do you know this Council does not have a revised definition of what a missed bins is. As long as it

gets collected they don't count it as a missed bin within 48 hours. Our residents certainly count it as been a missed bin if it's not collected within 48 hours hence the difference in the figures that we've got here. Poor communication, if anybody gets these end of day reports what does it tell you, not a lot. It doesn't give you the reasons why somethings missed, it doesn't give you any explanation I was told in one of the cases in my ward it was because there was overhanging trees.

That was about four weeks ago. The next again the same one came up and I said what have you done about it 'oh we've arranged to get the trees cut back'. The third week the crew were still complaining that the trees were there so I got the supervisor to go out and the trees had been cut two weeks ago and yet the crew was still claiming that they couldn't go down because you know it just beggers belief. There is a definite lack of control, there is also no clarity on who is actually running the service. Is it the officers, is it Councillor Rafique or is it somebody else because we don't know, we don't know where to get the answers from because we're not getting answers from anybody at the moment on these things.

You've got a 48 pick up. How many residents actually know that that's the case, how many times do we get emails from residents asking us 'do I leave my bin out or not'. We're not communicating very well in terms of what's happening and then there are the odd bins that are missed out you know for no real reason at all. We need a strategy, we need a strategy now and there's no point in blaming Government cuts. You've been in power since 2010 and you've done nothing to improve the bin service what so ever, it's got worse as the years have gone on. You've been asked to do things, you've had scrutiny reports asking you to do things and nothing to date has happened.

Now one of the other problems that we've got is the record keeping. You are on Saturday, if you look at my ward there was about one polling, half a polling district which has got 500 houses in it. It didn't show that Adel and Wharfedale and 500 houses missed. So the record keeping is terrible you are being given under reported information from your officers so that you are not then able to make an informed decision and that's not just in our wards that's throughout the whole of the city, you're not getting the information to make an informed decision. So at the end of the day we need to introduce the route rationalisation programme now not at some time in the future whenever somebody else tells you it's OK to do it. The savings need to be made now so that you can then reinvest the savings in what you're doing.

As it's been referred we've got the climate change emergency I would ask you is it still correct that you're going to still say to residents if you've got excess garden rubbish in the winter that you should jump in your car and take it down to the local waste site, are you really arguing that that is a good use of the carbon footprint of that particular person. I do not honestly believe you actually believe that, you might be promoting it but I don't believe you personally promoting that type of thing. Now one thing you could try to do and yes it is to my benefit is you could sell for fair yourself to Scrutiny, to ask Scrutiny to have another look ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: of the problems that have occurred. Thank you Lord Mayor thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. In moving this amendment I want to stress that there is nothing in Councillor Wadsworth's White Paper that we disagree with and just listening to Councillor Anderson seconding it don't think there's anything in my amendment that the Conservative Group would disagree with.

My amendment is simply to draw attention to the long standing agreed and budgeted efficiency plan which this administration is failing to implement and I think the failure to come to grips with that is a major cause of the problems that Councillor Wadsworth has highlighted today so fully in his White Paper and the issues earlier by Councillor Wadsworth and the unanswered questions from from the Executive Member.

The end of day report is another issue going back four months or so with Weetwood ward I could perhaps get one of those once or twice a week, I'm now getting them every day. I would get perhaps a couple of phone calls a week from residents, I'm now getting those on much more frequent basis and the response if you look at the sheets it says ok access problems, well we can't help roadworks and those things that is a big operation and they'll be that sort of noise in the system but nearly every incident is route failure and we don't know what that is. Is it over presentation which case rationalisation could help with that. Is it absenteeism, is it whatever. I mean it was interesting that the day after Bank Holiday was a very, a very poor day for collection and when you talk to the management or the the first line supervisors they say things like 'oh the crew is unfamiliar with the route' and we will write it on their task sheet. This is the 21st century, we're the second largest authority in the country and we're relying on memory and bits of paper.

Now that wasn't always the ambition, let me quote you from something. It says here through adopting an innovative approach to customer access making the best use of people and technology and implementing simple and consistent processes the Council has the potential to deliver more efficient and effective services ensuring they are far more accessible and convenient. In the same paper Waste Management will be the service area for improvement focusing on the customer experience in handling enquiries. Core investment being proposed will support delivery of this, it will improve refuse collection, enquiry handling, application request and appointments. Now this paper was sent to, was tabled at Executive Board on the 16th May, 16th May 2012. When I had a briefing with an officer very early on, the time that I became a Councillor the senior officer told me all about the benefits that would come from in cab technology, how it would make a difference, nothing's happened. So perhaps Councillor Rafique might tell us what progress has been made at all these promises that were made in 2012 he

should remember 2012 because it is since 2009 which he remembers very carefully. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second and reserve my right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I won't repeat my comments in my earlier answer to Councillor Wadsworth in full. I'm sure members will be pleased to hear that the key point is that the Council missed .1% of bin collections this summer which is the same rate as last summer bearing in mind that compared to seven years ago and you referred to 2012 we are collecting 1.3m bins more over the same period with many different new builds in the city so the Council is continuing to collect 19.9% of our bins on time. I would not call that a breakdown. There are you know issues, we completely understand and agree with some some minute issues in some areas but this is why we got the route review and through the review we will address those issues.

Now before I just talk about the route review and where we are with it can I just talk about the end of day report. End of day report and this is historical, if crew, our crew can't get through because of access issues where there is a heavy presentation so with the brown bins for instance you know in the summer months when people are at home working through their gardens, their bins are full, there heavy, their having to go back to the yard more than once hence it takes longer to kind of get round and collect all the bins. We prioritise black bins and brown bins and then, sorry green bins the brown bins obviously come after that. I'd also like to point out we are one of the few authorities that currently provide a free brown bin service which I'm sure our residents appreciate.

Now with regard to the route failures. Route failures are mainly due to two reasons, one is heavy presentation which I have just mentioned yeah and the other is breakdown of vehicles. You know we've been squeezed as a Council as a Local Authority, you know over the last ten years because of your coalition Government, because of your Government over the last few years this Council and Councils across the country have been brought to their knees because of the funding pressures but I'm pleased to say that we are introducing, you know despite all that we are introducing a new fleet of vehicles, some smaller vehicles because we've got more cars parked on our streets more than ever before. Just to give an example, I'm conscious of the time, that yesterday I was on a street coming down, Copgrove Road for those of you that know, there's actually cars parked on both sides, a bin wagon in front of me, there's people then start honking the front and the poor men then have to wait until you find a gap, pull aside, let the traffic go and then come out, reverse back, it takes time so this is the reason we have to go through the route review with regards to you know the applicant with regards to the actual Waste Strategy. The Government published its report at the

beginning of this year and telling us that it will actually publish it's final plans in 2023, it's like kicking the can down the road you know, without telling us where ...

(Background shouting)

That's what they're doing, that's what they're doing. We've got a Waste Strategy we are preparing for it here. We wanted to hear from your Government who are actually just all over the place, make a mock of this you know the Brexit crisis, we don't know who's actually running the country at the moment and until ...

(Background shouting)

Until they, until, there will be elections don't you worry about that, until they, until they actually sort themselves out, how somebody's actually running the Environment Department come out with a proper strategy, give us a proper you know guidance and instructions on how to move forward and provide as a funding we're not going to achieve ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: What you're saying you need to talk to your Government. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis to second.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor A Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am pleased that the Executive report mentions reductions in single use plastics and matter that a lot of you will know is close to my heart as I put the White Paper on single use plastics to the Council last year.

On another matter I hope that we can employ more waste doctors when we look at this waste problem because I understand that there's four in Leeds at the moment for all Leeds and of course we have a lot of problems where people don't use their green bins properly and I know where I've asked people to come in, where I've asked these waste doctors to come in the've been very good and we've got success but four in all Leeds is, well what can they do, we need more.

Referring to bins. Well yes I agree during summer there's been missed bins in my area, somebody said about three times a week. Last eight weeks and these are the route failures that have been listed and I have to say in my ward when people ring me up and I check that it hasn't been listed, so in some cases they're not listed arn't the figures. But it's true that it can be for various reasons

I'm not going to say it's all route failures because the crews haven't turned up, some cases it can be access problems I agree with you, some cases yeah on the

odd occasion it's been if there's traffic works which you can't do anything about I know. But a lot of cases it has been route failure in some cases I understand, when I've gone into it, it's been because we haven't got enough staff so they can't get the full route out and if you don't get the full route out one day then it just continues that there's a problem then all that week because they're catching up with themselves. So there's various reasons for it, I'm not going to say there's one golden reason I don't believe there is but my main concern is what are we going to do about it because as it stands and I know there's been problems in other wards as well I'm not saying that my wards the only one but I know that I'm suffering a lot by this two or three times a week, It'd be unusual if nobody rings me once a week. I've gone up to my computer a few minutes ago and there's two people's e-mails about missed bins. In some cases it can be, yes where they can't get through you know the vehicle can't get through, narrow road vehicle can't get through yes but it goes on nothing seems to happen to rectify it so there's loads of things and I would welcome seeing Councillor Rafique and having a meeting with him to see if we can try to get to the bottom of this instead of it just been a never ending circle please. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I often stand here and think to myself wouldn't it be nice if one day we had an Executive Board Member who we felt was on top of their brief ...

(Sighing)

Today's not that day.

With the best will in ...

(Background talking)

With the best will in the world and we go back to the point we made earlier Councillor Rafique is a really nice Councillor I really like him. He's always very pleasant when you contact him and say these bins have been missed and he automatically sends a note off to the Officer and says these bins have been missed can you sort it out and let Councillor Campbell know, actually they don't often do that, but we are where we are.

Just let's look at what your, at your amendment. So you start off with the 3% figure which is a good figure let's not complain about that, that's a really good figure. What you miss off there is why because it's going to the incinerator. Now we all remember the incinerator because I can remember Members on that side saying how, opposing it strongly, and saying over their dead body would the incinerator be built. Now the person who said that not's with us

(Laughing and background talking)

Which perhaps which perhaps I ought to qualify in that he is no longer a member of Council and I hope, I hope his daughter will pass on my best wishes to him and then you go on to mention the free green bin service and you've said twice, three times today and it's almost as though you're saying to us aren't you lucky because we could take this away from you but actually the green waste bin, the brown waste bin sorry is the one that causes the most problems for our wards and we had problems last year and the beginning of this year I sent an email to Councillor Rafique saying have we got it sorted out, yes he said no problem, well first bin collection missed, second collection missed, when it got to the third collection being missed the residents got a bit upset so again I sent an email and we got the send it to an officer and we'll sort it out. We've still got that long series of actually been ventures not picking a thing up.

You talk in the second paragraph about recycling which we all support, we all support. Ironically of course recycling under your administration and your guidance has gone down in this city not up and then well you welcome in the strategy. I don't think we really (inaudible) the strategy. We move down the bottom and we talk about the the dig at the Government. Actually we're not going to do anything unless the Government come forward with a proposal. Actually this is our responsibility there are lots of things we can do. Quite frankly if you had done as you promised on at least five occasions to rationalise the bin routes we would have £5/6m to spend on improving the service, you totally failed to do that.

I notice actually I've just remembered it as a reference to food waste and about preparing for, well you tell me how long the pilot's been running ...

(Background talk)

For ten years but we're preparing. Now for three budget meetings the Liberal Democrats have identified how the Council could do that at no extra cost and so I sort of expect we might do it next year but we maybe, we maybe your ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thunder may be stolen. Sorry Lord Mayor. Your thunder may be stolen because the Labour Party has at last realised that actually that's a good idea. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor A Carter.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. The refuse collection is a basic collection, a basic service that our residents expect and its the most visible one that the Council provide. So Councillor Rafique I'm going to throw the book at you and that book is Stig of the Dump.

(Laughter)

The 1%, (inaudible), the 1% that you refer to is a little bit misleading. It's regarding the collection which is, most people will regard a collection as collected on that day and you are referring to a 48 hour collection so if their bin is missed then rightly so the refuse people come and collect it the day after but that is not what people regard as not a missed bin collection, our residents regard that as missing. The figures speak for themselves as referred to earlier Calverley and Farsley are top of the missed bin collections with 102 streets, that's streets not properties missed between 22nd August and the 7th of September alone and I can tell you that it's been missing all summer. There's been collections not being collected all summer and we've had a lot of complaints and the reports back it just says it's failure, route failure, the mystical word route failure, we rarely know what that means.

My Lord Mayor we can all understand that occasionally there is a route failure, there's an obstruction or a wagon breaks down or something like that but not 102 streets in a 16 day period. These figures are unacceptably high and these missed collections are just not on. So what about a back up plan, there doesn't appear to be one. Why is there not a proper back up plan to collect the rubbish that has been left of the so called victim of route failure. We're told leave the bins out for another day and the bin wagon will collect them we are told. We do report back to residents and say this is the advice that we've been given leave it out then we're confronted with a shower of emails, phone calls and messages on social media reporting that bins haven't been collected.

By now the streets are littered with bins and refuse people with wheelchairs and pushchairs can't get past, the cats and dogs and the rats are in there and the bins are really starting to stink with the heat of the summer. So you can imagine the level of frustration felt by residents in my ward over the missed bin collections this summer. The blame lies with the management not with the bin men it's like something out of a Mr Bean movie and frankly you couldn't make this rubbish up.
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll be speaking on the amendment tabled by Councillor Rafique which I urge all colleagues to support. I think it's absolutely right to highlight the successes this administration has had over the past nine years on waste following the disastrous record of the previous administration ending in the three month bin strike of, yes, 2009 I remember it.

Lord Mayor this Council is in the minority across the whole of the UK in continuing to offer free garden waste collections despite the cuts we receive year on year from your Government. Arron District Council down in West Sussex charges £86 a year for garden waste collections, Leeds doesn't charge a penny. As the amendment points out less than 3% of Leeds domestic waste is sent to landfill what it doesn't mention is that the remaining 97% powers our district heating network further reducing our carbon footprint. I note there's a

commitment in our Interim Waste Strategy to invest and expand on this success and I for one welcome it.

I also welcome the commitment to expand food waste collections. This is something that the Government is apparently keen on so I hope to see them provide proper funding to us all and to all other Councils. Food waste isn't the only type of waste we're taking action on to encourage more recycling. We've got 700 glass bottle banks across Leeds for a start, we've more household waste sites.

Excuse me can you listen.

(Laughter)

We've more household waste sites than any other UK city and we don't charge for more than 94% of waste taken to them. We're also taking action on textile waste which we know is amongst the worst kinds of waste in terms of its carbon and climate change impact so we've introduced drop off banks at our waste recycling sites for textile waste. We encourage people to donate textile waste to the revived charity shops and our Leeds by Example campaign which has doubled the rate of recycling in the city centre, encourages reducing, reusing and recycling through Leeds Clothing Exchange events. Lord Mayor I am surprised that Members on the opposite benches have the nerve to criticise this administration ...

(Laughter)

At all that their given record introduces, includes a three month period where collections really did break down and the Council had to spend a million on temporary workers. I remain hopeful that they will realise what Leeds needs is a proper funding settlement from their Government and will join in voting for Councillor Rafique's amendment. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I am speaking in support of Councillor Wadsworth's White Paper I would like to echo Councillor Wadsworth's call for a more ambitious waste strategy, one that responds to our residents who are keen to recycle more and one which fully contributes to tackling the climate emergency. What we have seen so far from the administration has not lived up to our ambitions in this area and I would like to join in the call for them to bring forward more detailed plans. One of the most important elements of Councillor Wadsworth's motion for me as a local Councillor is of course the sections that highlight performance on bin collections. As I think we all accept bin collections are a vital service and many residents actually form their opinion of their local Council in part by how well it does the basics like keeping our streets clean and collecting our bins. Whilst no one would expect a perfect record of collections and I think residents understand that occasional problems do occur I

also think it's fair to say that the collection failure rate over this summer has been particularly disappointing. According to the end of day reports we have seen for Pudsey just for the most recent two week period 78 streets suffered from missed bin collections. Those missed streets represent a significant number of residents left inconvenienced and disillusioned with a key council service. Rubbish having been left to pile up on hot summer days creating a public health it concerns us all. I wonder how many Councillors in this room are prepared to put their hand up to say they have not received a complaint from their residents over the summer. I think we can all say that the majority of us have. The level of disruption experienced in recent weeks suggests that there is a bigger systemic problem and crucially this has been made worse by the failure of recovery as well raising serious questions about the adequacy and resilience of the Council's backup plan.

What makes matters worse is that for, is the reasons for these missed bin collections are unclear as we've heard previously. As Councillors the quality of information we receive often provides scant detail about what has gone wrong. The most common reason for a missed collection in Pudsey simply listed as route failure this accounted for 54 of the 78 missed streets over the same two week period.

My Lord Mayor I think you'll agree telling a resident that there has been a route failure tells them very little about the reason their having to wait even longer to have their rubbish collected.

My Lord Mayor in these circumstances I think it is entirely reasonable to ask for an explanation for why bin collections were so poor this summer and what is being done to respond to the concerns of many residents in my ward and indeed across the city. My Lord Mayor I would urge members to support Councillor Wadsworth's White Paper. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm rising to speak in support of Councillor Rafique and the Labour Group's amendment in doing so I wish to make three very quick points which I hope will shed some illumination on this debate.

First of all I just want to turn to the Government's Waste Review which it was launched for the consultation earlier this year and I think it is worth reminding Members that Michael Gove at the time said that councils needed more money from Central Government in order to improve the amount of materials that were collected. Just to re-emphasise that a Conservative Cabinet Minister accepted cuts had gone too far and said we all needed more money. Where is that money and my message to the Conservative Group is your Government need to show us the money so we can do this, your Minister's saying we we need it and at the moment, and at the moment it's on the long list of things like the Adult Social Care Green Paper that we are waiting for from Central Government which makes the idea that MP's have had a five-week, a five week enforced holiday when they

should be getting on with things like that that make a difference to people's lives it really shows that they need to get their act together down there.

The second point I would like to make and I've had a little scan around the country to see what else is going on and in Conservative control Solihull the number of missed bins has gone up by almost double, in Conservative controlled Torbay bins have been left empty and crawling with maggots and in Conservative controlled Essex they've been so lax at collecting bins that seagulls are scavenging in the bins and attacking people in the streets. This goes to show, this goes to show that austerity cuts, this goes to show that austerity cuts make a difference. The hundreds of millions that the Tories and Lib Dems have taken out waste collections makes a difference and we want that money back.

On my final point I think it's worth, because there's lots of members around the Council Chamber that weren't Councillors here in October 2009 and I think it's worth just as an education for many Members here to understand exactly what it was when we listen to the Tories and Lib Dems talking about reorganising collection services. Exactly what it was they planned last time they did it. They took a workforce whose average salaries are around £18,000 a year and said they should come to work and do exactly the same work but you're going to earn £5,000 a year less that's what the Conservative, when a Conservative talks about efficiencies, when the Lib Dems talk about efficiency that's what they mean we saw what they did last time they were in charge of this Council and believe me if they got the chance they would do it again. Let's not forget that the Lib Dem, sorry I listened to you when you were speaking, when the Lib Dem, when the Lib Dem, when the Lib Dem, I'm getting heckled by my own side here.

(Laughter)

Let's not forget that the Lib Dem and the Lib Dem portfolio holder at the time thought that staff earning £18,000 a year coming to work for the same money was an unreasonable demand and they were well paid staff and that's why we had an eleven week bin strike for the first four weeks they refused to negotiate because they thought they were right and everybody else is wrong.

I'm speaking in support of our amendment we will do what we can, we need that money from the Government they've taken £1.5b away from us since the Tories and Liberals came into power in 2010, even Michael Gove says that we need more of that money back to provide the refuse collection services we need. The message to the Government is show us the money and the message from our workers we're getting on with what we can but we're let down by a Government that frankly needs to put money back into local services to give people the services they deserve. Support the Labour Group White Paper.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call on Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR: Follow that.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Follow that, follow that rubbish that he talks.

(Applause and laughter)

Exactly, exactly. I mean the issue here is, I mean the strategy side of things you could make the strategy and then work out to implement it. You don't even have a proper strategy yet so it just needs some leadership, Councillor Rafique, and that's my real point of bringing this but officers seem to be going along on their own little tracks and aren't led by anyone and your job is to lead them with political leadership and I just think you've failed to do that at the moment and I just think you need to sort of get a grip.

Moving on to what I was going to say just before I broke off is that you know customers, the Council tax payer, the two things they expect most from the Council is street lights put on and bins emptied and it's a core service that we're not doing and I'm not really surprised that Councillor Ragan's quite happy with it because you've only had 18 failures according to, comparing Calverley and Farsley have had 105 so ...

(Background shouting)

I don't really, I'm not surprised that you're quite happy about the service and the people in Ardsley and Robin ...

(Background shouting)

The Councillors in Ardsley and Robin Hood must be jumping for joy because they've only had 1 compared with Calverley and Farsley's 105 and it's just this lack of ambition with the collection. I mean we could be trialling electric bin vehicles, Sheffield are doing it but we are failing to do it. I would have thought a climate emergency would have, would have sorted that out and the other thing is regarding record keeping you know we've heard around the Council Chamber that people have had various things happen which don't seem to tie up with what they get on the paperwork. You know the end of day reports don't always tie up with what's happening. My own personal bin that was missed has never appeared on an end of day report, that street has never appeared there and they don't seem to know that street exists and if that happens to me it must happen to many other people as well and you've talked about the brown bin service been the worst, it's not actually the worst because if you look at the figures the brown bin service had 152 streets failed, the black had 477 streets failed so you're not really getting your own information correct. It's the black bins that are failing more than the browns. Don't point at me it's what's written down here.

(Background talking)

Pardon.

(Background talking)

I can't hear what your saying and why has it, you've failed to explain why it's happened on the last few months and as you heard from the Lib Dems if you'd implemented the route rationalisation you could have had £6m to do something with and you just failed to do that. I can't understand why you want more money so introduce the rationalisation. I understand that you're ready to go with the brown but can't make your mind up when to actually go with it. I've actually told you officers when to go with it when you start the new collection that's when you would go with it but they're not too sure about that but that's again they need leadership. You've got to lead them if they won't lead you. (Inaudible) with you'll get the money won't you. So it's really what happens next really I mean the Lib Dems amendment we don't have any problem with that but I think it's down to we're realists and you go a bit too far with yours trying to actually get them to do something and ...

(Laughter and applause)

You want actual action which I want action but I'm not sure we're going to get any action out of the service the officers unless we get political leadership from the Exec Member and so I move my White Paper.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we're going to vote. First we are going to vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Bentley. (*A vote was taken*). That's LOST.

Second we'll go in the amendment of Councillor Rafique. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

now we are going to go in the substantive motion for Councillor Rafique. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

(Applause)

ITEM 15 – WHITE PAPER MOTION –TREE PLANTING

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 15 White Paper. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm hoping that this can be relatively non partisan and first of all I will say to the likes of Councillor Heselwood as was reported in the Yorkshire Evening Post very very kindly when I wrote a piece on trees it says we need a tree revolution and what I'm hoping today is that we're going to recruit some arboreal comrades to achieve it. There we go Councillor Heselwood.

Now one of the reasons why we've brought it forward of course is we have signed up to the climate change emergency. One of the points about a climate change emergency is there is meant to be some kind of urgency to your actions because you want to avoid an emergency don't you and unfortunately so far after

we've declared our climate change emergency we haven't actually had a chance in the formal Council agenda to actually discuss progress so far as a full Council and as one of the opposition groups we thought we would bring at least one suggestion forward that the Council could actually think yes we can really get behind this and we can take it back to all of the communities that we represent in the wider Leeds area.

Lord Mayor when we're talking about the climate change emergency sometimes it can concentrate on how much money we've got to invest in things and it can involve what are we going to do technologically to make things different so there's been a lot of emphasis for instance on the introduction of electric cars in our city. The thing is we can't always wait for the scientists to actually get us out of a mess and sometimes we need to rely on technology which is tried and tested and is created by mother nature and trees are a really effective way of tackling climate change. The issue for us as a Council is that they don't give back immediately and to invest in our trees is a long term return and we need to start right now.

Lord Mayor trees are great primarily because in the climate change agenda they, as we've seen today in the discussion earlier, they can help avoid flooding, the tree canopy that trees offer means that we physically reduce our air temperatures, they act as the most effective carbon storage items that we can find also of course while they are growing they absorb carbon from the atmosphere so, and at the end of the day as well their leaves actually collect particulates in our air which are pollutants so overall what's bad about them. Now thankfully for us Leeds University have done a study and people will know that I often am very cynical about the Council when it goes into partnerships with our universities to actually do a study on something because generally it means that the Council wants to delay doing anything and they'd just rather study something until they're ready to actually think about action. On this one it's quite simple and the conclusions that they've come to can tell us what we need to do right away and they came up with four recommendations after they studied the benefits of the trees that were in the Leeds campus and the first one basically was plant long lived large canopy tree species where possible. This is because what they found out that although they only accounted for by 11% of the trees within their footprint they actually delivered over a third of the carbon benefits so older trees mean a lot, they are of greater value and it's one of the things we need to take on board when we're thinking about how we invest in our woodland and how we think about re-greening some areas that don't have it.

The second recommendation they have is that we should increase tree canopy cover to at least 20%. This is one of the things that we can take on straight away, we were talking earlier about the Core Strategy. We can actually try and introduce policies like this to say actually if you're going to build in Leeds this is what we expect. We expect a tree in every single garden, that kind of idea.

Also the third recommendation was planned for the loss of trees through disease such as ash dieback. What they're basically saying is there is please plan, plan for how many trees you want to have in the city we need to actually do the study to make sure we understand what it looks like to deliver the right number of

trees that we need to offset for the targets that we've set because as we've seen earlier if we wait for the Government to deliver on things like HS2 as part of our Carbon Reduction Strategy we're going to be waiting a very long time and if we're going to enable our individual citizens to offset some of the carbon which they haven't got the chance to do alternative things for, so for instance not everyone can afford a new electric car then actually we need to actually plan for offsetting ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: With our trees ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor I'll leave it till I sum up later on.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley to second.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: No.

(Background talking)

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

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to Councillor Bentley for seconding the White Paper there. I'm really pleased that the Lib Dems have come round to the Green Revolution into the tree planting party here because for a long time I've been saying in my own ward that we need to do far more to plant trees and protect our environment and Councillor Golton there listed a string of things that trees can do around carbon capture and particulates and improving the environment. There's two other things that they're great for. One of them is they provide natural habitats for wildlife which is something that we need to make sure we, need to make sure we have habitats across this city but there also excellent for wellbeing. When people see trees they feel better and that's just not that they feel better physically but they feel better mentally as well and we should be having aspirations where in this city nobody is more than five minutes walk away from a small woodland or ten minutes drive away from a rather large woodland and that they can go out and enjoy woodland spaces and they can enjoy trees in this city.

Now I thank this Conservative Group as well for allowing me to move this amendment because while it's not a large amendment what it does is it puts some real targets in place and having the twenty for one policy in means that there is so

much more that this Council can do to show that it's not just a local leader surrounding the northern forest and the environment but it's actually a national leader and really making the running for other councils to join us in a green revolution. What twenty for one will do is that it will not only mean that we are planting more trees than we're currently doing at the moment but it will mean we're planting more trees than we do at the moment and more trees than we're taking out. It will mean that we are in the best shape long term to actually hit a 2030 target for being a carbon neutral city and there are many studies that are going on at the moment and Councillor Golton mentioned one that Leeds University have done, there's the i-tree eco survey that's been done. It's not been done just by Leeds University it's been done by a ward in this city, two actually, the i-tree eco survey it's been done in Middleton Park ward as Councillor Truswell is nodding and Councillor Blake will know and I think this is an absolutely excellent policy but if it's good enough for Middleton Park ward it's good enough for the Harewood ward and it's good enough for the other 31 wards in this city as well and we should have an ambition to roll out the i-tree eco survey across the city because what it does is it doesn't just show where every tree is but it actually shows what that tree is, how much longer life that tree has in it and it shows just how much carbon is being captured in each and every single tree in this city and if we're really going to take a green revolution seriously we need to make sure that we have the data to back it up too.

Now the Woodland Trust has suggested that we would need a threefold increase in our tree planting, a twenty for one strategy goes far beyond that and it actually means that we have a margin for error and a buffer in place to allow us to plan more seriously, more regularly going into the future and the tree strategy isn't just about planting woodland its about planting urban trees too and increasing our canopy cover.

So I hope that all Members in this Chamber will vote for the amended White Paper it doesn't seem to be controversial what it seeks to do is show that this Council has the leadership and the political will to launch this green revolution to improve wellbeing for everybody in this city and the hope is that we will not just plonk trees for now but we can have a policy where we have a tree planted for every single person in this city going into the future. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. We are actually saying very similar things here, it should be an all party more or less an all party agreement. When I first read the Lib Dem paper and it was headed tree planting I thought well that sounds a little bit flat and uninspiring but it shouldn't do because as Councillor Golton then rightly said and then Councillor Robinson developed, this is all about embracing woodland and it's just, it's far more than tree planting it's the whole concept and our concept as Councillor Robinson has just said is to embrace the Northern Forest plan and this stretches from Liverpool to Hull with the Leeds city region right at the heart of it we're right in the middle all as set out or as he has said by the Woodland Trust and also this commitment to

twenty trees to be planted for every tree which is lost is a very crucial thing because it sets a high ambitious target and also planting not just to be doubled in this period but also to be multiplied by a factor of whatever can be actually achieved and the twenty for one has actually been embraced by other Councils, we would not be the first one to do that.

Now the climate debate, and this was my point about this phrase tree planting in the first place, has often been about people and authorities and us actually saying to people 'oh you can't do something' so you can't drive a diesel car, you soon can't be able to drive a petrol car, in a few years'time you can't fly with all the controversy about the airport, you can't use plastic glasses, you can't go on holiday and I think eventually people feel a little bit depressed by this and a little bit oppressed by it and this concept of the Northern Forest and planting woodland is a way of making people feel more enthusiastic about the whole thing, getting hold of it and feeling as if it's their plan, something which they can embrace. The department here locally, Forestry, is under manned isn't it, it's understaffed, its under resourced and must be beefed up in order to deal with this whole new set of priorities. Just talking about finance rural landowners who are potentially able to offer some land can already receive £7,000 per hectare from the Government and there is also a new two year £10m fund to plant 130,000 urban trees and scientists in Switzerland interestingly have just said, quotes tree restoration is the most effective climate change solution to date. So let's go for this reduce CO², greatly assist in the fight against flooding and beginning immediately to plant thousands of trees across the city and drive forward this Northern Forest initiative. Create woodland around new developments in the future and potentially where we have had encroaching on the green belt you could actually have a concept of an outer woodland belt which would almost act as a kind of a woodland maginot line so that would be the end of that. So and let's have the twenty for one initiative and a levy through the CIL to fund more planting for example around the ELaw Project and other areas in the city. So let's get hold of this Lord Mayor something people can really feel part of and a positive thing and improve the climate. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. That seemed to me to me like a very glass half empty view of the world rather than a glass half full and I'd like to just give you a more positive depiction of what's happening here. In March this year we declared a climate emergency because the Council is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and mitigating its impact on the environment, not only that but we're also raising awareness, working with citizens, businesses, public and third sector in Leeds to support them to make changes to tackle climate change too. We pushed past our emissions reduction pledge after achieving a 30% reduction in carbon emissions three years early and planted 80,000 trees in the last five years before we committed to tackling the climate emergency in March this year. Increasing tree coverage is crucial to addressing climate change as well as providing a wide range of additional benefits to people, wildlife communities, trees store carbon as biomass, they help to mitigate climate

change, they reduce the risk of flooding, they reduce soil erosion and provide a vital habitat for birds, plants and animal life. They improve air quality limit, the impact of heatwaves, encourage people to undertake physical activity and reduce depression. We're focusing on planting larger tree species here in Leeds that grow to full maturity to create a larger canopy they can provide even greater benefits. Like all parts of the Council our Parks and Countryside officers have a key role to play in this and other critical work we're doing to combat climate change and they plan to build on the work we are already doing to meet our targets. They include a small forestry team that are stretched because of the significant and ongoing funding, Government funding cuts this Council's suffered over the last nine years of austerity policies that came first under a Tory/Lib Dem coalition and then under successive Tory Governments of Cameron, May and Johnson. The Director of Trees, Science and Research at the Tree Council has stated that improving management of existing woodland could maximise their ability to store and capture carbon and be a key part of any plans to increase tree numbers or canopy cover. The role then of our Council parks teams in supporting the management and expansion of woodland is an important one and crucially one that we need to be better resourced by Central Government to provide.

In the meantime we're working alongside community groups across the city to support them to make change. In my own ward of Ardsley and Robin Hood we have four community orchards that have been planted over the last twenty years or so providing free access to seasonal fruit for communities and much appreciated public open space. These range from a millennium project developed by our Learning Disabilities Team at the time to a community orchard we planted in the freezing fog about seven years ago alongside Robin Hood Residents Association. There are grants available to support such groups to develop schemes like this in other areas. We need community volunteers to work alongside our Parks and Countryside officers to deliver and help to maintain such schemes.

I know that Councillor Garthwaite is intending to speak in more detail about the wonderful community work that is happening across the city but I just wanted to include my thanks at this point to the many groups making a difference in my ward and in other parts of the city already. The Council has an important role to play in leading on this agenda but we cannot deliver the tree planting needed across this city alone, I'd urge people, schools, communities and businesses who wants to help us tackle the climate emergency to look into the different grants that are available and to work with us to develop those schemes. There are Government schemes to support farmers to develop new woodland, there's the Urban Tree Challenge fund, Woodland Trust grants and funding to plant trees on private land and farms. The Tree Council offers help for trees for schools, community trees, and orchard windfalls and the Forestry Commission offers funding support planting new woodland.

We are working with the Woodland Trust to plant a tree for every school pupil in Leeds in addition to our backing for the Northern Forest that's been referred to earlier and we're also exploring how we might promote and support tree planting in other parts of the world by enabling council staff to choose default web browsers that support tree planting across the world in areas where vital

habitats are being lost to cattle ranching, palm oils and soyabean production, mining and not to mention losses due to forest fires.

On that final note we can all make a difference by ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Changing our diets and the products we buy to take pressure off the land that houses our forests globally. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I'm pleased to second this amendment and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor D Blackburn

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I think there is a lot of similar views from all of us but the problem is is that we're not delivering. If you try and do something with trees in our wards it takes forever. I've been working with the Housing Department and Parks on a project, not for many trees but it has took forever ever. Obviously you've got to plant them at the right time in a year but the fact is it takes too long and that's what needs moving. I think Councillor Golton's motion brings that forward, that what we need to do is we need to invest in our people so that we've got people there who can plant them if necessary and look after them and make sure they grow to their full height and that's not happening.

When we have planning applications coming to Planning Committee and we have to take trees out and similarly we're talking about that twenty for one trees, we figured there that you've got to replace so many trees if you take them out. But how long does it take between us taking that tree out and putting the other trees in, it's a backlog right. Some of that's not in our power because we've got to get it on private land and you are right there but first of all we've got to put our own house in order and move it along.

I'll be supporting Councillor Golton's motion but as I say the the ambition from the administration I appreciate but we've got to get on with it, we've got to do something and and I agree what we've got to do is encourage private landowners to also do it which is working on a project where we trying to persuade a landowner to do that very thing with a piece of land that their not using. But as I said we have got to do it ourselves we've got to make sure, we can't just hang about and put it off until tomorrow, kick can down road, we've got to do it now and other than trees, I mean we need to look after our hedgerows because that is useful for taking carbon as trees are and we're taking them out, we should be putting them in not taking them out so as I say I'm supporting Councillor Golton's motion. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've remembered what I was going to say now.

(Laughter)

It will be, it won't be much. It's interesting about urban trees that Councillor Robinson mentioned we often talk about the leafy suburbs and Weetwood is often accused of being a leafy suburb as if that something special and elitist and we don't talk about the leafy inner city and if you go to London which I'm sure many of you go and go to some of the most deprived areas, some of the areas of most high intensity you will often see trees in the street. London plane trees, the clues in the name, and they were planted probably beginning of the 20th century, early 20th century because even then people understood what having green lung in an area where there was little wellbeing acumen and some very visionary politicians saw that and did that and people are still benefitting from that now and we want to, we need to repeat that sort of exercise. It's not about the leafy suburbs it's about the leafy inner city, leafy everywhere. A leafy urban city that we need and part of that is about management and it's about having an overall policy that the Council can sign up to that we don't lose sight of that and it's about everybody, it's about the joined up piece so that if you look at highways, a Highway's scheme is always going to take out trees. I thank Councillor Mulherin because I think we've saved 49 trees at the Lawnswood roundabout thanks to her intervention but had those trees being taken out the justification was from the highway scheme oh well we'll replace them with times of multiple or whatever but they'll be somewhere else. Well the point about a highway scheme on the Ring Road and the A660 next to a school was the trees were doing good there, they were absorbing the pollution, absorbing the carbon, they were needed where they were so simply to say we'll take those out and replace them somewhere else it is not good enough so we've got to, we've got to have that.

Planning is another area. How many times, I don't know whether other Members are like this, but how many times do we get calls from residents saying 'oh my next door neighbours just chopped down his tree can he do that'. Well unfortunately unless there's a TPO on it or unless it's in a conservation area people can. I've had residents who you know chop down six seven trees, taken the hedgerow out, built a fence and said oh isn't this nice now concreted over the lawn and they can do that so we've got to get, our planning policies have got to be able to address that as well so that people can't do that.

And parks management, trees management within parks you know it is under manned and it is a community resource but we've got to get better on that and it's not just a question of money it's a question of management, ownership again it comes down to political leadership and we've got to get a grip of that. We've lost about six street trees in Meanwood, in Weetwood and not one of them has been replaced even though Parks and Countryside say oh yes it will get replaced in time but we can't afford it etc etc. So we've got to have a policy that

says this is what we're going to do so obviously I am seconding now the White Paper in the name of Councillor Golton, we'll be supporting Councillor Robinson's amendment and I commend it to everyone. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garthwaite.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: Lovely thank you. Now I love trees I think anyone who is familiar with City Plans Panel will know that I'm second only to Councillor Nash in interrogating developers on their plans for planting trees, where, what, how and are they the right ones in the right place, I'm constantly on about this and I also agree that greening the City is vital and absolutely key and trees and shrubs are key to this and we need to plant more. The problem is of course this costs money.

Councillor Golton said that the Forestry Section is under resourced and this is quite true they spend a lot of time dealing with the health and safety aspects of trees in our different wards and I think every one will know that and people draw our attention to it so we all know that we're battling austerity and I won't go on about that too much but whenever we want to grow a service or deliver more this is a problem, this is how the Council looks.

The amount of tree cover we need in Leeds and the whole country is huge and although the Chancellor's recently announced we're turning the page on austerity I don't know quite what this is going to mean I'm not optimistic as this bumper spending package looks to restore just 15% of non health area cuts but still we've got to carry on, we've got to reverse the horrors that were committed to this city in the sixties and seventies. We all know what they were we have to act and the good news is that we are doing that it's not all doom and gloom. Tree planting involves Parks and Countryside staff and Rangers with lots of help and resources from enthusiastic volunteer groups as Councillor Mulherin and others pointed out. For example Woodhouse Ridge Action Group in my ward does fantastic work and this is echoed all over. We have lots of friends of and other groups who are eager to use their time and energy to plant the trees we need to achieve our 2030 carbon neutral target and this is really important because there are funds out there that are unavailable to Local Authorities, they need to be applying for them we can all help and many of us do help and support groups to access these funds. For example the Friends of Beckett Park have just secured trust funds to plant two thousand tree's but they'll need the support and the expertise of Parks and Countryside staff to do this, you know not every volunteer, Friends of Group is a tree expert we all need to work together and the same is true when the private sector get involved. They need to be working with us, corporate teams may come in to help a Friends of Group and that is fantastic but they need proper expert supervision not to make a great mess of things. The partnership is absolutely key. Recently a Leeds hotel employee, herself a member of the Leeds Parks and Green Space Forum which I commend to you all worked with the hotel and with Parks and Countryside staff to develop a Woodland Trail behind that hotel. This is the sort of partnership that we're really supporting at the moment and we all must work together. We do however need

more money as I said at the start from Government in order to achieve what we all I think really want to see in this city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. It seems actually that we're all singing off the same song sheet and we're not necessarily quite in tune and I think we all know what we should be doing, it's one of those times within a Council where every member of Council knows what we should be doing and I'm slightly depressed because if I look at the alternative ways to achieve what we want, Stewart's put forward a proposal which was in fact we should beef up our Forestry department because their the Council department which can best help both the Council departments and the wider community.

Matthew's come up with a really innovative scheme and I commend him for that for saying to developers if you take out a tree as part of your development there has to be a replacement of twenty. Actually we have a Planning Policy in parts of the city where if you take out a tree we're suppose to plant three more and I have to say to you I can only think of a couple of occasions when that's actually ever happened.

And then Lisa's point about explaining at length what a number of organisations are doing within the city to improve tree cover and then she as everybody else on that side then goes on to say but we need more money from Government. She says that and then proceeds to give us a long list of all sorts of other organisations who are quite happy to fund tree planting.

We either want to do it or we don't want to do it in my opinion and Councillor Walshaw was saying earlier on we've only got what twelve years to go. Trees don't grow much in twelve years but at least we could make a start, if we don't make a start now we have to run a lot quicker to catch up and it seems to me that there are a number of very simple things we could do, actually things that wouldn't cost us as a Council much money but we go back to a point we made earlier it's a matter of priority. If our priority, if our priority is to get down the carbon footprint of the city we have to plant a lot more trees. Not just the Council, everybody. Either we want to do that or we don't want to do that. We've come forward with two positive suggestions about how we can move that agenda forward. I haven't had a positive suggestion from the other side which is depressing because I know if I sit on Plans Panel that Members opposite are very keen on the green agenda but once we get in Plans Panels they say all sorts of things and Councillor Garthwaite I agree with you you are a vocal champion of trees but once we get in here it seems to change slightly.

Now either for a very little outlay we can improve the situation dramatically, we can change our planning policies to help make developers contribute towards that or we can continue saying we can't do anything because the Government won't pay for it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you thank you Lord Mayor. At least we are doing some fantastic work around increased tree coverage and planting and I think it goes without saying that the benefits it brings to, of tree coverage and planting to our environment and our health. The current tree canopy of Leeds is estimated at 70% or around 9,500 hectares out of the 551 square km that represent a metropolitan boundary. In comparison there are 4,000 hectares of public accessible parks and green space in the city of which 2,500 hectares is already woodland or semi natural habitat. We are constantly seeking out new areas of tree planting and the creation of new woodland. For example the innovative natural flood management views as part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme are seeing approximately 40,000 new trees planted with ambition to plant even more.

It's been really welcome to see volunteers getting involved in the planting of these trees as well as officers as partners. This scheme is a great example of the multi benefits trees have helping with carbon capture, flood defence, providing ecological and wildlife habitat. Just on the volunteer involvement there is actually, what Councillor Mulherin was saying earlier, there is actually funding available for those volunteer groups but the problem is somebody needs to help them and we need the funding and the capacity to work with us and that's what we need you know and unfortunately we don't have the capacity because of the lack of funding as a result of the funding cuts. So although the tree cover is important the unnatural flood management scheme will bring, sorry the National Flood managers will bring up a whole range of other ecological benefits, we will work with partners and landowners to deliver a range of measures on top of the creation of new woodland including woody debris at dams and wetland areas. However although we are making progress in this field we'll still need Government to fund the whole defence for defence schemes so it can be implemented in full.

We now have a leadership role to play in pushing forward of tree planting but we must remember that given the size of Leeds Metropolitan District and the fact that so much land is in private ownership it's clear that national Government must find ways to encourage farmers and other landowners to make additional and available for tree and woodland planting to increase our tree canopy's.

Although there are grants available we need to see the Government shouting about them more and help convincing people who may be on the fence about the benefits that trees bring to our environment and to our health. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to begin with an apology Lord Mayor because I wasn't in my place earlier when I was

referenced by Councillor Pryor so apologies in true machiavellian style whilst I was being talked about I was outside the room. I'm sure Councillor Pryor knows all too well that famous machiavellian quote it's best to be feared than be loved if you can't be both. I'm not sure which which of those I've adorned so far I must have to work harder for his affections in future.

We were discussing in this corner here Lord Mayor on the issues of trees earlier about what we think of our amendments to put forward, what should be done. Councillor Lamb suggested that we need a root and branch reform of the whole system.

(Background groaning)

There we are. Councillor Robinson suggested we need to get to the root cause of it but I thought were all barking up the wrong tree. I want to turn over a new leaf so right I want to talk very briefly about issues in our ward and what we're doing and why I support Council Robinson's amendment and in fact the Lib Dem motion.

I chair the Emmerdale Stakeholder Panel in our area Outer North East and we get some money to invest in projects in the community and one thing we've just funded in conjunction with the Harewood Estate is the removal of some damaged trees along the estate walls of the Harewood Road and one condition that we put on that is that for every one tree, damaged tree removed there need to be planting up to twenty in replacement of them. So that's on a very local level how this policy can have effect but the real problem is when we do have planning applications come forward in our ward where we do have more trees it's a rural area and we try and impose these inconditions, there doesn't seem to be any back up in planning policy to be able to enforce it so it is really important that this goes in and I would suggest that given the protests we've had today from the Extinction Rebellion Group here in the Chamber and whilst they were playing sleeping lions outside earlier as well. It's important that actually we do back this amendment here and I would go so far as to suggest that any Member of Council here today who votes against Councillor Robinson's amendment is actually ignoring the fact that there is a climate emergency that this Council has voted for. It is not partisan its very sensible and I'm sure if any Member does votes against that there will see Extension Rebellion coming and lobbying them to ask why.

More broadly the idea of the Northern Forest is a really sterling piece of a ideas that's come from Government across the area and it's not just in the leafier areas like the Harewood ward where we've got the physical space and capacity to do it but in the inner cities as well. You know Councillor Bentley mentioned London earlier and it's sort of city of parks as well and it's known for that and they're great. You can't really say that about Leeds in terms of its provision and I do think that something that we can develop from the city aspect so it's not just the people who can afford to live in the leafier areas who are benefiting from the better environment it's the people who are forced some times to live in the inner city, are trapped in the inner city because they can't afford to out that we work very hard to improve their quality of wellbeing and health as well.

So fully in support of the motion from Councillor Robinson and the Lib Dem motion as well Lord Mayor and I shall end there. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Midgley. Could I remind Members that this is Councillor Midgley's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR MIDGLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's a pleasure to speak on this White Paper. Free coverage is increasingly known to be a critical part of tackling the climate emergency. We have all seen the horrifying images of the Amazon rainforest ablaze, the devastation caused and the loss of thousands of trees and whilst there are limits of what we can do there there should be no limits about what we can do here in Leeds. A Council is at the forefront of moves to use green engineering to address a raft of environmental issues helping to reduce flooding, improve air quality, encourage greater biodiversity and generally make our city a far more welcoming place to live and work.

Initiatives like our Green Streets policy for example insist that new trees and green spaces are included from the very start of new major transport systems across West Yorkshire. I'm proud of the Council's key role in the Northern Forest. Leeds is one of several northern cities working in partnership with the Woodland Trust. We should all applaud its ambition to plant an additional 50m trees across the north. An area home to over 30m people who with only 7.6% were good coverage much lower than the rest of England.

Through a joint Local Authority venture the White Rose Forest we are aiming to increase tree cover by a third in this part of Yorkshire. Whilst these welcomed initiatives help address yet another north south divide more importantly they will be crucial in helping to reduce the carbon levels in the future. However to cover these ambitious plans for the North we again see a desperate need for long and sustain funding. The proposed costs for this Northern Forest is estimated at £500m but we've only so far seen £5.7m just over 1% of what we actually need.

If we are able to deliver our commitment to tackling climate change we need Government funding to be increased and increased quickly. We need to see a Government also committed to the same carbon neutrality targets that we have here in Leeds. 2050 is far too late in the wake of the climate emergency we all face.

As a Council we are dedicated to tree planting across our city and the wider region and I look forward to the Council engaging even more with this critical agenda through our policies, our practices and working in partnership with other Local Authorities. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton to sum up.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. As you will recall I didn't get through my initial notes at the beginning of the meeting but going through the contributions from other Members I will hopefully sort that out.

Matthew Robinson a thoughtful response. Thanks very much and one of the things you did point out was that there is money available from Government. We can keep hearing that this Council is paralysed without a fresh injection of funding from the Government. There are several Local Authorities that have managed to encourage their private landowners within their area to take advantage of Government funding to plant trees. The the one that gets the highest performer has managed to deliver 12,674 trees per thousand population and just to give you an idea of that, Councillor Mulherin, you would need to deliver 9½m trees in Leeds to match the performance that that Local Authority has engaged through partnership with private land ownership and even if you go to one of the least, sorry the eighth of the worst performing, sorry the best performing they would be producing, you'll be producing two million if you were doing it at the same rate that they did. So Local Authorities can work with private partners to deliver tree planting.

Where are we now next one. Councillor Buckley, undermanned Forestry section and you mentioned the Private Incentive Scheme as well. Yes our Forestry section at the moment our Forestry section is sending out work which is three years old to private arboreal contractors because you haven't got the staff, because you have got the staff. We've advertised for new staff and you don't get any takers and one of the reasons why why you don't get any taker's is because you are paying below the market average. So your being out priced and this is familiar territory for us that worked in Children's Services for instance when you didn't pay our own Foster Carers enough and therefore we had to rely on the private sector and ended up paying through the nose as a consequence. So please take that into consideration.

There's a 50% vacancy factor at the moment in our tree team. They did want to take on apprentices and they got 31 applications to become apprentices to work within the Forestry section but you only allow them the money to take on two. Now if we are really serious about seeing trees as an integral part of our climate emergency response we really have to be serious about how this Council as an enabler for the wider community and actually needs to invest in that enablement. We've already had Al Garthwaite talking to us and saying oh well I had somebody who had a really good idea and she was encouraged to deliver it because a past Countryside Officer was able to engage with them. If you don't have enough of those officers then you can't make the engagement that you want to do.

One of the things you need to remember as well is, sorry I'm going to go back to the Speaker's now. David Blackburn we are not delivering just pointing out what I was saying.

Councillor Bentley we need to be leafy everywhere. One of the challenges as well for us as Councillors is if we are to get people to engage with trees it's not just about walking in the woodland it's about the trees on your street as well. We

need to have effective tree management so that people engage with trees and don't just see them as a nuisance. They see them as an asset and that once again is down to arboricultural expertise and capacity we need to invest in them. If we don't think that we can do anything on our own and everything has to wait for the Government to deliver why did you bother going for a 2030 target and not just accept the Government target of 2050 because to get to 2030 you've got to be better than the Government, you've got to have ambition of your own and I'm sorry but this is another example

(Background shouting)

Where the leadership ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Needed to deliver the capacity in Parks and Countryside ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: To deliver our ambitions is wanted.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we'll now vote on the White Paper. So amendment one in the name of Councillor Robinson.

(Background talking)

Why you let me get this far.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members have requested a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Robinson. Can you make sure you're in your allocated seats.

(Laughter and talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: At break you did.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I've been hear all the time. All Members should refer to the desk unit and press the button marked P, the lights will flash then press the plus button to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.
(*A vote was taken*).

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we've got 87 present. Yes 33, abstentions 0, no 54. That's been LOST.

Second amendment in the name of Councillor Mulherin. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

Now we are going to go in the ...

(Background talking)

Seconded, anyone second.

(Background talking)

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Could all Members ensure they're in their allocated seat. Members have requested a recorded vote on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Mulherin. 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 to vote against or the zero to abstain. *(A vote was taken)*.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn are you voting.

Present 88. Yes 54, abstains 7, no 27. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 16 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – ACTIVE TRAVEL

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to item 16 White Paper in the name of Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. I'm moving this White Paper because I want to champion the health benefits of active travel in Leeds and various ways to improve public health in the city and create health and that's part of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the wider determinants of health and I'm delighted as well and I want to highlight that one of our city's homegrown talents the double Olympic gold medal winning Alistair Brownlee has been named as Leeds first ever Active Travel Ambassador. He has ...

(Applause)

It's great news. It's wonderful news that he has pledged his support for our active travel campaign to try and get the key aim of the campaign is to try and encourage more people across Leeds to incorporate walking or cycling into their everyday routines and whether that's getting to work or school, just getting off the bus a stop earlier, meeting friends locally just generally travelling around the city not necessarily as an Olympic level cyclist but just inches every day and getting about. Now I'm really passionate about ensuring our city is the best city for health and well being and that's been raised today. A healthy city for all ages as outlined in our Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Priority number six out of twelve in the strategy makes a specific commitment to getting more people more physically active, more oxygen and encouraging active travel across Leeds will help drive this project forward as well as help with our air quality, climate change ambitions as well.

Being physically active is proven to have a major positive impact on the health and happiness of individuals. I do occasionally cycle into Leeds it does make you feel better for the day and trying you know but I'm a normal cyclist and I still have my difficulties getting up hills. But through moving more we can help to combat inactivity things like depression we improve our physical and mental health and general wellbeing and recover better from health problems as long as you don't push it too much up a hill and increase our resilience to other diseases and infections and have longer lives hopefully. In 2016 inactivity cost society approximately £7.4b per year which I'm sure we can all agree is not an insignificant sum of money and perhaps we could be spending that on something else in society.

We want Leeds to be the most active big city in the UK and this requires really wide ranging action across directorates and portfolios. Currently one in five adults in Leeds is physically inactive and that's 20% of people. Evidence shows inactivity is a causal factor in diseases like cancer obesity, heart disease, diabetes not to mention it can contribute to low mood and component of the mental health issues as well. In Leeds physical inactivity is our fourth largest cause of disease and disability and it's something we have the power to act upon by encouraging our residents to lead more active lives and through this campaign we hope to do that.

Part of it means making active travel the easiest option and best option, cheapest option wherever possible. In years gone by people had more physically demanding jobs often, they made fewer car journeys and they didn't have the technology and the internet that we have today which does contribute to lifestyle change. So we're more sedentary due to cultural technological changes and we have different demands on our lives as well.

For a lot of us we had to make a real conscious effort to be physically active and it can be very difficult to fit activity into our daily routines so it's really important we get the messages out there with people like Alistair Brownlee to try and encourage and remind people to stay active. So we want to encourage active travel and activity generally. We want to incorporate walking and cycling as a means of getting around, making it easier but investing in good infrastructure's really vital to this.

We have done this in Leeds and we are actively encouraging and facilitating the use of active modes of transport such as cycling and walking but there's always more we can do and if we had more money we could do even more. Engaging in physical activity can help prevent and relieve the eight long term health conditions such as unhealthy weight and you know we've seen some real benefits to the obesity in smaller children and we want to see those benefits extend across the life course of people here and we have a real commitment in Leeds to our left shifts about prevention and healthier lives.

So I'm moving this White Paper as it highlights our commitment to improving our public, the public health of our population. I'd really urge Council to wholeheartedly support this Administration's ambitions to improve public health

through initiatives like active travel campaign, I really hope you can support this White Paper. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor. Colleagues I am delighted to second this White Paper in the name of Councillor Charlwood as I believe champion the active travel agenda is both vital and socially responsible.

Alistair Brownlee and his brother Jonny are both incredible Ambassadors for Leeds as a city and has proved to be fantastic inspiring role models for the younger generation in particular. Alistair agreeing to be our first Active Travel Ambassador is something I am particularly pleased about. I know cycling is no longer the Cinderella of transport and there is a big sea change not only on the cycling down towpaths, greenways and in our communities. No longer is it just people belonging to cycling clubs and wearing Lycra which is fantastic.

(Laughter)

I'll probably regret saying that won't I. Active travel helping not just our physical but also our mental health it is so important to promote the message of Wellbeing by encouraging people to make healthy choices in respect of their travel. We are helping them to make healthier choices all round.

For children and young people this especially evident. The more offers of activity they undertake now the more likely they are to continue to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices. This is why we have some fantastic schemes throughout Leeds such as Scoot Skill and Bikeability and I know that Councillor Carlill is a Cycling Champion and is a District Chair at West Yorkshire Combined Authority for Leeds would be talking about these in depth and I really welcome the fact that you he's really embraced it for us. But it is also more about the impact of our health that we can see in terms of reducing obesity, it is also about the impacts of our environment. As everyone in the Chamber is aware we've declared a climate emergency as part of that we have committed to reducing our CO² emissions by 2030.

We are doing well when we compare ourselves to national figures from 1990 to present day. We have said we'd reduce carbon emissions by 48% compared to a national average of 39% but we have so much more to do. Transport accounts for 60% of emissions in the city so transport is the obvious place to start. We are creating a ring of Park and Ride centres which together with the £180m investment in improvements to public transport are intended to help double the number of people in and out of the city centre on buses. Leeds will also by 2020 have 284 ultra low emission buses. We haven't stopped there and at the Combined Authority working with partners like Leeds we are exploring hydrogen buses and gas buses. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority has also committed to providing cycle infrastructure both on and off road to build on the step change achieved through CityConnect.

Equally important is the educational programmes that accompany these improvements. These include training, access to bikes through grants and sharing schemes as well as promotional campaigns to encourage walking, cycling and using public transport to promote healthier, greener lives.

The connected communities element of the Leeds Public Transport investment is bringing forward some fantastic schemes that I know elected members have had sight of. I'm absolutely delighted that Burmantofts and Richmond Hill members will be going out to consult on a scheme that will make it easier for their residents to walk, cycle, use scooters, mobilities and it will really set a gold standard.

(Background talking)

I won't go into the Integrated Transport for Northern programme ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Alright I'll finish off. We all have a responsibility to safeguard not only our own health but the health of future generations and ultimately the health of our planet. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith. Could I also remind Members that this Council Forsaith's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you Lord Mayor and Council colleagues. I hope I speak for all of you here in echoing the sentiments expressed in this motion. Alistair Brownlee will be a great Ambassador for active travel in this city. Leeds is rightly proud to be the first city to reduce the rates of childhood obesity, but once a very significant way of sustaining this is to encourage active travel in our children's everyday lives. The school run is one of those day to day journeys that parents have to make, wouldn't be good if it really was a run. I realise it's challenging for families to make changes to choose active travel and that is why I have proposed this amendment for the Council to commit to doing whatever it can to encourage and enable families to make those changes. It's an inconvenient truth that the Industrial Revolution started here in Britain and based on the burning of fossil fuels has led to our climate crisis which is now a very real threat to our existence and of course it's the burning of fossil fuels that's led to the poor air quality referred to in this amendment.

It was Al Gore who used the term inconvenient truth and published his book, Our Choice, twenty years ago. The inconveniences of each and every one of us needs to consider how we live on this precious planet of ours and to make the significant changes needed to respond to this climate emergency. We can all make changes but as city leaders we have the power and I would argue the duty to encourage and enable others to do so. So perhaps we should be setting an example.

Many of my friends and colleagues including Councillors Ann and David Blackburn and I expect some of you are not car owners and are able to carry on effective and fulfilling lives and healthier ones using active travel and public transport. My carbon footprint is currently larger than many of the people I know despite low carbon choices I've tried to make over many years that's because I'm still a car owner, but I made a significant choice recently in buying an electric bike. I thought that I would never ride again but the feeling of liberation and knowing it's not adding to the air quality problems in our city is wonderful.

There's a hierarchy of transportation that puts pedestrians at the top, then cycles, then buses and single occupancy vehicles at the bottom. By the way electric cars are not really the answer here even if powered by renewable energy they do not provide the congestion reduction and health benefits of active travel. The hierarchy of transportation is a useful guide when making personal travel choices and in guiding our future cities of transport planning.

Active transport travel is slower and may be less convenient but is so much better for our children and ourselves in so many ways. There's an African proverb that says if you want go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far go together. We have far to go in tackling this climate crisis and our health and wellbeing challenges. Most importantly we must do the best for our children so let's do it together. We make choices all of the time I hope your choice is to support this amendment which is aimed at encouraging active travel in our children's everyday lives. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor D Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: I formally second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. In moving this amendment I think we can all agree that with the great majority of this White Paper motion so our amendment is not in any way intended as a criticism of the progress made in reducing child obesity. Some Councillors will recall that four or five years ago I made a speech here about this very subject and it was particularly concerned with the sugary drinks that we had on sale at the time in the hospitals just round the corner and they had a big bottle of green liquid, mountain something or other and I think most of that stuff has now been taken away. My wife and I walk a lot and I have a bike but I don't wear Lycra I have to say.

(Laughter)

Now in this decade long trend of improvement in the obesity figures which is great news, there's no doubt about it. This all began in, well it began with the pioneering Henry Scheme in, wait for it 2009 and the improvement has been carrying on more or less since then and the point is if this can be maintained it can rightly be seen as a tremendous achievement but the trick is to keep this going

and I'm sure we all on this side also wish Alistair Brownlee the greatest success in this role.

Now this is not, this is not a party political issue we all have a stake in supporting this progress and as we all know this is not just our problem, not here, not even in England, right across Europe, America the whole of the western world. It's just a pity that this obesity trend has not spread to the Australian cricketers yet.

Now cycling and walking are great at tackling obesity but in addition to that fact reducing costs on the NHS and especially things like, as has already been mentioned, strokes, heart attacks and particularly diabetes and maintaining high life expectancy which actually started to come off at peak didn't it and that has to be maintained.

Now this Group very much welcomes volunteers in cycling initiatives and we certainly welcome the £61b for infrastructure which has been committed nationally by the Government and we will just gently remind the administration that the £174m being spent at the moment across the city in infrastructure improvements has only been possible because the Government gave the city the money. Now we also should say that when we have improved all the roads in this way we do need to maintain them and to maintain the footpath as well and to maintain the cycleways and eventually Councillor Groves will tell me whether we're going to get our £4m back but she'll no doubt do that in her own time. But there is no bigger disincentive to cycling and walking than having potholes on the highway and on the footpaths so I think that also has to be a consideration as well and of course what would really get people out of their cars is a mass transit scheme not just coming into Leeds and out of the city towards West Yorkshire but within the city itself, so this is the key lesson ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Build on the improvements. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll be quick I know that's unusual but I will be quick. All of us we totally support and it's all welcome and the great work that's been done but I've been asked to make two points. One is the Inclusive Growth Culture and Sports Scrutiny Board about two or three years ago came up with a report on active lifestyles and this was unanimous and in that the Best Council Plan did recognise active lifestyles but they made a recommendation that this should be an obsession of the Council and they kept being told no. Now I don't know the reason why but maybe somebody can explain why the Council were saying no to this unanimous decision by the then Scrutiny Board because that would help an aid this even further and because that would reduce cancer, that would reduce dementia if people got involved in active

lifestyles and whilst talking about that another point that I've been asked to make and this is, I do speak as a pedestrian who does walk from my house in Cookridge down to the Civic Hall on a number of occasions and tries to negotiate Lawnswood roundabout. I am told by one of my colleagues who was at the Scrutiny Board on Infrastructure the other day that it's been announced that the money that was planned for Lawnswood has now been lost or at least that's what I've been told. So if that is the case can that be confirmed that that is the case and if it's not the case when can we get some proposals for how we're going to sort the cycling and pedestrian problems on the Lawnswood roundabout out because those of us in the North need that to help our communities and also to improve the way that we're doing things. So on that basis I support the amendment by Councillor Buckley but that in no way detracts from the principal part of the White Paper as well.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Marshall-Katung. Can I also remind you this is Councillor Katung's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR MARHSALL-KATUNG: My Lord Mayor and members of the Council I am delighted to speak in support of this White Paper particularly given the important role that active travel plays in improving public health. As Councillor Charlwood highlighted active travel encourages people to move more it has significant health benefits including helping to combat obesity. Tackling obesity is an issue I am incredibly passionate about. My Lord Mayor as an England Athletics Coach as is myself active lifestyle is very important to me and I ensure that all my children and I really wish that every single young person in this city lives an active lifestyle because maintaining a very healthy weight is necessary for the overall wellbeing of every young person. Unfortunately obesity is a significant local and national challenge but it is one that is preventable given the right resources and support. However across the country we are seeing a rise in obesity due to factors such as poor diet, low levels of physical activity and environments which encourage an unhealthy weight.

As I said this is an issue that is preventable, sadly Local Authority Public Health grant funding up and down the country has been reduced by over £700m in real terms between 2015/16 and 2019/20. As they say prevention is better than cure and if given long term sustainable funding by the Government I am confident that Local Authorities will rise to the challenge and be in a much better position to prevent obesity.

I was pleased to hear the Chancellor's recent announcement about a real terms increase for Public Health grant funding enabling public health to invest in interventions that benefit local populations however the amount of funding is yet to be confirmed leaving us in a perpetual cycle of uncertainty. Nonetheless against this backdrop of uncertainty I am delighted that here in Leeds we have retained our commitment to ensuring a broad and holistic preventative approach, one of our successes in this area as I am sure colleagues around the room are well aware is that we have seen rates of childhood obesity among four and five years

old, four and five year olds declining significantly since 2009 and we are the first city in the UK to achieve this.

Bucking the trend in childhood obesity has by no means been easy but I would like to congratulate this administration and commend the efforts of officers in Public Health, Children and Families in helping to deliver this fantastic outcome, thank you.

(Applause)

The drop in childhood obesity was not evident in the less affluent of the city which is particularly welcome news as evidence shows that there is a strong relationship between deprivation and the prevalence of obesity. This reduction demonstrates our unwavering commitment to tackling health inequalities and improving the health of the poorest along with putting children and young people at the heart of everything that we do.

A key priority within our Children and Young People's Plan is about ensuring that children enjoy healthy lifestyles I am thrilled that by reducing childhood obesity we are delivering positive outcomes and continuing to drive forward our ambition to make Leeds the best city for children and young people to grow up in. Recent Government announcements indicate that they are beginning to listen to us however I urge them to commit to long term sustainable funding for now so that we might secure our future, our children's future and our grandchildren too. Thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause and cheers)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carlill.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: My Lord Mayor I'm very happy to speak in support of the White Paper in the name of Councillor Charwood. I'd first like to also welcome the announcement of Alistair Brownlee as the city's first Active Travel Ambassador with his passion, encouragement and his knowledge of training on the streets of Leeds he'll be invaluable in promoting the opportunities that are available for people to be able to cycle or walk as part of their day to day journeys helping us to spread the word of what we as a Council are doing for active travel in the city but also an encouraging more people to participate.

It's great to hear from the speeches so far today that Members right across this Chamber recognise the huge benefits cycling and walking can have for the residents of Leeds in tackling climate change, in improving both physical and mental health and wellbeing and in reducing congestion in our city streets but there are also strong cases for investment in cycling and walking. Studies show that taking all the benefits together every journey taken by bike can save the country, every kilometer taken by bike can save the country 17p. In contrast every kilometer travelled by car can cost the country 12p.

Taking just the health spending alone every £1 invested in cycling saves the NHS £4. As an example if just one in ten journeys across the country were made by bike that would save the NHS £250m a year.

This Council Cycling Starts Here ambition sets out our aspiration for 2030 to build a great city for cycling. Through working to provide safe cycle routes right across the city, safer streets in our local centres and city centre that puts active travel first and I'm very happy to be the new chair of the board to take this forward.

Infrastructure work so far has included the roll out of the 20 mile an hour speed limits in residential streets, the first stages of segregated cycle route along key corridors and most recently the start of a transformational programme of work in the city centre focused around The Headrow. But to create the modal shift we need to transform our city for the future there's also the important work to active travel and provide support and training to increase confidence in cycling and walking. Through our educational programme with schools and colleges last year 22,000 pupils across the city benefited from pedestrian skills and cycle training to encourage safe and sustainable active travel and through the infrastructure delivered so far and I work with businesses in the city we've seen cycle commuting into the city centre increased by an estimated 216% but there is much more we need to do to meet our ambition. With many more important schemes already identified to make walking or cycling the natural choice for short journeys and around schools especially there is so much more we want to do to make it safer and easier for children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. But unfortunately many of our proposed schemes are awaiting funding opportunities and those schemes that do have funding are often from short term one off restricted capital funding without the ongoing revenue required to maintain, promote, extend and encourage use of the schemes into the future.

Indeed much of the funding to provide existing ongoing support is not guaranteed beyond next year but don't take my word for it a report on active travel from the House of Commons Transport Committee released in July said funding for active travel is too piecemeal and complex and the Government has not given Local Authorities the certainty they need to prioritise active travel and make long term funding commitments and the report goes on to say it's apt because we've talked about political leadership a lot today, the Government has a crucial role in championing active travel and providing leadership at a national level. We have been told this leadership is lacking and have recommended the Government bring forward plans for improving how it champions and provides leadership on active travel. It, it's disappointing that having developed guidance for Local Authorities to create cycling and walking infrastructure plans and encouraged them to do so the Government is not creating a clear mechanism ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carlill.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: For funding. My Lord Mayor this Council aims for cycling ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carlill.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: And walking are ambitious and we need the Government to match this ambition to provide us.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Councillor Carlill tailing off there, disappeared under the ... Thank you My Lord Mayor. I'd like to thank colleagues across the Chamber it's been a really interesting debate today as well. Particularly like to thank Councillor Buckley for his amendment that sets out the incredible investment that this Government has put into transport infrastructure in this city especially around cycle and cycle superhighway without which of course we simply wouldn't have that infrastructure.

You were talking earlier about in the debates about living active lifestyles. I have to say I was thinking of Councillor Barry Anderson who's been up and down speaking so much today you've certainly helped prove why an active lifestyle looks like in a Councillor.

My Lord Mayor we are broadly supportive of the wording of today's motion and the one thing we just want to flag up and Councillor Buckley spoke to this is that we cannot stop the investment in the existing infrastructure. It's absolutely right to have ambitious plans. it's absolutely essential and I don't think anybody in this Chamber would disagree that we promote and enhance alternative transport methods but until we get there we cannot ignore the fact that the vast vast majority of our residents still have to, have to travel about by car. It is not yet possible within this city to be able to easily transport as yet using other transport methods and therefore we've got to ensure that while yes we do indeed look to enhance the alternative transport methods we maintain the existing transport infrastructure, I'm not going to ask for a show of hands because I'm not trying to embarrass anybody. But I would take a 100% guarantee that every one of us get regular complaints about potholes, about a road issue here a road issue there in our wards from people who are driving and we can't suddenly switch off, sorry for hitting the microphone, we can't switch all the investment and I know that we're up to (inaudible) to other means we've got to make sure we protect that existing infrastructure as well and at the same time move towards this more ambitious plan which absolutely we support to. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hall.

COUNCILLOR HALL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I welcome the appointment of Alistair Brownlee as a champion of cycling and I'd like to see his appointment have some teeth to it, pretty similar to the appointment of Chris Boardman who was a very long ago cycling champion, who is the Commissioner for Cycling in Greater Manchester. On his appointment he launched and made to move a report which sole aim was making walking and cycling easy, attractive and safer

and this led Manchester to make the commitment to join the National Association of City Transportation Officials which works to implement good street design and improve air quality and one of the things I would like to see Alistair responsible for is helping deter or helping to do something about the two big deterrents from the use of cycling lanes because while we are having quite an ambitious roll out of cycle lanes there is a criticism that they are not widely used and there's two reasons for that they need maintaining. Debris in a cycle lane on a cycle bike can cause a puncture, a broken wheel or worse and it's the kind of thing that will force cyclists at the first incident to move out of the cycle lane and onto the main main carriage way and that's not what we want to achieve we want to get more people into the cycle lanes and fewer of them on the main carriageway and another thing that I would appeal for him to look at or for there to be some attention to is implementation, cars shouldn't be parked in cycling lanes and many a cyclist is forced out of the cycle lane into the main carriageway where it can be dangerous on some of our busier roads simply because cars are parked on the cycle lanes.

I keep on reading that prime Minister Boris Johnson is pledging all kinds of money, it's a bit of a merry go round. You read of another funding round and think well how many times has he announced this is and is he still going to be Prime Minister to see the implementation of it. For the first question is probably three or four times he's announced the same pot of money and he probably won't be around to see the implementation of it but what I would like to see is Leeds City Council really really pushing ahead with these measures to improve cycling and walking and making it easier for all of our citizens to do it so that we can reduce climate, reduce the threat of a climate emergency and help continue tackling obesity. I move this support.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood to sum up.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you very much Lord Mayor. Thank you very much to all the Members who have contributed and I've got a list of what everybody's said and actually you know it's been very, a very well natured, good natured warm debate on which much of it we agree I think it's just a little bit of a difference I think potentially on the Conservative side.

So thank you for all your comments and for the constructive nature of the debate it's great that everybody is welcoming the campaign, there's been cynicism about it I think that's lovely to see as well and the wall behind it because I think actually every ward Member can be a real champion for it in their ward and we all have you know local resources and you know things that we can do locally so I'm really grateful for that, thank you.

Barry, Councillor Anderson mentions, pardon me, about it being an obsession for the Council and why not I mean, I hadn't heard of that before so apologies and like I say this crosses all sorts of directorates and portfolios and possibly that was before my time as well. I think we do sometimes, we don't have too many obsessions so I think we need to be careful about having lots of obsessions and then getting diluted so but yes I do agree with the sentiment there

and you've raised pedestrian safety at busy roundabouts. Now Lawnswood been one of them. I've heard that myself you know actually getting across Lawnswood's quite difficult so I think you need to, we need to have those conversations with you about the future for that scheme.

I think I've jumped about so I want go back to Councillor Groves and just to, yes you've raised scoot to school, lots of local initiatives that can happen for schoolchildren to really take this agenda forward. It's been really good to see the no idling signs at schools, we've got them at our school you know it's things like that just messaging it's really getting through and all the work you're doing I'd like to congratulate you and the Department you work in down at WYCA for doing so much around ultra low emission buses and all the work we're doing around Park and Rides all comes together.

Also about bike libraries and the community (inaudible) so there's all sorts that we're doing that's contributing to this.

Councillor Forsaith just to congratulate you on your maiden speech. I agree entirely with your sentiments and I think our entire group did as well so I'd like to suggest that we support your amendment and thank you for your commitment to children and for your support on the agenda.

Yes Councillor Buckley we've got an invitation for you to join the cyclathon for Farsdale, would you like to, there's a cyclathon for the Lord Mayor's Charity will you join us. Councillor Heselwood is and we're looking forward to that. We want to see you ...

COUNCILLOR: You've got to put your lycra on.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: We want a lycra group.

(Background talking and laughing)

But your point about maintaining footpaths and potholes which Councillor Cohen also made I think is again and across departmental something we need to to.

And I think Councillor Hall also mentioned about debris in cycle lanes and where we do have a cycle lane having them to be purely for cyclists and for children especially I would say and I'm running out of time so I may not get round to everybody but I just want to thank Councillor Marshall for your maiden speeches and very passionate and really thank you for your work and your just the sort of ambassador in the Council that we need for young people because you are a living embodiment of as a coach and working with young people on this and I think we've, basically like Councillor Carlill as well have got some passionate advocates right across the Chamber for this agenda so I'd like to invite everybody to join in and do as much as we can and see a huge campaign for active travel going forward. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to the vote. The first amendment in the name of Councillor Forsaith.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry. It's the first, we're going to the first amendment in the name of Councillor Forsaith. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

In the second amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been LOST.

So we're going into the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Charwood.

(Background talking)

Sorry in the name of Councillor Forsaith. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

(Background talking)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

OK, we'll move on. Councillor Dowson. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Forgive me Lord Mayor I'd like to move in terms of the notice

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: I second my Lord Mayor

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

ADDITIONAL WHITE PAPER MOTION – KASHMIR

THE LORD MAYOR: Additional White Paper. Councillor Blake.
COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I thank everyone who has voted to allow us to bring this motion to Council and move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar. Councillor Coupar.

(Laughter)

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Sorry I second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor move in terms of the notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second Lord Mayor.

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

(Background talking)

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members have called for a recorded vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Lamb. All Members should ensure their in their allocated seats. Press the button marked P, lights will flash, then the plus button to vote in favour, the minus to vote against and the zero button to abstain.
(A vote was taken).

THE LORD MAYOR: 86 present. Yes 29, abstain 3, no 54. That's LOST.

A recorded vote. Sorry a recorded vote in the name of and the motion in the name Councillor Blake.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Would all Members please ensure their in their allocated seats. Members have requested a recorded vote in the name, on the motion in the name of Councillor Blake. Press the button marked P then the plus button to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain. *(A vote was taken).*

THE LORD MAYOR: We've got present 64. Yes 60, abstain 0, no 0.
That's been CARRIED.

(Applause)

You'll be pleased to know that we've come to the end of the meeting so thank you for your cooperation.

(Applause)

(The meeting closed at 7.45pm)

This page is intentionally left blank