

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

VERBATIM

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LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday 13th November 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 13TH NOVEMBER 2019**

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council. Can I please remind Members to switch their phones off or to silence please. Before the meeting starts Catherine wants to make an announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITY SOLICITOR: Thank you. Before we start today's meeting as Members know as a result of the General Election being called for the 12th December currently we are in the pre-election purdah period. The Lord Mayor has asked me to advise Members that the purpose of the purdah period is not to prevent the Council carrying out its normal business but it is to prevent the business conducted by the Council being used or having the potential to be perceived to be used to secure any electoral advantage, as such in summary please treat this as a normal Council meeting with the usual level of political debate not for political hustings. Thank you very much.

(Laughter and inaudible background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Just a few announcements. With great sadness that I would like to offer my sympathy to the former Lady Mayoress, Sheila Robinson, who has passed away on the 7th October. Sheila supported her husband, Honorary Alderman Frank Robinson, during his year as Lord Mayor in 2008/2009.

As you know our dear friend Councillor Gerald Wilkinson passed away on the 4th October. I would like to invite Councillor Carter to say a few words on behalf of the Council.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Thank you for allowing me to say a few words about our friend and colleague Gerald Wilkinson who passed away as you say on the 4th of October and can I make it clear I'm making these comments on behalf of the whole of the Council and at the outset I want to say how heartened I was to receive copies and direct e-mails from so many Members of Council on all sides expressing sadness at the passing of Gerald Wilkinson who was a good friend to lots of us across political boundaries and a tireless worker for this city and for the town of Wetherby. He lived in Leeds for over 40 years in the north east part of the city originally coming from our neighbouring city of Bradford, I'm sure he wouldn't mind me mentioning that. Did his national service in the RAF and came to live in Wetherby where he ran a business for very many years and went on to Wetherby Council in 1991, Wetherby Town Council and was Town Mayor between 1997 and 2000 joining Leeds City Council in 1999 and being Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds in 2008.

It's doubly sad because of course as you've just heard the Lady Mayoress in that year passed away only a matter of weeks ago as well. Everybody who's spoken to me about the passing of Gerald since the 4th October, every single person has said: 1. that he never said a wrong word to anybody, he was diligent in his Council work, he served this city with distinction, he served the people of

Wetherby with distinction and he was a good personal friend to many of us including me, extremely loyal and hardworking. I never recall an occasion when he was asked to do a job that he turned down and as most Group Leaders will tell you sometimes you ask your Members to undertake jobs which can be a bit tricky but Gerald never ever refused and always carried out his duties with dignity but above all at a time when there's so much division not only in the world but in this country it's as well to remember a man who was unfailingly polite to Members of all sides whatever their political persuasion. I didn't, I've never heard him say a wrong word about any Member of this Council let alone anybody else and he was hugely diligent and indeed continued doing Council work from his hospital bed up to a very short time before he passed away. So thank you Lord Mayor I hope what I've said reflects everybody's thoughts in this chamber I shall personally and already do miss Gerald, I've made sure that his family know that Members of all sides have contacted the Conservative Group Office or myself directly expressing their sadness at Gerald's passing. He was a good friend and a true gentleman and public service will be diminished without him. Thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Carter. Could I call upon the Council to do a minute's silence in respect.

(Silent tribute)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we move on. So as I mentioned earlier could all phones please be switched off or silent please.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11TH SEPTEMBER 2019

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

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I'd like to move that the minutes be approved Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second my Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Any declarations to declare.

No.

ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Chief Exec communications.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I would like to inform Council of a response to the Council's resolution in September on the situation in Kashmir has been received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the response has been circulated to all Members of Council.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Today we have four deputations. Councillor Dowson.

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

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well just to report that there are four deputations. The Leeds Children's Mayor, the Leeds Branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, third a group regarding the problem of plastics in rivers and four SOWHAT a group regarding HS2.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second Lord Mayor.

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

DEPUTATION 1 – LEEDS CHILDREN'S MAYOR

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

WANIA AHMAD: Good afternoon my name is Wania Ahmed and I am the current Leeds Children's Mayor and also the ambassador for the Akhirah Team charity. Honorable Lord Mayor, respected Members of Council, teachers, my fellow peers, my parents and guests it is a privilege and honour to stand here and to address you all in order to present my manifesto about how to improve mental health and wellbeing for children in Leeds. As the Children's Mayor of Leeds the one thing I will help and support is mental health and wellbeing for children in school which will hopefully spread into the community. Once a week children will have the chance to speak to someone else and help them feel positive about themselves, boost their confidence and to help them feel more optimistic. Each classroom will open their doors early and welcome their pupils into a chill and chat time which will be hosted by a Mini MindMate Ambassadors, school Council

representatives and Head Boys and Girls. The calm and relaxing environment will help the pupils feel safe and comfortable whilst sharing refreshments. The idea also includes the chance to speak to adults as well and those who don't normally interact with.

Eventually, this idea can spread into other schools and community buildings, such as: the local libraries, community centres, or sport centres. Once the system has been set up in to our local schools, the 'chill and chat' hosts will go to schools across Leeds to help set up the same idea.

My idea will benefit children from all walks of life who come to learn and develop socialising skills, but not every child is able to build their confidence or discover their talent, skills and abilities due to many reasons. The reasons can vary from child to child or it could be due to anxiety, stress, anger, learning difficulties, language barriers etc. Some of these reasons can lead children to criminal activities, dangerous environments homelessness or even self harm. It will give children the opportunity to talk about their feelings and release pressure of any kind so that they will feel more easy and focussed. By allowing them to reach their potential children will feel more inclined to keep away from trouble and make the right choices. This can help children feel more focussed and determined to learn and achieve their goals.

My idea is a no cost idea because children can help with my manifesto by praising and speaking positively about their fellow peers, talent, skills and ability. Role models will be used to support others, the refreshments are low cost however we will ask for donations or do some fundraising. This can also help with making people feel more mindful. Respected Councillors I today have put forward my motion before you all in the hope of finding support from each and every one of you regardless of your political persuasions. Today I ask you all to stand by me and allow me the access to your experience or guidance if needs be. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you Lord Mayor I'm pleased to move that the matter now be referred to the Director of Children and Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Seconded 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 contact with you in due course. Have a lovely afternoon.
Thank you.

(Applause)

**DEPUTATION 2 – LEEDS BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS
IN GREAT BRITAIN**

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

MS CALLAGHAN: My name is Olga Callaghan, I'm chair of the Leeds Branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain.

My delegations that I've got with me today are Mrs Nadya of the (inaudible) and Mrs Orlanor of Tech North and they are both Members of the Committee of the Leeds Branch of Association of Ukrainians and the community centre that we have is on Newton Grove just off Chapeltown Road in Leeds.

(Inaudible)

Oh right. Lord Mayor and Members of Council I speak in support of a petition requesting that Leeds City Council acknowledges the death of at least seven million Ukrainians during the Holodomor and further that it asks Her Majesty's Government to recognise the Holodomor as an act of Genocide.

Ukrainians have lived in Leeds for over seventy years, and there's an active community in the city and within the last ten years there's been a greater influx of Ukrainians coming and settling in Leeds due to the employment opportunities in the area. Members of the Ukrainian community have always felt welcome here and appreciate the freedom to nurture and promote Ukrainian culture and to safeguard our history and heritage.

Despite this, a black cloud has hung over our lives here. This black cloud was the collective and individual memories of the Holodomor of 1932 and 1933. My own mother was a survivor of the Holodomor, having lost her own brothers and mother to starvation.

The Holodomor was the death, by starvation, of between seven and ten million Ukrainians, including a third of the nation's children. This happened at a time when the fertile lands of the bread basket of Europe was providing sufficient grain for the Soviet Union to export and to produce alcohol, rather than feed its own people. What happened in Ukraine stands out, not just for the sheer number of victims, but also for the fact that the majority of them were starved to death in peacetime and despite the land providing crops in abundance.

By the summer of thirty two, the Soviet policy of collectivisation of agricultural activity was almost complete. Land and property had been confiscated from peasants many of whom were either executed, imprisoned or exiled regardless Stalin acted to deprive Ukranian peasants of food. Laws were

introduced to requisition all foodstuffs. By early 1933 as many as 25,000 people were dying every day.

The systematic attack by the Soviet government was directed at the very fabric of Ukrainian society, designed to completely annihilate Ukraine, or at the very least, put a stop to its aspirations for independence from Soviet rule.

Whole families eradicated, villages wiped out and cities decimated, the magnitude of the mass annihilation was unparalleled. Each individual victim went through unimaginable suffering and death, while each survivor had to witness the devastation through their own eyes.

For the first sixty years, any reference to the Holodomor was suppressed and actively denied. It was mainly the voices of the Ukrainian Diaspora that kept the knowledge of this tragedy alive. All the while, the Soviet authorities denounced these voices. It was only after Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet mantle that it was able to remember and acknowledge this tragedy as a major event in Ukrainian history.

As the archives of the KGB and Ukraine have opened up the scale and involvement of the Soviet state apparatus in the Holodomor has become clearer, and the voices of the Diaspora vindicated.

So, the black cloud hanging over us as Ukrainians has slowly developed a silver lining of Remembrance and Acknowledgment. Seventeen countries now formally acknowledge the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Sadly, to date, Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom is not one of these states.

Ukrainians are not and have never been Russian. The Holodomor was not simply a case of mass murder. This was an act deliberately inflicted to destroy Ukrainian identity and ethnicity, culture and a whole nation.

In the meantime the Ukrainian communities in Britain are taking action to persuade the government to be more positive and expeditious in supporting the recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. Regardless of when that recognition will be ultimately achieved, there can be no doubt today that the Holodomor was a crime against humanity, which should be exposed in its full horror. We hope that the world will never again turn a blind eye to another people's suffering, and that nowhere, ever, can such an atrocity be allowed to occur again.

We would humbly call upon the Leeds City Council to support our annual remembrance of the Holodomor in years to come, to support the Leeds Branch of the Association of Ukrainians involvement in the city's annual Holocaust Memorial Day programme in January each year, to write to the United Kingdom government asking them to take steps to formally recognise

the Holodomor as an act of genocide, to undertake an appropriate act of recognition ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you please come to an end.

MS CALLAGHAN: Sorry. To undertake an appropriate act of recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide on behalf of the City of Leeds.

And finally recognise the historic and continuing contributions of the Leeds Ukrainian community to the wonderful diversity and success of our great city.

(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.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second 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 in due course. Have a lovely afternoon.

MS CALLAGHAN: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 3 – A GROUP REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF PLASTICS IN RIVERS

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.

MR BARROW: Good afternoon Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors.
My name is Mark Barrow and with me I have Tom Raper.

I have been underwater filming in Yorkshires rivers for over thirty years and have real concerns over our rivers in Yorkshire particularly the river wharfe with plastic and raw sewage. I am seeing more and more plastics and garbage entering the river systems from businesses and the public which in turn will have devastating effects on the life that depends upon the river. Not so long back at Wetherby a van tipped its entire contents into the river and after phoning the EA they said it wasn't their problem and to phone the Environmental Services at Leeds which

then made me aware that it wasn't their problem and again passing the buck. It resulted in myself and freinds clearing the river out with me putting the diving gear on.

The wipes and plastics travelling through the river system is of major concern too as with many rivers in Yorkshire. I regularly film plastics and wipes and garbage flowing underwater unseen and have started documenting this over the last two years. I do try and clean up what I can but it's obviously impossible on my own and we need to try and get the general public and business to start caring more.

Another point concerning me is raw sewage. Not so long back raw sewage was being pumped in to the river Wharfe at Boston Spa and Wetherby and Councillor David Hobbs did an article raising questions as to whether the upgrade at Wetherby treatment plant was actually up to the job. These events of sewage entering our rivers are in non stant conditions when the river is low and in fact at times storm collecting tanks can be completely empty. To me this is totally unacceptable.

My concern is, how much of this sewage is passing through Wetherby where toddlers paddle and play, how much of it is effecting wildlife. I have filmed underwater in these areas where sewage enters and trust me it is extremely shocking and devastating along with being extremely unpleasant when an outlet pipe opens up on you.

Right across Yorkshire we have huge amounts of plastic waste, tons of it entering our rivers and it's generally revealed after floods have taken place plus the raw sewerage entering our rivers yet we look at environmental issues abroad and look in shock and horror at what is happening yet in in our own backyard we seem fit to destroy what we have and literally turn a blind eye and accept whats going on.

Water quality I'm told is better than the industrial revolution times, yet you would not have to do much to improve on that particular time. Water quality is way off the mark at this moment in time and can the public and Council work to improve this and start to eradicate plastics and sewage entering our rivers and is it possible for Leeds City Council to pave the way to a new beginning and to set the benchmark for other Councils to follow despite the uphill battle that we do face.

Our rivers are the arteries of any country or county or town and like any artery if they fail it has huge environmental impacts on everything and other habitats will fail. Nature does not need us but we need nature and we need to act now not later.

Thanks you very much for your time.

(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.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen. Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Sorry, second Lord Mayor.

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

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

MR BARROW: Thank you.

(Applause)

DEPUTATION 4 – 'SOWHAT' A GROUP REGARDING HS2

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and thank you for coming to today's meeting please now make your speech to the Council which should not take longer than five minutes by doing so can you begin by naming people in your group.

MR LYNCH: Yes good afternoon Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. My name is James Lynch and with me are Martin Law, Sarah Wilson and Anne Brown from SOWHAT which is a community action group based in Woodlesford, Oulton and Swillington.

Six years ago we stood here to ask the Council to stand up for the residents in our local community. We asked for a working party to be established to liaise with all stakeholders, open channels of communication and allow us to have a voice and an ear when important decisions are being made about HS2. Since then we feel nothing meaningful has happened.

At a recent Executive Board meeting, we were grateful to hear Councillor Golton arguing that it was time for the Council to start acting on behalf of residents of South East Leeds and to accept that strong words are simply not enough when dealing with HS2. In response he was told he required a "briefing" about what the Council had done and the changes it had helped to effect. It is our belief that Councillor Golton is one of only a handful of Councillors who actually understand the full implications of the project. His knowledge is not limited to the marketing and spin churned out by HS2 Ltd or by stakeholders involved in the regeneration of the south bank in Leeds.

We have recently found out that the Council has spent £156,000 from their HS2 South Bank Reserve, on discussions with consultants and engineers about the HS2 station and how to safeguard the interests of business and the city

centre. How much money has the Council either earmarked or spent on mitigating the effects of the project on our residents? If the Council believes sending responses to consultations is enough, they are mistaken.

In June this year, HS2 Ltd announced a further consultation around the proposed route into Leeds. We believe the design amendment would see further negative impact on the residents in our areas, bringing the tunnel entrance significantly closer to houses and reducing the overall depth of the tunnel, and creating another colossal viaduct, which would tower over the top of the existing A1/M1 link road.

We say “we believe” these things will happen because so far, HS2 Ltd have been unwilling to provide any maps or renderings of the tunnel entrance north of Woodlesford. These changes have led to our MP withdrawing his support for the project in its current format.

The Council said it would be unable to provide a meaningful response to this consultation without additional images of the proposed viaduct as it runs into the city centre. Can we ask why the Council suddenly needs to see additional images, yet it has never needed to see them on three colossal viaducts which will run through Swillington. Is the Council only really interested in the impact of HS2 when it starts to get close to the city centre? With support from our Councillors, we’ve been asking HS2 unsuccessfully for visuals of our area for six and a half years. What therefore are the Council going to do? We want action and not words.

Because the Council lobbied hard for the HS2 station to be built on the South Bank, trains coming into Leeds will arrive at a T junction, meaning the tracks cannot be aligned with the existing railway corridor and making a complete mockery of the word “connectivity”. HS2 trains cannot continue on to any HS3/Northern Powerhouse Rail network and rail users will never be able to travel north on HS2 out of Leeds because of the way it has been designed.

To right this glaring and obvious wrong, we know the Council have been involved in discussions about constructing an additional link line between Stourton and Garforth so travel in a northerly direction is possible. It doesn’t take a genius to look at a map and work out where this new line is likely to be going.

If HS2 and the Council were now to fully review the approach into Leeds and look at the cost of reverting back to the alternative route which was investigated along the existing railway corridor, it would integrate with HS3/NPR and would be the right transport solution for Leeds, West Yorkshire and the North of England. The additional spur would be unnecessary. Better still the Council could withdraw support for HS2 altogether and ask that the billions of pounds it will waste be spent on a proper integrated transport system for the North of England instead.

So what are we asking for, one that the Council stops pretending that responding to consultations is enough.

Two it should actively look at changing the approach of HS2 into Leeds so that it is aligned with future NPR/HS3 rail.

Three to tell us what it believes “mitigation” means in relation to a 30m high 2.2km long viaduct and ten years of heavy construction and disruption. We want to know exactly what will satisfy the Council.

Four if it is established that what HS2 are proposing does not meet that threshold of mitigation, we want to know what commitment the Council will make financially or materially to deal with the shortfall.

Five we demand that the details of the Stourton and Garforth touchpoints are released to the public.

And six the Council must provide a clear definition of how it will provide full transparency and represent and protect the interests of our residents, to whom it is accountable.

Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second 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 contact with you in due course. Have a lovely afternoon.

MR LYNCH: Thank you.

(Applause)

ITEM 5 – PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we’ll move on to Item 5. Councillor Mulherin.
Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I move the Plans Panel Annual report which are circulated to Members. In welcoming this report I’d just like to note it’s been a particularly busy year for planning in Leeds and I’d like

to start by thanking the hard work our officers have put in supporting Plans Panels dealing with enquiries and making sure the meetings and service continues to run smoothly. The sheer number of cases that different Plans Panels hear combined with the complexity of some of the applications means that Membership of any planning panel is hard work for the Councillors who sit on those panels. Planning can often be about making hard or unpopular decisions in line with national planning law.

I know many Members receive, shall we say, unfriendly correspondence or are sneered because of decisions made in Plans Panels and I'd like to thank them for their diligent work in often very trying circumstances. Likewise chairing a panel of often big personalities and robust opinions is not always a smooth experience and making sure that everyone has a chance to make their points and still keep discussions on topic can be a challenge so I'd like to thank Plans Panel Chairs in particular for their work that they do to keep those panels running so professionally throughout the year. Planning was considered to be, by some, to be dry and hard to engage with but it's a powerful tool in achieving our best city ambitions. Planning is the first stage of a journey where Elected Members can make sure that the views of the people of Leeds are being listened to. It can solve problems well before a shovel is put in the ground and be a real force for positive change. It can help to tackle poverty and help make sure we are building the right homes in the right place to the right standards. It can create new green space for public to use to allow people to find a place to relax or to exercise. It can promote and champion sustainable travel and help address our climate's emergency. If we get planning rights we can build the city the people of Leeds both want and deserve.

As I said earlier it's been a very busy year, if you would like to see everything done in the last year I recommend that you read the report if you've not done so already. It provides a very informative and useful breakdown of some of the place shaping work done in the city this year. The Plans Panel have conducted ninety site visits held forty six planning meetings and considered over a hundred applications. Plans Panel Members have given permission to just under two and a half thousand new homes and approved applications that generated £3.85m in community infrastructure levy.

As well as this the service has worked tirelessly to get both the Site Allocations Plan and Core Strategy Selective Review over the finishing line with both documents being adopted by this Council this year. To carry out this work as well as the everyday planning function of the Council has been a huge undertaking and a fine example of the exemplary planning service we have in the city. Having adopted the Site Allocations Plan we can now demonstrate a five year housing land supply that will enable the Council to defend sites against the worst speculative developments we have seen in previous years. We can now focus our activity on ensuring that the sites have been identified for housing will be high quality in terms of design, place making and contributing to the challenge of the climate emergency which the Council declared in March this year. I've no doubt that the next Annual report will show we are as busy if not more so in the future than we are even now and I look forward to progressing our place making priorities in the years to come. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Lord Mayor I'd like to second the report and reserve my right to speak please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: Thank you Lord Mayor. Opportunities to thank also our officers and Members for the work done in the City Plans Panel particularly for Members its a big chunk of their time as we meet every three weeks and I'm glad to say that we have many Members of all parties who engage very positively in them and perhaps I can thank them for that.

If I can mention a few key schemes that we've dealt with recently. We have the prospect of a new school that doesn't rely on car transportation, that clearly is a first. Further development in the inner city park which will improve the quality for residents and indeed visitors for Leeds and the proposal to build a new Children's Hospital and improve hospital outcomes for patients will be before the panel for consideration soon.

When items come to Plans Panel we have always pushed for higher standards however with CSSR now being fully adopted we can give more weight to these requirements in the future and demand that developers are building houses and spaces of the right quality for the people of Leeds in the right locations. I think change since last year's report is the climate emergency declaration by the Council in March this has ensured that principles of sustainability is at the heart of all decision making in planning applications. Some of this is already covered in CSSR but looking to the future we will be pushing this agenda forward. Sustainability high quality homes and development are crucial in supporting this there are a number of policies in the adopted Core Strategy which contribute to combating climate change placing more emphasis on co-location uses, reducing car level by planning developments, the public transport links and embedding planning for cycling and walking in the developments.

We are encouraging greater use of renewable energy such as solar and wind and new power. A new development is getting ahead of the national recommendations that there should be no new homes connected to the gas grid from 2025. As well as embedding the need for electric vehicle charging points Plans Panel will be crucial in considering all these matters in coming to the decision on planning applications.

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

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: Thank you Lord Mayor I'll finish there much more to say but not the opportunity to say it but thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you Lord Mayor I'd like to speak on the same annual report and I'll focus on the work of the Development Plans Panel which I have the pleasure of chairing.

Well, what a year. Let's get into this first of all I'd like say a huge thank you to all the Elected Members who are Members of the panel and have contributed, thank you for your hard work and your cogent contributions and for keeping meetings often reasonably to time as well it's most appreciated. I'd particularly like to thank officers for the work this year we have delivered as Councillor Mulherin's already alluded to a phenomenally large amount of work that has all been found to be sound by the government Inspector, I salute you folks it's been excellent.

What are some of those items, well the Site Allocations Plan so important for us, so long running, some of us had not grey hair when it started and some of us have survived it but let's see how that is important, well look it's not on the plan it's not happening simple as that. That gives our communities certainty, it gives developers certainty, it's good for everybody. The Core Strategy Select Review, look say to developers now really if it's not policy compliant, if you're not here to work to the CSSR demands don't come to us with a planning application. We're open for business but not at any cost.

Let's turn to the five year land supply that so so so important we now have, I'm pleased to report 7.2 years of housing land supply in this city. Now not even the most rapacious developer friendly government could give that away to their mates over the plan period, I think that's an excellent position for us to be in. That's an end to speculative development, enable us to build communities and homes so much more easier, so much better for everybody. Planning really is part of the way we improve our city it's so so so important it is, like I said what a year but that's not all. It's extremely important that over this coming year Lord Mayor we embark and we have already embarked in a review of our Local Plan that puts, as you might imagine, climate emergency at its heart there is no more important task for the Development Service of this Council and for everyone in this city to undertake that task it is so so important this will chart our cause to how we become zero carbon by 2030.

I cannot believe how important that is but as I've said many times in this Chamber Lord Mayor that's despite all our statutory instruments being clunky what I really want for Christmas Lord Mayor is a New Town and Country Planning Act and in the spirit of the City Solicitor they offer these remarks in sort of a spirit of civic duty shall we say. Elections matter and things change I'll give you one stone cold stark example. Governments change and way back to the last decade there was a sustainable homes code and that sustainable homes code would have led in 2016 to all homes in Britain being zero carbon. Now if the elections in 2010 and 2015 had been differently in this country as of right now over 525,000 homes would have been built that would be zero carbon, zero carbon that would mean that this country would have a world leading industry where the markets

have are mature, the technology is mature we can export that over the world and we will be making an enormous contribution to climate change as ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw can you finish please.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: (Inaudible)

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. As a Member of City Plans I've got to say sometimes I don't think so when the meetings go on very long but it's probably every three weeks of pleasure to actually go to City Plans we do get some very interesting things to look at. Sometimes frustrating because you can't do anything about it and of course in the past Councillor McKenna and I harping about when we were proven to be right and we've dealt with that now this year but the fact is we've got to go a lot further when we talk about climate change. If we take as long as we took over SAP or Core Strategy Review well 2020 will be upon us. You know the planet will be dead we have got to get moving.

I know some of that is not within our say so that will be central government and whoever that central government is on December 13th I think we need to lobby them to push things forward but that has got to be done and we've got to be vigorous in doing that and and stand up to things. I think maybe sometimes we need to take more chances and push that envelope further but that's got to be done but the fact is that if the planning permissions that we've got over the last twelve months and previously are still there to build. They do not meet the spec they need to make and some of them are built on land if an application came in now they wouldn't have got planning permission and part of that is we took too long with this Core Strategy Review and the SAP was too late and we need to get on top of it and not be self congratulating but actually move forward. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Like most Members of the Council certainly from here, if the controlling administration had had showed the urgency for the last four years they've shown for the last four months there'd be a number of developments which most of us didn't want to see happen not happen rather than happen Councillor Blackburn is quite right it took them years to accept that they need to move forward with the SAP allocations it took them years to review the Core Strategy it could have been done sooner you can't start blaming anybody else for the fact that buildings have gone up in the wrong place other than yourselves because it took too long and my goodness me every one of us remembers how often in this Chamber you were bounced round all four walls to try and get some sense into you. It finally worked and now we do

have a SAP and we do have a Core Strategy Review but too many sites that could have been saved have been lost and they undermine your efforts on climate change. My Lord Mayor there can be no more delay and I have to say that I do welcome the sense of urgency that the new Chief Planning Officer is bringing to making sure that the Planning Department and other Departments of the Council work far more closely together in making sure we've got some real joined up thinking on climate change on combating pollution and making sure that new developments are what the people want and what we want or not just what speculative house builders want.

I heard yesterday, unfortunately because of my ongoing back problems I've to leave early, but I had a very interesting debate and participated in it and Councillor Caroline Gruen very optimistically told us all that she was working with those builders who already try to do the right thing so I asked her about, or asked the chair about those that don't do the right thing and it is high time that we named and shamed those speculative house builders who persistently resist proper greenspace provision, proper space within dwellings provision which is now a national policy, proper space outside dwellings they should be named and the people buying their properties should know where they have failed to stick to the sorts of conditions that we're trying to impose and let's get on with that, no more messing about we've got ourselves finally into a good position, do not throw it away. we're not going to let you throw it away it is too important.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to try and address some issues and points that have come from this report. For example in terms of the format as well as highlighting the what done would it not be useful to list a number of areas where further work needs to be done and also the challenges that are on the horizon that you can face up so it is a living document effectively the report. So for example enforcement, is this part of the service really fit for purpose, I personally say no. Enforcement is not fit for purpose in terms of the planning environment we operate in just know. Why are they so slow in taking action that you report something to them and by the time they finally get round to it is usually being built and then we're into well let's just apply for retrospective planning application and that doesn't go down well with the community because it takes far too long. Why is it that our enforcement department are scared of taking action against the major developers, if it was an individual person there on top of it, they're getting something done about it but as soon as a major developer does it it's oh well it's this person's faults it's that person's fault. They are reluctant to take on the major developers and we are getting poor developments as a result of it.

Why are so many cases outstanding I've got one going back to June 2016 and it's only about windows, that's all it's about why has it taken so long to get some windows sorted out. I've got another one about decking that goes back to May 2017 surely somebody can get going and trying to do something about these sort of things. Why is it that this service is seen as a soft touch if you actually speak to the development community out there they know that our Enforcement

department are soft touches and they can get away with things that you wouldn't get away with elsewhere.

We've got a new Planning Officer, we've got a new Executive Member, we need a new start in this Department, we need firm action being taken now and we need to stop being played by residents and the major developers, we've got to start taking action now and send a message out to people that if you apply for planning permission and provided its correct you'll get permission but if you try and add things on (inaudible). Most of us have suffered by the major developers coming in with a little change here, they end up submitting about twenty or thirty different changes to the planning application and Enforcement just do absolutely nothing about it.

The other area I think we should look into is we do need an infrastructure report coming forward. We've got the Site Allocations Plan, we've got we've got the Core Strategy

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson could you.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: We need to get an infrastructure plan as well. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I speak on the Annual Planning report and at first glance it looks very positive and I do just want to just thank officers particularly officers that keep Members briefed. We in our area get very good briefings around applications and how they're progressing and as I say the report says that we've approved new schools, Park and Ride and a retail park just to name a few but there are lots of difficult decisions that we've had to make during that process.

One thing that we have had is twenty one pre-application presentations and since coming on to City Plans I've found these are very very useful they are useful for both Members and to developers. Developers get a good steer of what Members actually want to see and then when the application comes forward quite often we see that the development that was originally thought about by the developer pre app is actually it comes forward as a much better development and it's not only speeds the process up but it gives us good development overall and we've seen quite a lot of this in City Plans and I would encourage developers and chairs to encourage these things to come, for these presentations to come through.

I was a bit disappointed as only a brief mention about the SAP and I quote that Members have steered the SAP through its independent examination. Well there's plenty of opposition Members spoke at the Independent Examination but I didn't see many Labour Members there when I was there and we also have to recognise that the ...

(Background talking)

Well well if you were there just let me know. We have to accept that the SAP has not been universally accepted by everybody in every ward. In the last two weeks I've had two hour and fourty minute conversations with the same family about one site in my ward, Wills Gill, which is a site in my opinion and in their's that should not be coming forward but it is coming forward and it's about how they accept the massive changes that they are going to see and I was interested to hear from Councillor Walshaw, I think it was, who said we've got 7.2 years of land supply. Well if you have some people would say you don't need a little bit in Aireborough but that's just an opinion of course and I was also disappointed about the small mention of climate emergency. It is the word emergency where we have to do things quicker and and we have to work smarter and emergency means you do things outside the box and you don't call 999 and and asked for a fire engine and expected to come a week later and with planning if we're going to do things we need to do it now and not start approving things that don't fit with the climate emergency and I'll leave it there Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Some interesting things in this report one of the interesting things sitting on Plans Panel, colleagues have mentioned a number of times is the mix, in the property mix that we see ever increasing numbers of student developments around the centre. Now our student population is hugely important to this city but it's not the only important population in the city and colleagues across the Chamber have mentioned numbers of times that we are seeing repeatedly and repeatedly more developments of these student flats. We are going to end up if we are not careful with a situation where come the middle of June chunks of the city, it's already starting, if we don't, if we're not careful chunks of the city will be totally empty for portions of the year and that's really not healthy.

I'm also very concerned Lord Mayor that officers are paying due regard to adopted and nearly adopted neighbourhood plans. Too many local groups still feel that Planning Officers feel that neighbourhood plans are a document produced by well meaning amateurs rather than the very significant planning documents that they are. Documents policies that should be given extremely significant weight, extremely serious consideration and it's something we've got to address so that local residents feel that their adopted neighbourhood plans are properly being taken into account.

Lord Mayor we've declared a climate emergency report as colleagues have said speaks very briefly about a climate emergency. Councillor Wadsworth is quite right if you dialled 999 and your house was on fire and what came back was a report telling you how it was going to be dealt with over the next 12 to 24 months you would be rightly livid. This is an emergency, this administration is treating it as a slight problem and you may roll your eyes Councillor Walshaw I don't doubt that you are exercised but I'm afraid I do not see and colleagues do

not see the kind of action that an emergency would truly justify. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: Thank you my Lord Mayor. As some of my colleagues have already pointed out we on this side remain concerned about the overall direction of travel on planning in Leeds and in particular we still have significant concerns around housing numbers and in my part of the city some of the infrastructure that will be associated with it.

In Pudsey we not only have to contend with new housing allocated through the Leeds Development Plan process but also with what Bradford are planning just over the border. Communities in Tyersal are particularly badly affected with a series of unpopular developments planned. We are concerned that these proposed developments could really impact on existing communities and their way of life. The local primary school in title is getting a small extension but apart from that where is the infrastructure to support the new housing, the doctors, the dentists, better leisure facilities, public transport none of these are planned. It is clear to us that whilst progress has been made on housing numbers you still aimed too high and as a result communities across the Leeds district will be dealing with the consequences of stretched services, more congestion and developments that are in essence not wanted.

Bradford Council in its wisdom is planning some infrastructure and given what I have already said you might think that this is welcome but my Lord Mayor nothing could be further from the truth. The proposed South East Bradford Link Road could have a devastating impact on Pudsey both in terms of traffic volumes in our ward and the impact on our green belt. Given the rumours route of the new road it can only be that it will be built on green belt further encroaching on the natural barrier between Leeds and Bradford potentially ruining some picturesque areas of Pudsey and not at all in the interests of the climate emergency.

We are totally opposed to this link road and will do all we can to prevent it coming forward. The Conservative Group has often spoken out on planning matters but let me be clear it's not that we are opposed to all new developments more than it has to be proportionate and located in appropriate places. Brownfield first not green belt land. That's not to say we do not support developments that bring the type of housing that is desperately needed, smaller one and two bedroom accommodation for first time buyers, housing for older people to allow them to continue living in Pudsey and in the right locations, family housing at an affordable price. Regrettably what appears to be happening in Leeds is over-provision of executive homes large four, five bedroom properties that of course have a place but not what is needed in Pudsey or in Leeds more generally.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith could you finish please.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: Yes. The Core Strategy sets out a clear ambition to increase the delivery as one and two bedroom homes.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: Thank you my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor J Taylor.

COUNCILLOR J TAYLOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. Looking to the Annual Report it's unsurprising that there is no reference to the Council's flagship broad location policy that was shredded by the government Inspector earlier this year. The problem was not sound with this key policy included and had it not been for the combined efforts of resident groups, Rawdon Parish Council, my two ward colleagues and I and Stuart Andrew Horsforth and Rawdon would have had over a thousand extra houses built on the greenbelt including over Strawberry Fields over this coming period.

Sites removed from the plan include HG33 and HG34 and green belt land previously allocated for 165 houses before our collective efforts saved them from the developers. This land is now threatened once again with Labour's Airport link road sets a compulsory purchase homes along the route devastating the ecology along Gill Beck potentially destroying yet another golf club in this city and giving land to housing development through the back door.

My Ward colleagues and I have had repeated assurances that consultation responses will be shared and full briefings on this scheme will be provided.

Officers have not been forthcoming on any of these details and we are disappointed to discover that surface access to the Airport was part of a key decision to be brought before the Executive Board for approval on the 25th November. Experts presented to the Council's Crime Advisory Board approved that the Airport is the biggest polluter in our city and will account for 100% of our carbon budget should expansion go ahead. Although the report references the climate emergency we're in there is no mention of Leeds Bradford Airport despite growth plans.

This administration has been repeatedly told that building this link road facilitates Airport plans to double passenger numbers and the time is coming to make a decision. I urge you to redirect the funding allocated to schemes that will ease congestion and improve our environment, end your support for Airport expansion as people have asked for. The cost financially to the local taxpayer is significant for moreover the environmental costs cannot be justified thank you

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's absolutely crucial for good planning that people have confidence in the planning process and too often Members of the public that come to Plans Panels go away scratching their chins. We had, as some Members will be aware, a particularly interesting experience in another Local Authority with a planning application right on the doorstep of Wetherby which went to a Planning Committee in Harrogate and at first was deferred, then it was refused, then much to the indignation of the hundreds of people who had attended to Wetherby there was an intervention which meant they had to consider it for a third time and it was approved and then they considered it for a fourth time and refused it and now on the fifth occasion we will have to go to a Planning Inspectorate in December to find out the outcome and it's not a surprise when people experience things like that that they come away scratching their heads and wondering about the planning process. Sadly I have to say there are too many occasions in this Authority where people have been left scratching their chins as well at some of the decisions that have been made and the processes that have been gone through.

We need to look at cross border working in this. We need to make sure there is much better cooperation between Councils, between Local Authorities for those of us on outer areas whether you're in Bradford, whether you're in Wetherby whether you're in the south of the city it is extremely concerning that too often people feel disenfranchised by things that are going to have a significant effect on their community and I hope something will be done to take that on board and step that up.

In the same case I'd like to echo the comments about Neighbourhood Planning. This is not an issue that is unique to any area. In the village I live in, Walton, hanging in my pub is an accolade shared with Holbeck for a national neighbourhood planning award two very distinct and different communities each have put a huge amount of work and have produced incredibly impressive plans it is simply not acceptable that when those communities come and tell Planning Committees what they meant when they produced their plans and wrote them and the policies to be told well that's not what we think you meant so we'll just ignore it and cast it aside and not take it on board. That isn't good enough, we have to show on each and every occasion that the people have put so much work into those neighbourhood plans to take responsibility and try and shape their communities in a positive way are properly listened to and that their issues and policies are properly taken into account. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Anderson.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to talk about expiry dates. Let me give you a live example of an application with a 2017 reference number that still hasn't been decided. I'm one of those people who keeps a regular eye on the major planning applications through the planning portal. This application was validated on the 17th September 2017. The internal target date for decision was the 14th December 2017. The agreed expiry date

kept moving and moving and moving and is currently showing as the 28th September 2019, yes 2019, two years after the application was first validated. The date given for comments to be submitted by has now moved and move and moved and is showing as the 7th November 2019, let's see what the next date appears as. This reminds me of an episode of only fools and horses where Boycie happens to be staying in the Trotters flat overnight. He gets up in the middle of the night to look for a snack, he goes into the fridge and he finds some ham. He looks at the sell by date and he says 'do sell by dates mean nothing to the Trotters' well do expiry dates mean nothing to our Planning Department. What date are they going to make a decision on this, what are we waiting on, this is not the only application like this.

Developers in Leeds know they can get away with murder. You've already heard from other speakers on this side about the lack of enforcement. Our planners are too scared to take them on, if an application is not up to standard or is not going to meet the requirements laid down in the NPPF or they cannot get something in time, or they ask for more time, or they keep producing different layouts that are not suitable, issue a refusal stop pussyfooting around. How long are we going to allow this to go on. How much is all this costing the taxpayer every time the Planning Department don't meet a deadline, the Council can be challenged on this and awarded costs against them. In case you think I've cited an isolated incident here's another example a planning application submitted on the 6th July 2018 internal target date for decision was the 5th October 2018, over a year ago. Dates have been moved and moved and moved and hey presto we now have a date of 8th November 2019 for comments to be received and an agreed expiry date of the 6th December 2019, a year and a half. For goodness sake if a developer is not coming up to standard issue a refusal until they can come up with something that does meet standards.

Another problem we have is inconsistency of decisions. Even in the same area one officer says quite rightly you can't build in the green belt it's not policy another with a decision says fine go ahead build in the green belt there are special circumstances. Absolute poppycock, I agree it's not policy and trying to fit special circumstances to suit is completely unacceptable.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. The Annual Report on Planning describes, rightly describes the work done by this Council developing the Core Strategy and the Site Allocation Plan the work of our Plans Panels and Development Plans Panel. I am very relieved that Leeds now has a 7.2 year land supply and fervently hope that only really sustainable sites that comply with all of Leeds City Council planning policies will be approved in future.

However I would like to talk about something which my ward colleague Member has referred to already and that's the planning application to Harrogate Council despite it not being in the Leeds City Council area the application in question is right on the border of Wetherby and so has significant implications for residents in our ward. My Lord Mayor this is in fact still a live planning matter but as it refers to us, another authority, as the decision maker I don't believe there should be any issue with me raising it here and indeed I think it's an appropriate place to discuss the matter as I hope one of the outcomes of what has happened with this application is that our Planning Department in Leeds will seek to work more closely with our neighbouring authorities on cross border issues like this in the future. I refer to the application to build 210, that's 210 homes at Stockwell Park. At the second time of asking I'm delighted that Harrogate's Planning Committee voted to refuse the application as outlined by my ward colleague though an appeal has now been lodged by the developer which is still to be determined. My Lord Mayor this was a significant planning application just the other side of Wetherby's border with Harrogate. A housing development of that size would totally transform our local area, it would result in an increase in traffic into Wetherby and place additional pressure on all our local services including healthcare and schools. There is no school near to Spofforth. Spofforth school has one place currently and that is nearly seven miles away from where this proposed development is.

People using these services and creating that extra traffic and the pressure on schools would not be paying Council Tax to Leeds and as local ward Councillors we were in many ways, felt that we were looking in at the process from the outside at another Authority taken decision. What I would like to see in future is Leeds working more closely with Authorities like Harrogate and Bradford where there are significant planning applications on the border between two or more Authorities and for those efforts to be reciprocated. This is in a sense already something that the NPPF Framework expects through the duty to cooperate but it should be something we do more of. In this case I note the letter of objection to this application from Leeds City Council but one would hope that through more collaborative working these types of issues could be avoided in future. What also should have been considered is whether or not Leeds could have justifiably argued that for those Harrogate housing numbers ...

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

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: (inaudible) as part of our numbers. Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to start by echoing other colleague's comments on thanking officers. Particularly the officers that support my ward, Weetwood, the professionalism and fairness in which we get briefings and advice is really welcome and I was also pleased to see in the report on page thirty six that there was, one of the applications that was in

Weetwood in Shaw Lane, Headingley which was a controversial building of a modern building in a conservation area and that did attract a number of objections from the Community in a number of comments and it went to Plans Panel and it got a good hearing and people came away from that, residents, although it was approved, they came away feeling they'd had their say, there was a reasoned argument and they felt happy about that and only last week we had another one in fact just round the corner from this one in Headingley where again there was an objection to the controversial application that residents took their objection to the panel, they were listened to, courteously and tentatively there were some changes made and again residents went away OK, it had been approved or referred deferred but they felt they had been listened to and respected and I think that's good for the reputation of the city and for the Planning Department.

But unfortunately that isn't always the case and if I go back, last year there was an application that was first of all an indication from the Officer that it was going to be refused so that was pleasing to the local community because it was a horrendous overdevelopment of a site. Then it came back and it was going to be approved. I made a request for it to go to panel because there was certainly material planning issues that needed to be looked at and then it was invoked this protocol from the Chief Planning Officer that says first of all you can only refer something to panel if it's a material planning consideration which I considered there was but also if it affects people other than the immediate neighbouring properties. Well if you've got a building is too high or too over developed it won't affect many people other than the neighbouring properties and I would urge either Joint plans Panel or the Exec Member to have a look at this again because residents came away from that feeling they hadn't been listened to and their objections had been dismissed and in many ways it was the Planning Department marking their own homework, they were scrutinising themselves and saying no this shouldn't go to Plans Panel and that does nothing for the reputation of the city and our commitment to transparency and openness. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Turning to page thirty one of the document it talks about providing homes of the right quality type and affordability in the right places minimising homelessness. Under those circumstances planning policy has failed Morley significantly and substantially. We are in a situation where we have an oversupply of executive style housing, we have an undersupply of genuinely affordable homes and certainly Leeds City Council Planning Department's commitment to climate emergency and what they can do to adjust to that particular change rings exceptionally hollow at the point where they've granted planning permission for over two thousand houses on green field sites across the Morley area and so the carbon contribution towards trying to deal with the problems that Morley faces has gone up rather than reduced.

On a positive note we did look at what we can do with Section 106 agreements to make sure that local employment policies are deeply ingrained

within them and certainly in Morley's case we have worked very hard with the Planning Department to make sure that jobs that are created come to local residences, it's worked successfully at the White Rose Centre, it's certainly worked successfully on other schemes including the Tescos in Churwell which I think was one of the earlier schemes where there was a guarantee that the jobs created by that type of development will go to local people. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I think Councillor Caroline Anderson's ruined Only Fools and Horses she picked the least funny line to minute didn't she, Del Boy falling over was much much more funny.

(Laughter)

So I'd just like to quickly thank everybody as well Members for their objectivity and determine applications and for the contributions and also officers for their professionalism. I'll mention the excellent stewardship of Councillor Walshaw and the Chair for the last few years now not literally big shoes to follow but you do set a high bar, not compared with mine anyway and a tough act to follow so I wish you well in your new climate emergency role and it is an emergency so for Councillor Cohen to come out with a rhetoric that he did he needs to have a look at some of the current consultations that are going on, so the deregulation act, so we've got REM1 which gives us 20% at the moment, 20% better CO2 reduction if the deregulation act is passed which is being consulted on will be a minimum set by the government but will be restricted to what we can, to put a higher level up so that could really tie our hands in this city and it is an emergency and again I think the Leader of your party needed to be reminded what an emergency is this week didn't he with the floods by the Leader of the Opposition.

So just on to a couple of the items that have come to the North and East that made the report and the construction of the Dixon's Academy this again showed the value of our Plans Panel because a position statement had come a month before and then we had the full application and I am pleased to say much of the advice that Members made was taken on board and it enabled a determination which mitigated most of the concerns of the Co-joining Chapeltown Core Housing Scheme by removing the building further away and the addition of an acoustic fence and landscape buffer tree reduced noise. Car parking was extending a drop off layby added to address local residents issues about parking. So it was a good example of the planning process helping to make Leeds the best place for our children and young people to grow up in. The second scheme I'll mention is the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone the University of Leeds brought forward plans for a development of a huge strategic development of huge strategic significance which involves a new campus facility for the University of Leeds in which world class research and development and the testing of high-speed railway infrastructure and vehicles is to be carried out. An exciting

development and if it comes, as obviously that was a pre-app but if it comes to fruition it will be a major significant contributor to our ambition to deliver inclusive growth with high skill and new technology jobs and training and wouldn't it be fantastic if the pupils at the aforementioned school end up working or studying in that ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie could you.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Campus as well. I'll leave it there with that positive hope.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Gruen.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Firstly I welcome this report which summarises the vast breadth of and quantity of work carried out by the various panels in public and also the many many hours spent by officers making those decisions happen and as Councillor McKenna has said it's not the easiest job sitting on a Plans Panel, huge amounts of papers to read and digest and a whole day given to site visits followed by long and demanding meetings in public whilst being filmed and recorded. So I would like to thank all the Members of the South and West Plans Panel for their careful and thorough, some would say, forensic examination and evaluation of difficult and often controversial decisions in pressured circumstances. But I'd like to turn now to the Development Plan Panel aspect of the report. Many if not most people in this room will at some time or another have sustained an injury serious enough to cause a temporary loss of mobility possibly resulting in struggling with sticks or crutches or other walking devices and for many others this is the only time that we fully appreciate at first hand the extent to which navigating familiar everyday territory suddenly becomes strewn with obstacles inconveniences and needless difficulties if only somebody had thought about it earlier and that's the point at which we might start to think this would be easier if the corridor was wider or the steps were shallower or if there was a an additional ramp or lift or if the doorways were wider and we might think we all already know this but there's nothing like first hand experience to bring it into sharp relief and that is why I welcome the improvements to accessibility in the newly built housing now secured in the Leeds Core Strategy through the Selective Review. Policy H10 now requires that 30% of all new dwellings should be built to a general standard of accessibility and a further 2% should be wheelchair accessible or adaptable to wheelchairs and this is a great step forward for Leeds and applies to all new dwellings except the student accommodation developments. The Inspector concluded this will ensure that Leeds City Council is positively working towards providing a choice of high quality homes for many residents including disabled people and this is clearly desirable.

So Lord Mayor the Leeds administration is doing the right thing for people with disabilities and accessibility, we are leading in the right direction. We now

need a government which will give the political leadership to force the developer's hands and stop stacking the odds in their favour.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin to sum up.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Just to sum up in the way I started off by thanking again all the contributions today and to all the Plans Panel Members for the work that they do all year round. I think you can all see from the passion with which people have spoken today how important this issue is for all of us. The emphasis on sustainability really welcomed the praise for those communities that have been involved in Neighbourhood Planning again thank you for recognising the work that is done there both by local communities and by Planning Officers supporting the development of those neighbourhood plans.

I think the emphasis on affordable housing is really important so thank you to Councillor Richie in particular for commenting on that and the new emphasis now on accessible housing as well so Councillor Gruen again very important that we have that choice available for everybody in this instance that there is accommodation being built for the future that is for those people who are less able bodied as well.

I think the way in which we've all recognised that the SAP giving clarity about future developments and the fact that we will have a five year housing land supply, the 7.2 years that's been identified for this Site Allocations Plan ensuring that we will actually have a plan led planning system that we will know where houses are going and be able to make sure that there is a proper sustainable plan for those new housing developments and that we can work to get the sort of infrastructure in that people have said that they are very keen to see so that we actually do have the amenities brought to those locations where we can enforce developers to do that.

I think again to go back to the opening comment from Councillor Walshaw. We really do need the government to get behind this as well, we need a Town and Country Planning Act that actually enables us to do the things that we want to do to be able to get the zero carbon homes that we've talked about, to have the proper infrastructure in place at the right point in time. It's no good being able to deliver something after people have moved into a development and being there for a significant length of time and they've already got used to using their car and driving to facilities outside their area.

So really just to say thank you once again. We have covered a whole load of areas in that report, the delays that were referred to in terms of having the CSSR and the SAP in place. Whole host of reasons that have been rehearsed numerous times in this Council Chamber at pretty much every Council meeting for the last seven years so we don't need to go over them again but it's not as was portrayed earlier down to this administration there have been repeated delays caused for instance by the whole Parlington issue amongst others so I just like to thank you all for your contributions and look forward to working with you over the year ahead.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move to Item 6. Sorry I'm going too fast. We'll now call for a vote. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 6 – EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to Item 6, executive questions which will take no longer than 30 minutes. Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. Will the Leader of Council circulate, marked "private and confidential" if necessary, the details of any written contract between Leeds City Council and First Bus in which First Bus set out their commitments in return for the substantial investment the Council have put in in Connecting Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you. Can I before I get on to the question Councillor Carter can I just say thank you for your words about Councillor Wilkinson you really reflected I think the very high regard that we all had for him and the real warmth that people felt for him and and I'm very pleased that we'll have the opportunity to pay our full respect tomorrow at the memorial service.

So in answer to your question just looking back over the work that we've done with the Combined Authority with the bus companies we agreed with First Heads of terms of the delivery partnership. The similar arrangements are in place with both Arriva and Transdev. The agreements were reached in 2016 when we were submitting our proposals to the Department of Transport for the funding of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme also known as LPTIP. The document was submitted to the Department of Transport and was formalised into the funding approval. This agreement is not confidential and is in the public domain and it was published with the Exec Board papers in December 2016. However if there is more information that you require I'm obviously happy to work with you to supply.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplement Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. By way of supplementary all the information that Councillor Blake has so far given is indeed in the public domain. However does she not agree with some other colleagues at the Combined Authority who believe that we are at risk in terms of our commitment because there is not a return and binding contract with either of the two companies, Arriva or First Bus, both of whom are up for sale and wouldn't she agree therefore that the £119m we are investing of taxpayers' money given by the government in bus infrastructure and the £25m we are investing of public money given to us by the government for bus delivery could be at risk and what is she going to do to ensure it is not at risk.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Just to be clear that these agreements made with bus companies to improve the bus transport for all bus companies in the city of Leeds and as we know First is up for sale and the Combined Authority Leader's working on the board have agreed to pursue the possibility of buying that company. I think that's a really positive step forward as something that needs to be welcomed but of course we don't know what's going to happen with the takeover but we fully expect that we will work with whoever the new owner is and making sure that they do fully invest in the future bus transport in the city. What we know is that the scandal of the bus patronage since the bus systems were privatised cannot be allowed to continue and since 1986 when that privatisation happened we estimate that the number of people using buses in cities across the UK has halved and that with that estimate we believe that that's around a million less in West Yorkshire. That can't be allowed to happen. We're committed to improving the bus routes and making sure as soon as we possibly can that we get the bus companies back into public ownership re-regulated providing the service that the travelling public need and demand. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Howley.

COUNCILLOR HOWLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. In view of the ongoing housing expansion in Adel, is the Executive Member confident that there is sufficient GP capacity to meet existing and future needs.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Howley. It's been a few years since I was stood up in here answering a question on health but I'll give it a go. Ensuring there is a sufficiency of primary care including GP provision is the responsibility of the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group as all Members in this Chamber will be aware, but for the benefit of anyone watching on the webcast the Clinical Commissioning Group is a decision making body of the National Health Service which oversees a range of local health budgets in Leeds and works with the government and NHS England in terms of GP provisions in particular. Decisions about establishing new GP practices including branch surgeries and closures of GP practices require the Clinical Commissioning Groups to work with NHS England as the nationally accountable.

I'm advised that Adel is expected to deliver 1.1% of the Core Strategy Housing targets as amended in September. Having asked the question of the CCG they are confident that there is sufficient GP capacity from the practices already serving Adel to meet that level of growth in demand.

Just to add to that Lord Mayor officers from Adults and Health, Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group and Planning are currently working to assess the forecasted housing growth numbers across the city focusing on the local care

partnership footprints which will then be used to evaluate the impacts on existing GP provision in those areas. In this assessment consideration needs to be given to the impact that expanding primary care teams within GP surgeries as part of the developing primary care networks will have within the next twelve months each of those primary care networks will have the ability to recruit five additional roles including Clinical Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Paramedics, Physician Associates whatever they are and Social Prescribers which will enable GPs to respond to patients needs. In addition the Clinical Commissioning Group will continue to work with GPs to expand their workforce in line with population growth and demographic change.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR HOWLEY: As a supplementary question. Thank you for such a thorough answer I don't think you've left any stones unturned there. Is a Member aware that the other surgery on Long Causeway is currently planned for closure. Given that the people who use day surgery are probably by their nature the more infirm and immobile. This is going to have a devastating effect on local residents and would you and your colleagues support local residents in opposing such a move.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you. As the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development I wasn't aware of that fact. So as you know the development around Adel itself in terms of, your question really is not about new planning so I'm not sure why I've got it actually this is about existing GP provision so maybe you've asked the wrong Executive Member. I think what I would suggest you do is put that in writing to my colleagues and to ask for that to be taken into consideration in terms of the existing GP provision and I am sure that they'll be very happy to take that up with the Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England in terms of looking at GP provision in that area and ensuring that those communities are properly supported.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: Thank you Lord Mayor. Could the Leader of the Council update Members on the celebrations to mark the centenary of Leeds United Football Club.

THE LORD MAYOR. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Councillor McKenna for that question and all of us who have any interest in Leeds United and football generally we're really caught up with the emotion of the 17th October which actually marked the

the hundred year anniversary of the existence of Leeds United Football Club and can I just take this opportunity to thank everyone who is involved in those celebrations it really was a memorable day. Starting with a ceremony at Salem Chapel and the unveiling of a blue plaque there to recognise that was actually the building where Leeds United first came into existence. There had been a meeting earlier that day at the Adelphi where the players, former players of Leeds City Club were sold off at a auction. They had been forced to close because the Leeds City Management at the time made the decision to pay players during the first world war which was actually illegal and then after that they moved across, a few people decided to move across to Salem Chapel to decide what to do about this and over a thousand people turned up absolutely determined that there would be a football club in Leeds and that saw the birth of the great club itself.

We saw great celebrations in Millennium Square and a fantastic Civic reception where some of the original team Members from the Revie years actually came along and it was a very very special moment and to meet them in person.

At that celebration I was very honoured to be able to announce that we have taken a decision as Council to award our highest civic honour the Freedom of the City award which will be bestowed.

(Applause)

Which will be bestowed on the world famous Leeds United Football Club from the period of 1967 to 1974 and this is in recognition of the staggering legacy of the team led by Don Revie in the city. The club actually put Leeds on not only the sporting map but the international map and you still go to parts of the world where if you ask or if people ask you where you're from and you say you're from Leeds they do remember the glory days and the teams that subsequently followed.

So with that I'm very pleased to confirm that the Freedom ceremony to recognise the achievements of the of the club at that time will go ahead on Wednesday 4th December and I really do hope each and every one of us can attend to fully show our appreciation and to confer the rightful civic recognition that the club deserves. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR MCKENNA: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Was the Leader of Council aware of the recent visit by Jeremy Corbyn Rodillian Academy to address Labour Party Members.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: No.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: By way of a supplementary question. Has Councillor Pryor is aware there are a significant number of academies in Morley.

Could Councillor Pryor confirm his view the view of the Labour Group and the view of Labour Councillor Neil Dawson on whether he agrees with the comments made by a Deanne Ferguson from Morley who suggests that academies are failed experiments and that they should be abolished and returned to Council control.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Yes.

(Applause and laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Marshall.

COUNCILLOR MARSHALL-KATUNG: Thank you My Lord Mayor. Could I kindly ask the Executive Member to update the Council on events that have been held in our city centre. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Councillor Marshall for a question which allows me to speak for slightly longer.

(Laughter)

I would of course be delighted to update Council on what has been a very successful year for the city centre. Leeds continues to host exceptional range of events. Leeds Art Gallery hosted Yorkshire Sculpture International, a one hundred day celebration of sculpture in all its forms. Works by Leeds Trains, Damien Hirst, displayed in Briggate and the Victoria shopping centre proved extremely popular. A city and its welcome three centuries of migrating was exhibited at the City Museum. It was created by working closely with the Community Steering Group to shape the exhibition and wider programme. The exhibition includes over forty community loans many of the lenders and their families joined us at the exhibition launch to see their objects on display. To mark the start of black history month we launched the Windrush Plaque Trail with you Lord Mayor and in partnership with Leeds Civic Trust to commemorate and celebrate the contributions that the Windrush communities have made to our city. Leeds Library hosted the Jamaica Society Leeds Lottery funded project Eulogy, celebrating the lives journeys and heritage of Leeds' first generation Jamaicans who are no longer with us. Create , sculp and play occupied Victoria Gardens outside Leeds Art Gallery providing a series of sculptured themed free family friendly and fun activities over the summer. This summer also saw the return of

the hugely popular Child Friendly Leeds Live with activities and entertainment set up in Millennium Square including fairground rides, live entertainment and the Leeds beach. We also saw the city centre invaded by dinosaurs with huge footprints and crushed cars appearing overnight.

We could not have rounded them up without the help of all the children and young people who undertook the dinosaur trail and helped us track them down. When you look at the figures in particularly Leeds Kirkgate market for carnotaurus that was, they rocketed up and actually speaking to a lot of the traders they said it was one of the best things we've done in the market in getting higher footfall in.

Leeds really is a city for people of all ages and I think this summer really underlined our child friendly commitment, I can't wait to see what what next summer brings. Leeds also hosted the annual HSBC Ride Out Leeds in association with British Cycling where around eight thousand participants took the opportunity to ride on closed roads. We hosted the start of the elite men's road race as part of the world road race championships in October with images of the city beamed across the world. This is in addition to a huge amount of other sporting events including the Jane Tomlinson 10K in Leeds Half Marathon, the World Series Triathlon and the Abbey Dash which a number of Members here ran to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Charity SARSVL and I believe Councillor Scopes was the fastest on that one ...

(Applause and cheers)

With around forty minutes which I think is just wrong.

(Laughter)

The Leeds International Concert season and Leeds International Film Festival both leaders in their respective fields nationally took place in their regular autumn slot. Light Night which I'm sure many Members went to was a great success. Leeds welcomed an increasingly larger number of visitors to what is arguably now the largest annual arts light and culture event in the country with a total of around a 152,000 people recorded over the two nights, that's up 40% from last year. I'm also delighted to announce that Leeds has won the Healthy Streets award ...

(Applause and cheers)

For best tactical urbanism, beating off competition from London and Barcelona the judges looked at how cities manage public spaces so they serve the needs of people's health and happiness and they were particularly impressed with the Cookridge Street pop up which I believe we're looking at making permanently next year and as we enter the festive season I'm sure we can all smell the German Market down there and it would prove to me to be as popular as ever all of which goes to show what a fantastic place Leeds city is and quite how successful things can be run by a Labour administration. Thank you.

(Applause and cheers)

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary Councillor Marshall.

COUNCILLOR MARSHALL-KATUNG: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Collins.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. In February the Leader of Council said Leeds Bradford Airport is a key element of our local and regional economy and plans to improve road and rail access together with local network upgrades will bring significant benefits as well as helping the airport to grow. Is this still the policy of this administration.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport calling on the government to take action in line with the UK Committee on climate change to include aviation emissions in UK targets. The UK government leading by example would not only mean that all UK regions with airports will be working on a level playing field but would also create the opportunities for job creation and investment we need to see in a technology to remove greenhouse gas emissions from this sector.

In order to create the right conditions for citizens to choose more sustainable modes of travel over flying for domestic travel and travel to our near European neighbours, travel by the Channel Tunnel for instance. It's very clear that residents in our region needs to see a long overdue investment and increase in investment that we deserve in public transport particularly rail infrastructure and mass transit. As I'm sure all parties in this Chamber would agree Leeds and the Yorkshire region have suffered from chronic under investment in transport and UK connectivity.

I welcome the news in the leaked Oakervee review reported in The Times calling for the full delivery of HS2 in that light. Our existing rail lines are passed capacity and we need schemes like HS2 and NPR to allow people to travel more sustainably. As a Council we continue to talk to our partners on the climate commission, were actively engaged in a public consultation on the climate emergency and working with our neighbouring Local Authorities to consider the economic and social impact alongside the environmental impacts of the airport on our local community and citizens.

The results of the consultation on options for improving surface access have been collated and a report will be brought forward by the end of the year reaffirming amongst other things our commitments to public transport working with West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Ward Members will be fully briefed before that report comes to the Executive Board and would indeed have been getting that a briefing fairly soon but it's been delayed by the General Election announcement as the Executive Board meeting is now taking place as you know the first week in January rather than in December during the General Election period.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Will the Exec Member confirm and explain why Leeds is still pressing ahead with a scheme to build an airport link road across, this will be across green belt. This is despite high public objections during the previous two consultations and despite the evidence presented by Rawdon Parish Council that the number of vehicles travelling between Horsforth roundabout and the airport is extremely low. Leeds Highways have also conducted its own camera survey of this route but no data from this has yet been presented. This is because it confirms the Parish Councils figures.

Please confirm that the road is going ahead and explain why.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor and just to reiterate what I just said in the initial answer to your question that the report on the surface access to the airport will be coming to the Executive Board first week in January, the one that would have been in December had there not been a General Election announcement and as I've said all Members will be fully briefed ahead of that report coming to Executive Board once we're out of the election period but we've said about the Council having a committed funding to that scheme is not accurate there were figures in the original consultation for consultation purposes, no funding has been allocated to that scheme and the details of what will be taken forward as a result of the consultation, and we have listened to the consultation, that information been collated and will be forming the basis of the report that will be coming to the Executive Board in January.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Cabinet Member for Climate, Transport and Sustainable Development inform Council when the public consultation will start on the plans for public transport improvements on the A660 from Lawnswood to Headingley.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you Councillor Bentley as you are aware a number of the consultations took place for the A660 from Lawnswood to Headingley in July and August 2018 with further consultation on the Lawnswood and Holt Lane scheme taking place in September 2018. The responses to these consultations have informed work going forward that's from the cancellation of the scheme consulted on for Lawnswood roundabout to the progression of the scheme progresses which is taking place now at Holt Lane which was overwhelmingly popular. The Holt Lane signalisation scheme will bring benefits to bus services by reducing delays currently experienced on the number one service as it seeks to turn right at the currently unsignalised junction with

Otley Road. The signalisation of the junction will improve bus journey times and reliability for passengers as well as introducing signalised pedestrian crossing facilities at that junction thus making bus journeys and walking more attractive.

The scheme is expected to generate modal shift away from the private car resulting in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. As Councillor Mulherin said there was a consultation in 2018 that's over twelve months ago and there was a commitment for a further consultation which hasn't yet materialised. As she knows it's one of the worst areas of congestion in the city and its coming to the end of the queue in terms of any work being done. Now that the Lawnswood roundabout scheme will not be part of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Plan can she confirm that the funds on that will be committed still to the A660 and can she give us a timescale of when work will commence.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I was expecting to stay standing up. Further proposals for a Road Safety and Traffic Management Scheme at the Lawnswood roundabout are being examined and subject to identifying a satisfactory acceptable scheme these will be brought forward separately subject to funding outside the Leeds public Transport Improvement Programme. I think as you are aware the concerns around that specific junction were to do with safety and ensuring that we improve cyclist and pedestrian safety particularly and taking out the priority for that of been a public transports improvement so it's now falling outside the LPTIP scheme.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jenkins.

COUNCILLOR JENKINS: My Lord Mayor could the Executive Member please comment on the pay claim from the three largest Local government Unions calling for a 10% pay rise for Local government workers.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll just give Councillor Mulherin a break and answer Councillor Jenkins question. So for Members that aren't aware the three main unions in Local government, Unison, Unite and GMB have submitted a 10% pay claim on the basis they want to catch up on the 22% cuts that Local government staff have had since austerity was imposed upon us. We as a Labour administration support their pay claim, we believe it's the right thing to do and we also support the element that this should be funded by the national government.

I read in my favourite newspaper the Financial Times recently that the government has £32b, £37b stashed away of money and I think on this occasion rather than more tax cuts for the rich some of it should go to low paid public sector workers to cover this. I also want to make another point as well which a pay claim

included a request for a study into stress and mental health issues among the Local government workforce I'm pleased to say that's an issue we take very seriously in Leeds and one of the things we've done this year is ,as well as aiming to be an enterprising and efficient organisation, we've also aimed to be an enterprising, efficient and healthy organisation. There's a huge amount of work going on in terms of training, mental health and first aid throughout the workforce so I'm pleased to confirm that we support the 10% pay claim.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR JENKINS: As a supplementry could you please comment on further in recognition this week is living Wage Week.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you. A great question Councillor Jenkins. This week is Living Wage Week which when the living Wage Foundation announces its new pay rate for minimum pay rate for next year I'm pleased to confirm that we'll continue our commitment to paying the National Living Wage Foundation living wage rate for another year starting next spring.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you. How many mature trees will be cut down during the construction of the East Leeds Orbital Road and how will that loss of carbon capture immediately be mitigated.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MUHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you Councillor Forsaith for asking such an important question.

As Members will appreciate the East Leeds Orbital Route is a critical piece of infrastructure for the future growth of the city. It will enable the development of more than five thousand new homes which are essential to enabling us to have that five year housing land supply we talked about earlier and protecting green belt sites from been brought forward re speculative developments. Extra housing will play a key important role in supporting economic growth of the city. The planning application for the East Leeds Orbital Route was submitted in July 2017 and approved in December that year. The landscape strategy developed in support of the East Leeds Orbital Route planning application mitigates the impact of the scheme as well as promoting landscape and environmental objectives such as protecting and enhancing local habitats. The results to get net gain of 8.8 hectares of woodland and shrub, 0.15 hectares of scrub, 21.4 hectares of species rich mix and 9 hectares of marginal and wetland. A planning application included a tree survey and an arbor, I can't say it, arboricultural impact assessment

undertaken by WSP. That assessment stated that 248 trees, 106 of which identified as mature or over mature trees and 6 groups of trees would be impacted by the scheme and would need to be removed and Atkins landscape team is currently reviewing the documents to validate the figures against the scheme to be constructed. The planting proposals developed by them have been developed in accordance with the landscape strategy objectives set out in the original planning approval. The tree loss highlighted within the arboricultural impact assessments that ...

(Laughter)

Yeah, will be mitigated by in stating new native trees along the corridor for a total of 421 trees of large planting stock alongside the other ones referred to which will have an effective immediate impact on the loss of carbon capture. Currently it's planned to plant trees prior to and after the opening of the routes in year 1 and year 2 and I'm advised that there should be an acknowledgement to the fact that the scheme will provide a net gain in planting upon its establishment.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary question Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Yes. I haven't got a supplementary question it's a comment to make, really just a question ...

(Background talking)

No more supplementary's.

OK this is, we have now come to the end of question time's.

ITEM 7 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move to item 7. Councillor Blake.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Grahame.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on minute 20 page 43. Lord Mayor this paper highlights the incredibly important work we and our partners are undertaking to ensure we are providing the best end of life care and enabling people to make their wishes concerning their death's clear.

The report shows that an increased number of people are dying in care homes, hospices or at home. This demonstrates a strong desire for people to remain in their homes and in their communities. Community forms a vital part of everyone's lives and that is why it is so important that Community Committees remain at the very centre of decision making. Increased involvement with local people means that their priorities can be identified and addressed while at the same time strengthening local networks. In the Outer East we know that social isolation among older people can be a very real issue and so we have identified projects that will help to tackle this. We have luncheon clubs that bring older people together to enjoy a hot meal and socialise with friends and there have been numerous themed events throughout the year. A strong sense of community and support that contributes to people's desire to remain at home or in their care home at the end of their life. Community Committee meetings are important as they bring real decision making down to a local level giving residents ownership of issues affecting them and the resolution of those issues. Each committee is different and identifies its own priorities working at grassroots level to tailor programmes and projects to each individual area and working to make each community the best it can be. With more people choosing to remain in their communities at the end of their lives we need to continue to ensure that those communities are truly reflected of local needs and desires and remain places people want to live. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Lord Mayor I would like to speak on Health and Wellbeing Board minute 20 page 43. The report of the policies and end of life care. In Leeds we are committed to ensure that people get the best care in the right place at the right time. When we talk about care however we often avoid talking about deaths. Yet how we care for people who are dying is a key indicator of how we care for all sick and vulnerable people. It is definitely not a subject we should avoid. In the last ten years we have seen an increase in the number of people dying at home, in hospice or in care home. This demonstrates the success of our effort to move towards more community based end of care life. However as the report highlights there are still too many people dying in hospital when it was not their preferred place of death. To help tackle this issue I am pleased that this administration has invested in a five year Dying Matters Programme led by Public Health Department. We are continuing to tackle this important piece of work forward through public health despite devastating government funding cuts. We know that public Health plays a vital role in supporting the health of the whole population however between 2015/16, 2019/2020 public health funding, grant funding has reduced by over £700m in real terms, this is shocking.

In addition the government has cut funding for the early intervention grant by almost £500m since 2013. This is projected to drop by a further £183m by 2020. These reduction represents a cut to the NHS in all but name vital public intervention decreases, pressure on NHS services by reducing the need for people to access them. If public health funding continues to be slashed demand

for NHS services will only continue to soar. In September the Chancellor announced a real term increase to the public health grant budget however the amount is yet to be confirmed. Recently extra funding, like extra funding recently announced for the police, school and NHS. It will probably only begin to repair the damage that the government austerity has already inflicted. As far as I can tell the only thing the Conservative government appears to be continued, committed to be too is leaving the ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan could you.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Local Authority to consist sighting on certainty. Just finish on this one Lord Mayor ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wenham.

COUNCILLOR WENHAM: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am very pleased to be here today to speak on palliative and end of life care. Dying, how do we do it, where do we do it, planning for it. None of these topics that people like to discuss but is the only thing that unites us all and we need to ensure that wherever possible people have the opportunity to plan and talk about what they want, happens with their loved ones.

Around 6,850 people die each year in Leeds and over the last ten years we have seen a reduction in the number of people dying in hospital and an increase in those dying at home in hospice or in care homes. What we know from discussions that have taken place with three family Members and people undergoing end of life care themselves is that they want to be having these conversations because getting this right really matters. We are doing well in Leeds we have an award winning Dying Matters Programme which brings together various sectors to help change the culture around death and dying and to encourage those conversations to take place. We know that when they do a person is far more likely to go on to die in the place of their choosing. But we know we need to do more.

We also know that who you are makes a difference as where you are most likely to die. Men from a mix of black ethnic background and those under 65 are all less likely to have a preferred place of death recorded or as they do die there. These issues that we need to discuss we all want everyone to have a dignity in death but this should extend to planning for their death as well. We would like to think that when our times comes everything is planned, our family know's wishes and those wishes are carried out wherever possible. We have the health and

care professionals to enable that to happen but it can't happen if those understandably difficult conversations don't take place.

I am heartened to see that we are moving forward as a city to break down these barriers. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Anderson

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on minute 20 on page 43. The Leeds Health and Care Plan is designed to deliver significant parts of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy but there are gaps. The current strategy runs from 2016 to 2021. The Leeds Health and Care Plan also regularly comes to the Adults, Health and Scrutiny Board which I am a Member of.

In case you're not aware of what these gaps are three have been identified. Protecting vulnerable people and reducing health inequalities, improving quality and reducing inconsistency, building a sustainable system within the reduced resources available. One of the lines in the plan on a page states to invest more in early intervention and prevention targeting those areas that will make the greatest impact. Why is it then that people are not taking up the free opportunities afforded to them through the health service. Why do some women not take up the well women health checks, why do some men not take up the well men health checks, why do people not go for flu jabs, why do women not go for smear tests and breast screening. Just over 54% of those eligible have taken up the three general health checks with their GP surgery, almost 30% of women do not accept the invitation for free breast screening. Part of the reason may be they are scared in case there's something wrong but better to find out sooner rather than later.

Part of it is the appointment system because it does not fit in with people's lifestyles. Thankfully that is a shift going on now to provide appointments at times when more people can attend them out with office hours.

This is a Leeds Health and Care Plan, a plan that the Council is responsible for delivering in conjunction with the local NHS, the CCG, dentists, mental health services, the third sector all have a part to play. The plan is also about people taking responsibility for themselves, working with their health professional to manage any condition in a way that keeps them out of hospital, out of the GP surgery, managing their own medication and taking up the free health checks they are offered.

Two of the four aims in the plan are to live a healthy life to keep myself well and go to hospital only when I need to. I can't think of anybody that would go to hospital when they didn't need to but the message is important. Living a healthy lifestyle is not difficult nowadays lots of primary schools have the healthy schools award. This should be part of a suite of actions that will help children when they're growing up into adults with the mindset of keeping and staying healthy where possible. You don't need to be rich to eat healthily, supermarkets have very affordable fruit and vegetable offers every week. Soup is very easy and nutritious and great for the winter you don't need to join an expensive gym to keep

fit, we have the great outdoors all around us. Talking of the great ... Sorry thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor G Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I wish to speak on minute 20 page 43 which is in danger of been done to death I'm afraid, if you forgive the expression so I will just move through my notes and concentrate on something we have in Leeds which I think we should be proud to have in Leeds, proud to say we've got, proud to support and that's the Hospice St Gemma's.

When we talk about palliative care and end of life we are talking really about St Gemma's, it's one of the major authorities on palliative care, it forms a part of the University of Leeds, they have the Palliative Care Department lodged in St Gemma's and they don't, St Gemma's is a place that people are frightened of but you don't have to go into St Gemma's, St Gemma's will come to you. They spend more time and have more nurses visiting people in their homes than they do having people within their premises which are incidentally similar most restful peaceful and delightful places you could wish to find. I'm stressing this because as I say I think that that we undervalue to some extent facilities like this and just quickly, a little bit of a side issue here, inordinantly proud that last year my wife Councillor Pat actually jumped out of a serviceable aeroplane at 15,000 feet to raise money for St Gemma's and in the process raised over £5,000 which I thought was fantastic.

(Applause)

But the whole point there is that I am straying from my notes so I'm going to forget what I was saying. We have in St Gemma's as I say we have the palliative care. Now palliative care is only useful to people who are actually in pain and in fear. We've all been talking about death, an awful lot of people die perfectly normally, perfectly peacefully without any intervention but people who are dying in pain palliative care kicks in and that is the most important thing but the removal of fear is the other thing and one thing that they're incredibly good at is teaching people that you are alive and living and living a life until the day you die and that you don't have to spend your last days just thinking about what's coming which most of us who aren't experiencing that do. I would say I speak with authority because I'm in the area of life where it's going to loom up one of these days before too long so the young ones amongst you you can just sit back for a bit. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will be speaking to minutes 20, 23 and 24 with particular regard to care homes for the over 65's. I'd

first like to acknowledge the improvement in CQC reports in care homes over the last two years which are standing or were standing at 82% but I think we have to accept that this is just a headline figure and it's across the entire sector of course rather than individual parts of the sector. To say I appreciate the social care pictured better in Leeds it's necessary to look a lot more closely at the figures and having done so it's clear that more work needs to be done in certain areas.

I've looked at the latest CQC reports for over sixty five care homes in Leeds. I make it about a hundred and fifteen, seventy residential, forty five nursing homes of the former the residential homes 80% achieved a good CQC report not a million miles away from the headline figure but in nursing homes only 58% achieved a good marking. Looking closer at these latter homes most providing dementia care nursing homes the results are much less impressive. The research seventy such homes in the city, thirty nine residential, thirty one nursing homes. 77% of the residential care homes have received a CQC marking of good again not a million miles away from the 82% figure but of the nursing homes for people with dementia only 48% achieve a good marking. This is less than half and bear in mind that a good marking is the minimum standard of care that would require for anybody in this city. That's not my interpretation that's the interpretation of the Chair of the Leeds Adult Safeguarding Board.

So Lord Mayor it's clear that nursing home provision for dementia care falls considerably lower than the headline figure. I think it's clear a huge amount of work needs to be done to bring up these homes to a reasonable sort of standard. I know that the Care Quality Team have done some excellent work in the sector and the Leadership Academy should improve the management of care homes more generally but perhaps a lot more work needs to be done in the nursing home sector particularly those looking after people with dementia many of whom are in their twilight years. Thank you very much indeed Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've got quite a lot of comments there to go through so apologies if I don't go into detail on everybody but thank you for your intervention to comments. A lot of, it's always clear when the Health Wellbeing Board minutes come out in Council how much everybody really cares about this area of work and it's a really good thing to be able to work in that way cross party on Health and Wellbeing Board so thank you for that. Really special subject palliative care, people dying, dying in a way that is planned, in a way that they wish and their families wish to die. What we're trying to do with the left shift in Leeds and through the health and care plan that is a cross sector plan is try to bring together an incredibly complex system with a, as Councillor Anderson raised, a plan has to encompass almost everything.

So you know obviously that is going to be a challenge and difficult and not always get it right but what if we can do it, if we can integrate what we do and get teams to work together with cross boundary, cross between NHS, Social Care Housing whatever. We can always get better at that and that includes dying so

the right care, in the right place at the right time covers everything. We wish we had more money in the NHS, we wish we had more money in Social Care we could do a heck of a lot with that but given we haven't and we are in a situation where it's incumbent on us to do what we can with the money we have so when somebody is dying and you know I've been in that situation with family the last thing you want is for a blue light to take your loved one you know to hospital in the hours and days before their death. If there in a care home that can often happen because of risk avoidance and this sort of thing. So good planning cross boundary through the partnership that we have in Leeds the more that we can do on that the better that individuals cases, people ethically you know, your your compassionate case of an individual will get that person centred care, will get the, will hopefully get the death that they want in the place they want with the support that they need rather than go through a very difficult experience where that care isn't right at the most critical time.

So thank you for all the comments on that we are working very hard to make that happen and the partnership is really impressive and I think Councillor Latty mentioned the Palliative Care Academic Unit at St Gemma's. It's in my ward, it was your charity last year I know that, it's close to your heart as well and there is some excellence in the city we really really have got huge amount to build on and lots of will as well people want to get this right for the people in the city. So I'm really delighted that more people are dying at home, in a care home or in a hospice and having hospice at home as well. We need more resources in that field though, people do need more than we can currently provide which is you know I mean probably always an issue that we need to address.

So health checks are just very very quickly we've as a Council Public Health we've changed the contracting of our health checks based on the things that you were just saying to outsource the GP Confederation to get them to try to improve the access rates and we're trying to say we know that people don't come to get screening in our more poorer areas of the city. Health of the poorest is the fastest work that we're doing, it encompasses health checks and screening as well and we're putting extra resources into poorer areas to try to ring people up to get them to come to screening because that's where we know people don't come as often as in other areas.

Councillor Flynn brings up care homes and data we talk about this a lot, I have to just say you saying a headline figure which is a significantly better than it was a few years ago, you did mention that but you were very happy to use the headline figure a few years ago so I think we have to say you know it has significantly improved and it has always been initially well ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Nursing care was significantly lower it has increased as much as the rest. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go into Executive Board minutes which will be heard up to ten past four after this the Exec Members will sum up followed by the Leader of the Council. So can I call Councillor Almass.

COUNCILLOR ALMASS: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on minutes 88 page 73 and 74 of the minute book. My colleagues around the room will be aware that this is becoming increasingly difficult for this Council and Councils up and down the country to deliver savings as time goes on. The report highlights that local government will see an overall increase of over £2.7b in year 2020/2021 however nationally Local Authorities face a funding gap of nearly £18b by 2025.

I am concerned that the funding announced to date does not go far enough to support Councils to deliver vital local services and I'm fearful for the impact this will have on our communities in particularly myself as Adult Social Care Support Champion for the Inner South Community Committee I am deeply concerned about how we will continue to support our city's most vulnerable adults with mounting pressure being placed on our demand led Adult Social Care Services.

In Leeds we are delivering forward some fantastic work to support vulnerable adults to live safely within their communities where possible which really emphasises a compassionate city approach. But how are we meant to plan for the future of the services that promote the health and wellbeing of our residents if we have no certainty over future funding or whether we will actually be able to afford to fund these services. In the March 2017 budget the Tories promised a social care green paper to consult on future funding which was reinforced by a manifesto commitment during the subsequent 2017 General Election Campaign then over two and a half year later in October this year I was really disappointed to hear that Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, suggested that the heavily delayed long overdue Green paper may be scrapped altogether. Is this just another example of promises that Conservative government simply cannot deliver.

In September the Chancellor stated that an additional £1b would be made available for Adults and Children's Social Care which would near enough plug the gap in Adult Social Care for this financial year. If all of that money was allocated to Adult Social Care which I am by no means suggesting as Children's Services nationally are also in dire straits and urgently acquire sustainable funding.

As it stands there is no sign of tangible long term and sustainable solution to the funding rules felt by the Local Authorities up and down the country that just want the best for the people and places they represent. With the Adult Social Care funding gap projected to rise to a shocking £3.6b by 2025 Local Authorities desperately need long term funding to enable them to continue to support the most vulnerable residents and plan for the future. We need less empty promises and more ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Almass.

COUNCILLOR ALMASS: Action. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: My Lord Mayor I'm speaking on minute 88 page 73 to 74 on the Revenue Budget update from 2020/21 to 24/25 which was considered by the Exec Board in October. Like my colleague Councillor Almass I'm concerned about the increasing pressure being placed on Local Authorities as a direct result of cruel and unsympathetic funding cuts imposed on us by central government. As Executive Member for Children and Families and I'm particularly concerned about the impact on some of our city's most vulnerable children and families.

In June 18 the National Care Crisis Review highlighted concerns related to Children's Social Care and the increasing pressure placed on families by government funding cuts and the cumulative impact of nearly ten years of austerity. Despite the review supporting the LGA's call for the government to make up the national funding shortfall in Children's Services a year later we are still seeing Councils struggling under huge demand led budget pressures. Last year Councils overspent on Children's Social Care budgets by £800m to keep children safe, a statutory duty of Local Authorities. Nationally eighty eight children a day are being taken into care and Councils have seen a 53% increase in the number of children on child protection plans, this is expected to rise if Children's Social Care does not get the funding it so desperately needs.

We are also seeing an exponential increase in child poverty which is absolutely heartbreaking. The UK has the fifth largest economy in the world areas of huge wealth and is a leading centre of global finance yet 70% of children living in poverty live in a household where at least one adult works, this is an absolute disgrace.

In Leeds we are doing all we can to mitigate the impact of child poverty but without the certainty of a long term funding commitment from the government there is only so much we can do. Local Authorities do not possess the levers to lift children out of poverty these rest with central government. Due to funding pressures many Councils have taken the difficult decision to cut funding to early intervention services but these are precisely the services that are effective in tackling problems for children before they escalate and significantly reducing the need for statutory social work intervention. These are vital invest to save services that must be funded. Children's Services nationally face a funding gap of £3.1b by 2025 and I'm truly worried we will see children across the country slipping through the gaps as families and Councils face ever increasing pressures. Politicians working at a national level need to recognise the devastating impact that their unscrupulous economic policies have had of some of our most vulnerable and youngest residents. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Iqbal.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I am speaking today on the Executive Board minutes 88 page 73 Budget Update 2021 to 2025 including proposed saving proposals. Specifically I'd like to address the impact of budget cuts on our police services which have been £140m alone in West Yorkshire which equated to a loss of two thousand police jobs. The government have made constitute policing which in turn has seen a national increase in crime something originally denied by government. As a Council we are very proud of our partnership ways of working especially working with the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner maintaining the number of Police Community Support Officers, PCSOs.

We're fortunate that Leeds City Council has maintained our must funding investment with the agreement of the Police and Crime Commissioner and our Police Community Support Officers something that has not been possible by other cities throughout the UK. The money that has been announced recently in many ways is too little too late. For example all the Leeds and West Yorkshire has received some funding to address the rise in knife and violent crime that is somewhat fragmented and papering over the damage that has already been taken place but no confirmation of sustained funding for early intervention or prevention. Positive of the partnership work with LCC does for example Safer Leeds Partnership Community Safety Champions working closely with West Yorkshire Police and the PCC's office in establishing the Violence Reduction Unit.

As previously stated we have a strong partnership with Safer Leeds and links with other third sector organisations. We also have a representative on Special Interest Group on counter extremism and extra work been done to counter and prevent terrorism and extremism.

We have have Safer Leeds to address community safety throughout the city and measures to ensure the priority remains our residents linked to the Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire. The good work West Yorkshire Police does is evident and yet these continuous cuts are more than twenty thousand officers nationally have severely impacted on their hard work, dedication and the partnership we're working on and increased vulnerabilities in our communities.

Community safety remains the number one priority for us in Leeds as I'm sure it does throughout the country and yet the impact of these police cuts mean that this remains a continuous (inaudible) to ensure safety of our residents maintained. We want to ensure that people in our city who live here are visiting have the positive lasting impression of the safe and compassionate city aims to be.

We strive to attain a Best Council Plan, safe strong communities and we are making this promise to Leeds residents but how can we maintain this when the resources are so badly needed have been cut across policing and a range of other public services. Take a look at nationally the extremely ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Iqbal.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: Rebellion protests. OK I'll stop here. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on minute 88 page 73, 2021 to 2425 on affordable housing. I will be addressing affordable housing and the fact that Leeds will have to continue leading the way in. This issue remains very important to me and I know how hard our housing team work and in partnership with services to ensure that the best solution to affordable housing are sought across the city. We are committed at this Council to deliver affordable housing for our residents as part of our values to ensure that they have somewhere they can call home.

I'd like to thank our team for their continued hard work in addressing this urgent matter of housing when our government it is clear to see have dragged their heels in delivering on this. We were proactive in our response to the lifting of the HRA cap in the late 2018 setting ourselves an ambitious target of delivering at least three hundred new build homes ourselves every year as our direct contribution to meet in the city's affordable housing needs. We are committed to offer new built homes at rents that are genuinely affordable for our tenants and well below market rates.

We are also purchasing some additional homes to add them back into our stock to provide urgently needed additional units of housing at social rent. We are continuing to proactively seek new sites to bring into the programme too. Been responsive to local needs sit within our ambition to be that compassionate, age friendly city that continued to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities. Now in the midst of continued austerity we are still having to formulate our own plants.

We want to ensure that families remained together throughout their lives that they receive the right service and are part of a community. We want to support our residents and be there when they need us the most. A secure and affordable home is one of the best ways in which we can do this. In a Ward like my own the community always need to remain the highest priority. We must not only support our most vulnerable citizens but provide them with the opportunity to have a house to call their home. A lot more needs to be done however it is a cultural change by the government that is needed and once again with our national. I feel this will not be addressed until it is too little too late.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Neil Dawson.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Thank you My Lord Mayor. My Lord Mayor I would like to speak again on minute 88 on page 73 on Policy Inclusive Growth in our city. One of the shocking facts over the last few years has been the massive increase in people accessing food banks. Nationally between April 2018 and March 2019 the Trussell Trust provided from the network a record 1.6m food supplies to people in crisis a 19% increase on the previous year. In Leeds figures from the Leeds North and West and Leeds South and East food banks show they provided 24,210 three day emergency food parcels to people between April 18 and March 19 of that number 9,500 went to children in our city. However there are some people who doubt , you may be aware that last week the Conservative candidate for Wakefield resigned from his position because of his policy made about food banks on he's social media. The Conservative candidate used to be a Councillor in Outwood and also he's a former Councillor in Morley and Outwood.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Yeah.

(Background talking)

Well he's gone yeah. I'll just say what he said.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dawson could you not refer back to that question because we are not using here as a debate for political. Could you please follow ...

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: I'm addressing issues of food banks which is a real issue in this city.

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: He's not a candidate, no.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Your on a red light but I'll give him one minute to finish what your saying.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: What was said was if ever there was a reason to be involved in public office it was to expose ludicrous claims of food poverty in the UK. Now I don't believe these claims are ludicrous they are real, these are people who are suffering.

(Applause)

And this government ought to realise that. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK Councillor Dawson thank you.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: I'm pleased to say that in our city our Council has made a key priority of tackling poverty and inequality.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you Councillor Dawson.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: What is that it.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Alright.

(Background shouting)

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me.

(Background talking)

Councillor Akhtar.

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: I am really sorry my Lord Mayor. I'm also speaking on minute 88 page 73. On 4th of September the Chancellor announced the results of government spending review. This might surprise you but for the first time in decades they gave a very small increase in grant funding for local government. It is not much of an increase it is barely enough to keep up with inflation. Is something happening, is there something happening, ooh. Something happening very funny when austerity obsessed conservatives giving even just a small increase to Councils. Like everything with this government you have to check the small print. When you do you see they want to stop the Business Rates Pilot Scheme. This takes away another £10m from Leeds. This means the actual overall increase works out at less than half of one percent. When you do consider £1.5b has been cut from this Council budget since 2010 you understand this off political gesture isn't going to make any difference. It is not just an amount of funding that causes the problems, the way government allocate funding in an unplanned one off and chaotic way making it very hard for Councils to plan financially longer term.

To say the way this government works in chaotic is an understatement. The chaos we have seen in the way they fund local governments is a prime example. The keep giving out amounts just one off financial year. Believe that financial settlement announcement to a very last minute there is no long term thinking just more chaos.

We will debate later in the White Paper how they give with one hand and take away with another. The increase to the interest rate on what we can borrow from Public Works Loan Board after a decade of cuts and austerity we should not be surprised. Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well it would appear the Returning Officer has lost complete control of purdah. However in respect for you maam I shall try to keep within the boundaries.

I want to comment on page 88 minute 73 in particular the comments of Councillor Iqbal. He seems to have completely forgotten that the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire had to be reminded by HMRC that he was sitting on a £103m of reserves while reducing police numbers, then began to spend those reserves on recruiting police. He shouldn't have been sitting on the reserves in the first place. My Lord Mayor you're drawn to the conclusion that Members of the Labour Party actually want to see the cuts and actually let cuts happen that don't need to happen when sitting on reserves of that sort, it is wholly unacceptable and what Councillor Iqbal was saying was complete rubbish. Furthermore in West Yorkshire we have more PCSO's than any other police force in the country despite the reductions in funding and My Lord Mayor and my Lord Mayor ...

(Background talking)

And My Lord Mayor since 1998 when your beloved leader, Tony Blair, whose still alive by the way ...

(Background talking and applause)

There's been a 62% reduction in burglaries, a 69% reduction in thefts of motor vehicles and an 80% reduction in theft from motor vehicles so if you're going to make these ridiculous statements you keep making, get them in context or resign, resign your position at the Police Authority.

(Applause and cheering)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and may I associate myself with the comments Councillor Carter made about Councillor Wilkinson before, he was a dear friend and dear colleague and he will be sorely missed.

Who'd have thought that such a dry financial paper would have started off the debate right before an election here but here we go. It's interesting reading the report because what every single Member has spoken on this item previously on from the opposition benches fail to notice is the actual financial numbers that are in there and not one of them has mentioned it yet because the minimum revenue provision of this Council has been something that this group has been warning of for a long long time and finally the chickens are coming home to roost. If anybody reads the report they will see that what we are about to find is a budget gap that will grow from £93.7m to £161.7m, that is a £70m budget gap that's on your watch. There is nobody else to blame that's not something that's coming

from government that is purely the financial management of the Members opposite and each of the Members that spoke previously voted for that budget, they voted for that situation to come to pass and actually what we are seeing now is that over the next few years the biggest spends of this Council, you know the biggest spending areas of this Council will be Adult Social Care, Children's Services and in third place servicing the debt. 22% of the revenue of this Council will go to servicing the debt that this Council has raised, £2.2b worth of debt £113m towards servicing that debt and I'm reminded of Councillor Venner's comments earlier when she mentioned that national politicians should be, was it politicians nationally need to understand what they've done, unscrupulous actions.

There have been unscrupulous actions because service by local politicians because servicing the debt fails to spend money on homes, on communities, on the hardest working in this city the people that you claim to represent you are happier giving the money to the bank then you are giving it to them and it is a crying shame Lord Mayor, a crying shame that this Labour administration running this city who talks about the financial management of the government nationally is running up this situation it is there in the report, it is there in black and white and it should be reported very transparently to the people of Leeds and it should be made clear in their own Local Council Tax bills come next year just where that money is going to service the debt and that is a waste of money and it's a waste of time by this Council doing just that.

(Background talking)

I'm afraid, you might want to point nationally and you might want to point out what's going on, speak on the Public Works Loans Board item later because that is another good example of where you have managed to run up the debt and you are happier pointing the finger elsewhere.

(Background talking)

You had £2.2b reasons that you've given this city to hold you to account.
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors I'm speaking on minute 88. So we've been talking about funding cuts. Each time I make this type of speech I hope it will be the last yet here I am again. How many times ...

(Background talking)

Unfortunately not. How many times will I need to highlight the incompetence of the incumbent government in regard to schools. It seems at least one more time. The Institute for Fiscal Studies said that per pupil funding in real terms has dropped by 8% from 2009/10 to 2019/20. This government can use any clever maths it likes to claim the opposite however that is 8% fewer books and stationery, 8% less recreational equipment, 8% fewer staff.

Actual School Advisers in Dorset were sent into a school and suggested that they reduce school meal portion sizes, I'm going to let that sink in for a second. They were asked to literally take the food out of children's mouths because of government cuts. They were also told to cut the curriculum that was on offer, but wait I can hear the rebuttal now. Dorset is miles away and in very particular different circumstances to us. Maybe indeed their meals were just too big for children anyway.

(Laughter)

So let's come closer to home, Leeds UTC was urged to review the timetable and reduce the number of subjects offered. I hasten to add the subject that was indicated for the chop in this particular circumstance was geography, a subject that equips young people with the transferable skills needed to understand the world around them and the way a country could be run. The cuts of staff in my opinion is one of the most detrimental to our education system. Indeed what actually is an education system without trained educators. Many schools have been asked to replace upper pay scale staff with NQT's because you can get almost two NQT's for the price of one experienced teacher.

Of course they aren't like for like are they though. The difference between the quality of my teaching now versus when I was an NQT is worlds apart and I'm nowhere near the upper pay scale. This process is detrimental to departments, detrimental to students and detrimental to the long term system as NQT's aren't mentored by these more experienced staff.

Chris Keates from NASUWT says the skills, knowledge and expertise older teachers can contribute should be celebrated by employers not shunned and undervalued. Hold on now I hear you say, the government have issued lots of new . This of course is great news until you realise that the schools in this country will still have a shortfall of £2.5b next year. Obviously a quick cash injection is not going to solve the issues of a decade of austerity.

We are in a situation where schools as I've explained previously are having to pick up the social care roles and now they have to do it with 8% less funding. 8% might not seem so bad, but to me that means our kids here in Leeds have 8% less chance than previous generations ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: And that just isn't good enough.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I'm also speaking on minute 88 and at the July Executive Board it was reported that there is a budget funding gap of £37m in 2020/2021 and large gaps in the years

following, particularly in the two years following that and all the Labour Members have complained about spending cuts and this can't be done and that can't be done and how it's always somebody else's fault not only the government but it's never their responsibility. But given the state, given the financial state of affairs which we know about from the public documents and what's been said today, what is the administration intending to do about what I am given to understand is £3m owed to the city by the Combined Authority for a section of the Cycle Super Highway. Now I've been asking this question, well Councillor Groves is shaking her head, and I'm going to ask this question yet again. I've been trying to , I've been trying to get an answer on this for twelve months both in this Chamber last March and at the Combined Authority. It has nothing to do with the overall question of the total cost of all the schemes which comes to over £30m nor does it have anything to do with the dispute between the contractor and the City Council on a section of the scheme, that's all been settled. This is purely the would be agreement or the agreement between WYCA and Leeds that the Combined Authority would pay the full costs of this section which I gather they are declining to do. Now this is a lot of money and I've twice asked this at Transport Committee, there was an item which was Chair's update last Friday and I thought it would be under there which it was not and given that this is such a large amount of money why is there such a silence on this and when will the taxpayers of Leeds get this £3m and particularly given the financial constraints which we've been hearing about when will we as Members be given an update in this chamber and or the Transport Committee. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll be speaking to minutes 88 and 89. I'd say My Lord Mayor my heart somewhat goes out to you this afternoon because you asked for there not to be a hustings and yet and yet hasn't it been fascinating we've had a run of election addresses from Labour's may 2020 candidates.

(Background talking)

What was that sir. Thank you for that. We set out the order paper, put yourself on the order paper if you want to speak, some of your colleagues have done the same.

Councillor Robinson said before, Councillor Robinson said before something really interesting he mentioned the fact, he did.

(Laughter)

Well you may have, you may have missed it because you were too busy making cheap (inaudible), it had to happen eventually and it happened today. He said that you've not mentioned the detail of the numbers in the report, you've not mentioned the tremendous debt that has accumulated on your watch and there's a reason for that colleagues, comrades even, there's a reason for that and the

reasons very simple, like every Labour government, like every Labour Council they don't understand it Lord Mayor ...

(Background shouting)

They don't understand it ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: I haven't mentioned any individual I've said numerically incompetent ...

(Laughter and background talking)

Oh I thought you said, I thought ...

(Laughter)

If you wave your hand at me Lord Mayor, thank you for agreeing it's OK to carry on, I'm pleased you agree their numerical incompetent My Lord Mayor.

(Laughter)

You see Lord Mayor I am a great believer in focusing on what we can do about something, how can we help here in Leeds because there is something we could have done about this, there was a way, there is a way, we could have retained more money, we could have ensured we were able to retain more business rates locally but we've spent so much time not having a devolution deal, not getting devolution sorted that will actually at risk of losing some of the retention that we keep and who's fault is it, who's fault is it ...

(Background talking)

No, I'm sorry it's not because you are so desperate, so desperate to have a devolution deal that fits your tiny little box you have missed the boat, you have missed the opportunity and who loses, the people of Leeds, you should be ashamed but you don't have the good grace so to be. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I was going to come to the item that the things that Councillor Cohen was talking about ...

(Laughter)

Until the devolution section and I will save most of it for it. But it has to be said there is such partiality in how central government hands out the money that it is willing to do so that is unjust and that was one of the most unjust examples that

Councillor Cohen just gave and he wore it like a badge of honour and I'm amazed, frankly, and I'll come back to that during the devolution debate. I'll point to things such as, sorry sorry, I'm just speaking on two items here Lord Mayor and I want to start with positives.

So the first thing I'd like to mention is, Lord Mayor, the item that we had on this Council's preparedness and I've lost it somewhere for ...

(Laughter)

It shows, it shows ...

(Background talking)

It shows my lack of preparedness. Sorry it was our preparedness in the face of Brexit and what might happen to our economy and one of the things that did happen was I pointed out that the original report that was brought forward to Executive Board did not include anything specifically associated with agricultural businesses. We always see ourselves as a very big industrial service sector orientated economy, we also have a very significant agricultural sector in Leeds and it's right that we should recognise that and the report pointed out that discussions were taking place with the Chief Executive and the National Farmers Union to properly understand the local impact for our local farmers. This was going to be reported back, since we are getting it regularly at each Executive Board this December. Unfortunately because of this election that means that that meeting has been moved to January, however as an interested party I would really appreciate understanding some of that data and that information, that understanding that has been found so far so I wanted to make that point first of all.

Then we come to the Budget. I noticed that in the budget there was no mention whatsoever towards the climate change other than the climate change is important. But it didn't actually say how it was going to be reflected and how we make our spending priorities for next year. I really hope to see some more information on that in the Budget that comes forward in February.

Another thing that I'll mention. We talked about affordable housing earlier. Just because there's less money in the system for the Council does not mean to say we cannot be innovative and do things ourselves. I will point back to the Sugar Hill Estate in my constituency where, sorry in my ward, where ...

(Laughter)

Where they could really do with some help from the Council to be bought and become new Council homes.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Also I will point out to the Children's Services ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, Councillor Golton. (Inaudible) talk about (inaudible). I do not want this to take up as a campaign for your parliamentary.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: I appreciate that Lord Mayor but could you give me an extra 10 seconds. And just back to Children's Services as well please be aware that we can invest our money ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Sorry Councillor Golton, Councillor Golton you got a red light sorry.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: In our own solutions to sort out our ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton you got a red light, sorry.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

(Applause, laughter and cheers).

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. What I could see from here and perhaps Councillor Golton couldn't is only about a third of his group applauded then.

(Laughter)

So I'm , you know, I'm sure I'm sure he'll be having words later.

Lord Mayor I'm speaking on minute 89 on page 74 which is a report on the Council's Brexit preparedness and I did in case people weren't aware there was a reference in the report to the possibility of a General Election and in case people aren't aware we are in a General Election Campaign at the moment. I know it hasn't really come across in this Council Meeting but I did want to talk about the report overall because it is actually a very serious piece of work about how we work as a Council to prepare the city, the people that live here and an economy in this city for Brexit which at the end of the day could happen at any point. We believe we've now got an extension until the end of January which will only give four or five weeks after the General Election for all the work that needs to be done to leaving, exiting the European Union to happen and one of the big things that runs through the report is around the work we are doing as a Council to make sure those EU citizens that are settled and working and contributing to life in the city are supported to make sure businesses and as Councillor Golton pointed out certainly looking at agricultural businesses which I know is a great interest of his around how we are supporting those and also looking at what we can do to make sure all those businesses that export from here around Europe and around the world are able to do that when we have a lot of uncertainty around what our future trade arrangements . It's unfortunate given that the, it's unfortunate given that I think the vote to leave the European Union was some three, three and a half years ago that actually we'll be caught in the position we were doing so much of this work probably in about four or five weeks but I do think it's important to support, it doesn't have all the answers because there's so much uncertainty but it

sets out the work we are doing on this very very serious issue and it is something I think all of us round the Council Chamber will take seriously and want to contribute to.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor and I regret to say I'll also be talking about Brexit. We are now past the October 31st the dates that Boris Johnson promised us we'd be free from the tyrannical shackles of the European Union and have we left ...

COUNCILLORS: No.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Course we've not and that's because ...

(Background talking)

Well ...

(Laughter)

and that's because a promise from Boris Johnson is worth as much as well a promise from Michael Gove and it really is only two months since I stood here and talked about how we as a city were preparing for the uncertainty of Brexit and we are doing all we could in advance of that final date of October 31st and as was mentioned is the date that Johnson said he would and I quote "rather die in a ditch than miss".

Comments he made, in fact here in Yorkshire, while misusing police resources I think is important to note. Johnson is also reported to even lie to the Queen in an attempt to illegally shutdown our democracy. I'm sure that's the first time is lied to a woman but regardless of what was said ...

(Laughter)

And what's actually happened ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Is very much the same

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor, Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Yes.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you please keep to the agenda please.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: I will.

THE LORD MAYOR: Local issue please.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: It's tricky to talk about ...

THE LORD MAYOR: It is but can you please.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Without referring to the incompetencies of Boris Johnson but regardless of what was said and was actually happened Leeds preparedness for Brexit remains very similar to the state we were two months ago. Still preparing, still waiting and still no sign of a resolution. We like everyone else are left in a state of limbo with the continued uncertainty making planning even more challenging. A Brexit response plan remains in place, our five key themes remain the same and our partnerships with other sectors within the city remains strong.

There are still worries about supply lines for things such as fuel, food, energy, medicines as well as the price increases that inevitably follow a shortage of supply or an unstable economy. It's also true to say, as highlighted in the report, that the ongoing certainty and the lack of clarity from the government has led to a disengagement among some businesses over the need for readiness preparations. As a city we do have a duty to prepare and reassure our citizens that the Conservative government has done nothing to help reassure us. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I was pleased to know that we as a Council are preparing for Brexit and read this update report because we need to prepare for this uncertainty of Brexit. I want to highlight some areas within the health and social care system where I think the implication of Brexit and in particular no deal Brexit could be the most severe. Now before I get accused of scaremongering and I have been accused of scaremongering I want to draw Council's attention to the fact that most of the data I am drawing upon comes from the King's Fund which is a well respected and independent charity and the government's own document for preparing for Brexit.

So I am just going to list a few of the concerns I can assure you they're are more than I have time for but could see serious implications for the NHS and Social Care Sector. These include shortages in supplies of vital medicines, price increases for some medicines, difficulty in recruiting international, staff increased demand for services as British emigrants in the EU ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Sorry.

THE LORD MAYOR: As I asked Councillor Pryor could we please stick to local issue because we are in the middle of purdah.

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: But I'm talking about, OK I didn't realise I was. Returning to the UK for treatment after the loss of reciprocal healthcare agreements. In addition to this they'll be a very short term disruption to our local fresh food supply, could impact on people's diets, we could see the price increases with poorer people effectively priced out of certain fresh foods hardly in keeping with Leeds City Councils desire to improve the health of the poorest the fastest. Across all NHS trusts there is a shortage of around a hundred thousand jobs but I'll keep it local because we are also reliant on EU migrants in our care and health sectors. We have always had a reliance on doctors who are not born here the NHS has always relied on them and this may get much more difficult.

Brexit, in terms of medicine and equipment supplies around three quarters of our medicines and over half of the devices used by the NHS come via the EU. The government's own plans show that we can expect significant disruption to supply routes for around six months. There are concerns about our continued access to medical radioactive isotopes used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in our own fabulous hospitals in Leeds. So it's a whistle stop chore I haven't got time for everything and I want to keep it local but I hope I haven't scared everyone but I think we'll all agree that it is pretty scary especially when we have our local residents, our families and our friends dependent on these very medicines and equipment and NHS staff who try their very best in this uncertainty to keep us going. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We have come to the end of Executive minutes.

So sorry. The Leader has five minutes to sum up in relation to her portfolio as Leader she then has up to 10 minutes to sum up about her portfolio and the Health and Wellbeing minutes. Following a discussion between the whips this morning I will not interrupt the Leader's speech at the end of her five minutes and she will continue to sum up. Leader.

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: OK, so I did follow that. Basically because I'm the portfolio holder of the only minutes we have discussed today that I can run my summing up of those minutes into the summing up of all the minutes.

First of all ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Health and Wellbeing Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I would like to refer to the Health and Wellbeing comments actually and I do want to pay tribute to actually the very sensitive

comments that were made in a real recognition of how focusing on such a difficult subject as dying actually helps people enormously and I know, you know, in various parts of the country and starting to happen in Leeds for example we're starting to see a roll out of death cafes where people can actually go and meet other people who are going through very difficult circumstances, share their experience and it's all of those elements of a compassionate city that really do add up. I had the great privilege last night to go and talk to the Board Members of the Centre for Ageing Better who have set up a partnership with us, with Leeds City Council recognising the extraordinary work that we do for older people in our city and I'm very pleased that now we have adopted you know our ambition to be the best place to grow old in into our Council Plan, it is one of our top priorities and the feedback I got from a very significant Board Membership very experienced people coming and talking about the neighbourhood projects, about the investment we make, about how we actually put people first and actually recognising in the ghastly terminology of assets that actually people are our strongest asset and I think that's really reflected in the work we do and I think the papers that you brought to Executive Board last time, Councillor Charlwood, really do reflect the extraordinary work that we do and let's say thank you to everyone in the city who works with us to make sure that we give older people the dignity and the respect that they need.

(Applause)

So turning to the discussion today. It's hard to know where to start really so I think I want to start with just how incredibly well, given the circumstances that we've been dealt in Leeds, that we have been able to protect our frontline services and delivering for the people in our city and you know this paper that we've been talking about today is a monthly report and I'm delighted that we bring this monthly health check if you like to Executive Board, keeping track of everything that we spend and we always have anticipation of a larger overspend than we do achieve at the end of the year at this time of year it's the way things happen and currently to bring a report forward that only, but shows just a £0.7m overspend reported I think is an incredible achievement given what has been thrown at us by the unmentionable government

(Background laughing)

Yes, but let's just recap. Accumulative £1.5b taken out of Council services for people in Leeds since 2010. Let's never forget the £266.2m a year cut from the Council's core funding in 2019/20 compared to 2010 as was said during the speeches the LGA is predicting an £8b funding gap by 2025. Between 2010 and 2020 Councils will have lost almost sixty pence out of every pound that government has provided for services, how extraordinary is it that we can stand up with a track record of saying we have avoided compulsory redundancies in our Council.

(Applause)

We have prioritised spending on the most vulnerable 62.5% of our spending is now on children and adult social care.

(Applause)

Don't listen to what the message that they are trying to give, we are a very responsible Council and we have real recognition nationally for the way that we manage what we do and as such we are increasing our reserves this year to contribute towards ensuring that our Council continues to be financially resilient and sustainable. Compare that to the Tory Councils that only last year Northamptonshire and East Sussex effectively went bankrupt. Don't come to us giving us lessons about financial probity get your own house in order first.

(Applause)

We know, you know, I do actually want at this point to say an enormous thank you to the officers that just work round the clock keeping us safe, keeping us on track, making sure that we safely take those decisions in an incredibly difficult time of austerity where the most vulnerable are being targeted and where most damage is been caused that we can actually invest in early prevention, we can actually disrupt the life cycle of problems which means in Children's Services for example by our investments in the family group conferencing we can safely keep children out of care. It is not any coincidence that we, any chance that we have going against the national grain in terms of children coming into care, that is a massive achievement for us and what we want to do is make sure that our message is heard, how we can really intervene early, get the resource and see it not as a cost as they keep telling us but actually an investment in our people saving money down the line.

(Applause)

So you know we can talk about police, about crime statistics but what we know and I am very pleased that the Tories celebrate the fact that we've got one of the highest numbers of PCSO's in the country that's because we have taken a decision on this administration to keep funding our share of funding for PCSO's.

(Applause)

Do you know that's against a backdrop of the West Yorkshire Police budget being cut by a £140m since 2010. The police numbers falling from 5,758 to 4,501, 620 officers less but do you know what we have to work across the piece to make sure that we intervene on the front line, we know that the cuts that have been made to youth services across the country has massively contributed to the horrendous increase in youth crime that we are seeing in our streets and I am so pleased that we have protected our community policing model that helps to make sure that we don't see the worst of that but we have to be so vigilant and as for DEVO I know we've got an item on this agenda but Councillor Golton stand up and be praised you're absolutely right ...

(Laughter)

This is where the fault lies ...

(Laughter)

This is where the fault lies for disrupting our devolution ambitions right here in front of you.

(Applause)

Lord Jim O'Neill who was put into the House of Lords to be the Economic Adviser to George Osborne and became George Osborne's first point of call for devolution tells in public in great detail how, that Members of the Conservative Members of Parliament, if I'm allowed to mentioned that today, in West Yorkshire got him in a room and ambushed him and said over our dead bodies we're not going to give Leeds City Region the deal that they have put on the table

(Background talking)

So thank you I can't go through all the contributions you've made today but how powerful have they been and thank you all of you for recognising the extraordinary work we do in Adult Social Care and Health, in Housing, in Childrens, in Education you know against such a difficult backdrop but if I may be so bold as to just mention this Lord Mayor and I will sit down immediately just in case but how extraordinary when you look back to 2017 and the grant mantra running through it was there was no magic money tree. Well hey they seem to be popping up all over the country I do hope that we start to see the benefit and so we can move forward and build on the great practice that we have in this Council of running our finances well and to the benefit of the people we represent. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK.

(Laughter)

We'll now go to the vote. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

You'll be pleased to know we are going to go for a coffee.

(Laughter)

We are now going into the break. Can each member return back to the Chamber for ten to four please.

(Background talking)

Sorry ten to five. I'm confused already and the next paper we've not heard yet. Thanks, ten to five.

Can visitors in the Chamber join us for tea if you wishes. Thank you.

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE LORD MAYOR: OK welcome back everyone after lunch. Can I take the opportunity to welcome the guests in both galleries. Welcome. I'm sorry you wasn't a bit earlier to join us for tea but next time please do if your coming to join us for tea. Thank you.

OK we'll move on to Item 8, Devolution Matters. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. This this is one of those items of business that has been disrupted by the calling of the General Election so actually in terms of any movements on the devolution deals that we've been talking about I don't have an enormous amount by way of update its inevitable that these things will, conversations between politicians have stopped as a result of Parliament being stood down but before the election we were engaging in conversations about, you know whilst remaining true to our ambition for One Yorkshire recognising that we do need to come up with interim deals for the parts of the Yorkshire that haven't been covered but that's working progress and we'll have to wait and see what the outcome of the election is and hopefully moves us forward.

You'll notice from the report itself that we've continued to have the conversations obviously transport is still a major item for us and Councillor Groves is going to update us on the work that she's been doing moving forward particularly the bid for transforming cities which is a really, it's a really interesting proposition and really does make the most of what the Combined Authority was set up to do in terms of working with our partner authorities making sure that we get the maximum use out of investment that comes our way.

I think it's it's fair to say along with all other work that we're doing climate emergency is now a central part of the business that we do down at the Combined Authority and really looking at ways that we can move forward and I think through the LEP as well how we can give resource to businesses because I think that's one of the real areas of concern we've got so many small and medium size businesses that will need support to enable them to make the progress that we we need to make. One of the pieces of work I just want to draw your attention to. You'll all remember that we had the second convention of the North in Rotherham in September, it was a joint production with the NP11 which is the 11 LEP areas right across the North coming together with civic leaders, business leaders right across the piece, the voluntary sector, young people in particular really talking about the ambitions for the North. I really recommend that everyone has a look at it, it's available online but it's something that you will have seen quite a lot of media attention around and it really is the result of three or four years' work across the North speaking with one voice making it very clear where we need investment, what we need to move forward to unleash the potential that we have, how we can focus on skills, housing, transport etc making sure that we get the investment that we need so it received incredible response and the nine regional titles, the media titles right across the North published the same front page which is only the

second time they've ever done it and I think it really does help us to recognise the importance of the work we do linking in with our other Local Authorities with our business partners right here obviously in Leeds City Region but making sure we're right at the front and centre of all the demands for making progress. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I formerly second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Well as Councillor Blake has said purdah appears to actually be applying on this item so it's a relief to me really because the devolution final settlement will be settled whatever the result of the General Election and hopefully all parties will publish their proposals which means we can focus on the devolution we have and I want to raise two particular issues, you might think there minor issues, I think there actually extremely serious and the first one is the failure to properly harmonise taxi and private hire regulations and rules. Some time ago and this is no criticism of Leeds, we have I think a very robust licensing system in place for taxis and private hire the same can't be said for our partner authorities on the Combined Authority and the rest of West Yorkshire. I asked a particular question at the Executive Board particularly because of the rise in assaults on women in private hire or taxi vehicles which should be a source of concern to us all. I've still not had a response to that and it was basically do the other Local Authorities still allow Councillors and Members of Parliament to act as references for people applying for licences, I have no response to that. Leeds doesn't because of issues I raised a couple of years ago and I would like to know what's going on because the Combined Authority, the devolved authority has a harmonisation group of elected members set up from across West Yorkshire and they haven't met for six months. I'd like an explanation as to what's going on and when are we going to get proper harmonisation based on the controls that we have in this city.

Secondly is Welcome to Yorkshire. I believe it's probably the biggest whitewash we've seen for a long time we've had no report to the Exec Board of this Council, Leeds is one of the biggest funders. I've issued a Freedom of Information request to Welcome to Yorkshire on a number of grounds I expect to get answers as that body is now wholly funded and reliant on taxpayer funding. They can't hide behind being a private company in my view but I expect and I would hope the Leader of Council will tell me that a full report will come on Welcome to Yorkshire to the Executive Board of Leeds City Council as we are one of the major funders and am sick of reading leaked headlines in newspapers and I have to tell you I have made it a point to be fully briefed on as much as they can tell me or our officers can tell me and am still far from satisfied. It's a devolved power and we should be knowing what's going on.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. As Councillor Carter has said and the Leader said we're a bit on the edge here of purdah so I'll try and keep my comments to the point. I think it's important and I hope we can get assurance from the Leader that we press forward with this whatever the result of the event next month but we're not supposed to talk about. I think we have got to do that vigorously and we've got to do that early whoever happens to be in power at that time. It's important particularly if we leave the EU on January 31st that we get something in place, we've got to look after our region and make sure that we get our share and we haven't done in the past and it's important we do it together so hopefully we can move forward on that.

Other thing I'd like to mention is that the item on public transport and particularly the situation regarding First Bus. I've got to say as a Councillor for the last twenty two years who most of the buses have been run by First Bus. The leaving of First Bus through West Yorkshire would be, I would happy to see but it's what we get in place and I hope we can get some further assurances that if WYCA wants to go ahead and take control of First Bus in West Yorkshire that we will be able to do because my understanding of the law at the moment as it stands we won't be able to do. If we've got ambitions to do stuff about, with climate change, you get people out of their cars. Alright we can use stick some of the time but what we've got to do is we've got to produce something that encourages people and the only way we can do that is by us being in control of public transport so it runs as a public service not for profit. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm not quite sure what these purdah rules are in terms of what you can refer to or what you can't refer to because ...

(Background talking)

Because, thank you for reminding me Councillor Cohen of your comments earlier, because this item is all about an imbalance in the British economy and Councillor Blackburn talking about we need to have our fair share that is intrinsic to our relationship between ourselves as local government leaders and the central government. I won't refer to any particular party but what I will say is the partiality which decides that you qualify for money because you have an Elected Mayor as part of your governance but you do not qualify for money because your population chooses not to have one is partial and it is unfair and is something that needs to be addressed because this paper talks about how we're trying to talk about having a One Yorkshire solution, it says talking to the government effectively it means talking to the mandarins. It does need political guidance as to how soon we can bring it forward but this talks about not being able to do anything until 2022 and if we're waiting till 2022 it means that we have years within which the likes of

Manchester and Birmingham who have City Region Mayors are offered hundreds of millions of pounds in transport investment and yet this paper points out we have to go scrabbling and bidding for a little bit of what's called the transforming cities funds. Well I can assure you our city is not being transformed at the same rate as other cities and it is purely down to partiality. It's very much like how we have our schools funding in terms of do you qualify for funding if you're a normal community run Local Authority associated school. No, generally you only get money if you're an Academy and that is partial because it basically says we don't have the choice to equalise outcomes it's actually dependent upon an equation and a criteria which is set centrally. So we need this devolution because that's the only way that we're going to actually counter the potential for that partiality and I support the leader in her work and of course with our local press in making sure that the manifesto for the North is one which is equally encouraged for all the party leaders to get behind.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor. Whilst I can't share the details of the bid in terms of the schemes because it's still confidential, in the next few days as Chair of Transport for West Yorkshire I will be signing off the strategic outline business case for transforming cities. It's been a pleasure to work towards, with the other authorities on this bid and it will, if successful deliver a multi million transformation in terms of transport interventions. Included in the bid I've worked with Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Kirklees, Harrogate, York, Wakefield and Selby and an enormous amount of work has gone in to this and I thank the officers from right across the Leeds City Region for their help and support.

But whatever the result of the General Election we are going to be working with government to secure a devolution deal for this region. We need to secure additional powers and control over substantial funding so we can ensure that we have greater control over investments for our people and Communities.

Westminster is too remote, systems that are controlled from Whitehall don't understand what works for our area that's why we need the ability to influence and invest in those things which will make a real difference to people's lives and get our regional economy firing on all cylinders. This includes of course our buses and local transport system, education, learning opportunities especially for our young people and disadvantaged groups. Warm and energy efficient homes, across our region there are people who do enjoy a great quality of life, good wages and lower living and housing costs compared to London and South East England.

The recovery felt from the recession has seen growth in all parts of the region and the rate of foreign investments has increased. The region is becoming a great place to live, work, visit and invest but many areas are getting left behind, the UK cannot thrive socially or economically without addressing that. We want a devolution deal to enable us to invest in the skills for our people, our infrastructure, tackling the climate emergency, supporting business growth to

enable a clean and inclusive economy, connecting communities and reducing disadvantage for improving access to the opportunity. I am confident that the leaders will deliver this and we will look forward to continuing those discussions after the election no matter what the result. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you My Lord Mayor. I'd just like to emphasise the point that Andrew Carter made earlier about safety of passengers using taxis in Leeds and the lack of progress in harmonisation discussions across the five West Yorkshire Authorities and the City of York. Safeguarding I think is, I think everyone would agree here, is the most important part of our work and clearly once devolution takes place it must take its place there too. So how safe are women in taxis at night in Leeds. Many of you may have seen this last weekend in the Yorkshire Evening Post since 2015 thirty nine taxi drivers have been accused of sexual assault including rape against women in taxis. While the vast majority of our drivers are perfectly safe and its of course you know quite safe to go in a vehicle with them Leeds unfortunately is not the master of its own destiny in terms of private hire. In 2015 the deregulation of certain aspects of taxis and the rapid introduction of mobile apps has made life much more difficult for us here. Leeds has long had a very robust approach to ensuring that taxi drivers are fit and proper persons to be employed in that particular role and their vehicles reach a minimum standard unfortunately and you will have seen from around the country some fairly awful stories about the way taxis have been used, other Local Authorities have not been in that happy position because they don't employ the same robust conditions as we do here in Leeds.

The harmonisation talks that I mentioned earlier they sort of began after the the deregulation and the introduction of mobile apps, they started in 2016 formerly in 2017 so they've been going on now for over two years and as Andrew pointed out there's been no political meeting for the last six months because whoever was the Chairman of that particular group was never replaced. That's not the problem of Leeds, no fault of Leeds I hasten to add but the problem with the Local Authorities concerned. There were six particular themes or specific themes that the harmonisation talks were supposed to agree on to have allegedly been agreed including one which involved the, what they call cross bordering, that's when a private hire vehicle drops off from, a licence at another authority, drops off a person in this city and is not then allowed to apply for hire. Unfortunately they do or they certainly seem to do. The taxiing department has no idea how many foreign taxis as it were, licenced elsewhere, come into the city but they certainly talk in hundreds if not thousands. Thank you very much indeed Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor: I'd like to start by echoing the comments of Councillor Flynn this is an issue that needs much more attention.

There is a scandal waiting to happen I fear in that sector, we've done our bit in Leeds but we need to use our influence to make sure the rest of the Authorities in

West Yorkshire are doing their bit so that people can feel safe and secure wherever they go and people don't live in simple boundaries and borders defined by Local Authorities that's not how they live their lives and we need to give this much more attention and I hope that will be taken on board and turning to devolution as has been said there's possibly a limit to what we can say that's new.

Today Councillor Golton would do well to note that we do have some levels of devolution to this region already from and so it's not fair to say nothing has happened. I think every one of us in this Chamber wants to see devolution to this region, to our city in particular, we're been left behind because we don't have devolution but we could have had it, we could have had it by now, the government has offered repeatedly, the government wants to devolve powers to our region they've set out the parameters and repeatedly the West Yorkshire Leaders and others come together and offer something different and it ...

(Background talking)

Of course it is. Stuart you've had your go, I mean you've done your party political broadcast for the day so let's ...

(Laughter)

So let's move on. So we have to deal with this, I mean it's been interesting to hear through the afternoon members opposite seem to think the result of the General Election is a foregone conclusion already. They've been talking as though they already know what the results ...

(Background talking)

They know what the results going to be. I hope they're right but the big fear for them is the same as many of us that Mr Corbyn could end up in Downing Street and then we'll be a whole different ...

(Background talking)

A whole different kettle of fish.

(Background talking and laughter)

So whatever happens in five weeks'time we need, we need to get on and get devolution organised, we need a solution that's deliverable and not keep proposing things that cannot be delivered. It is in the best interests of this city and that's what should be at the heart of our negotiations. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I think Councillor Lamb deliberately chose to speak last cos he knows he always winds me up.

(Laughter)

I've only got three minutes to sum up, there's some really important issues here. The taxi driving, the taxi drivers issue of course we need to pick this up and look into it but don't be under any illusion the reason we have the problem now is because of government deregulation. We argued loud and clear against deregulation and we didn't get the support so from the comments you've made can I ask that all of us as a Council lobby whoever is in the next government to close the loopholes so that we've got the powers that we need and we need a national registration system which this government so far has refused to honour us.

Just in terms of Welcome to Yorkshire. Obviously we've got new governance in place, we've got a new chair, a much more transparent commitment around governance but actually at the moment it is around fifty fifty public sector and private sector funded still so there is private sector funding still going into Welcome to Yorkshire. It is moving on and a new Chief Executive is going to be appointed so I think we will see a real step change but absolutely I think the new Chair has said everything needs to be transparent, it needs to be out there and needs to be open so we can welcome that.

The thing about devolution and that really gets me about what you say about this. We are told time and time again by your government that this has to be locally driven it can't be imposed from the centre but only if you actually agree to what we tell you that you've got to do that is not real devolution, it's not in the spirit of the way that the models were set up in the first place. We'll continue to fight but just reassurance whatever the date of the final arrangement what we're looking for is an interim arrangement which will mean that we can get the money flowing down straight away and we just have to make sure we get the governance in place to do that.

In terms of the purchase of First Bus. I asked specifically Chris Grayling when he was the Secretary of State about how unfair it was that we weren't in a position to re regulate, he said he was open to us putting forward a robust scheme around you know getting the powers to re-regulate, that's why we pass the White Paper in this Council and that's why we're now exploring all of the options so that we have got the opportunity now to buy First Bus through the Combined Authority. Let's look at it in detail and let's make the case and move forward and get control back of our buses so that people in this city have actually got the services as I said before that they depend on, they need to get to work, to get to train and to get to see their family, at the moment you know it's it's a very substandard reach in terms of the travelling public and we'll do everything we can to address that.

Thank you.

(Applause)

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

ITEM 9 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – TEMPLE NEWSAM GOLF

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now move to the final part of the meeting which is the White Papers. Each White Paper we'll debate for no longer than fourty five minutes. So we're on Item 9. Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. At the last Executive Board of this Council I witnessed, an example of a completely mishandled insensitive and frankly unacceptable attempt to close a much loved council service. I think the residents of Leeds are now all too aware of that administrations history on consulting local residents and far too many of them in the past few years have been nothing more than a railroading attempt to reach a conclusion that had already been arrived at by the administration and for once today we're going to be discussing a shambles of a situation entirely brought about by the administration of this city, no outside ...

(Background talking)

No outside body, no government now't but Leeds City Council. Now let me just tell you, let me just tell you, over the years there have been various attempts to look at and maybe even close municipal golf courses. It happened when I was joint Leader of the Council, a former colleague of mine brought proposals around Roundhay which were just not acceptable and we went out to proper consultation, tried to find a way through it and that's the point of this. So let's first of all think about the history of Temple Newsam. The golf course was created in the 1920's and it was being built to provide work for unemployed Leeds residents. The stated aim of the course was to provide exercise for working class residents in Leeds, it's ironic isn't it that it's a Labour administration that's planning to close it.

There's also a lot of history to the club which I've been looking into since the debate we had at the Executive Board. The first assistant professional in 1923 was Poppy Wingate, an early inspiration to women in sport she was the first woman to compete in a men's professional competition. She's honoured with a dedicated section in the British Golf Museum at St Andrews and Temple Newsam is listed as her home club.

The design of the course is also worth mentioning. It is a very special design by an architect renowned for that sort of work. What concerns me is that when I see Councillor Rafique's amendment he goes on about consultation and how the Executive Board agreed that it should come back to the Executive Board for decision, shouldn't be delegated to officers.

My Lord Mayor the report did nothing of the sort it was a delegated decision to officers and only because I challenged the fact that the report was not outlining proper consultation, it didn't outline other options that could preserve golf at Temple Newsam that the Exec Board decided well they have to in all honesty do a proper consultation that gave people the option of saying what alternatives there were. The members at Temple Newsam, there's two hundred and fifty of them, have been very clear they know that change is coming but they want a fair crack of the whip and please don't anyone today get up and say 'Well it's money we can't afford to keep losing £200,000 at Temple Newsam'. Your proposing to borrow £1.3m to put in a scheme that will lose £160,000 a year. So come on be fair about it. There's every opportunity, it's a large piece of land, the members there believe and I agree with them that you can preserve golf at Temple Newsam and at the same time put in some of these proposals, maybe all of them that you put in the paper that was brought to Executive Board. It isn't an either or it's actually an opportunity. You should withdraw your amendment, accept our resolution and start again on a blank sheet of paper so that the public in Leeds and the Members at Temple Newsam believe they are getting a fair crack of the whip, it was absolutely hamfistedly handled and you should get out of it. It's in everybody's interests that you do because it does this Council no good to appear to have consultation which is a foregone conclusion and if you want some evidence of that, the latest communication that's gone on the subject of Temple Newsam is headed from an officer of the Council, the proposal to close the golf course at Temple Newsam dated today the 13th of November sent at 14.16 when we'd already started this Council meeting so don't pretend it isn't a foregone conclusion because what goes on in the paperwork I've seen sight of deny that. I move the resolution Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I second Lord Mayor and reserve the right to speak which I will be taking up.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I'd like to move this amendment for a start the White paper is not accurate and doesn't do justice to the hard work of Council staff within Parks and Countryside. Lord Mayor maintenance of the golf course has not been reduced or scaled back at all, I can assure the Council Members and I think ...

(Background talking)

I think it's insulting, it's insulting the workers who maintain it to suggest that it's not. At the suggestion of the Council Leader at Executive Board, the whole Executive Board including all the Labour members agreed that the decision should come back to Executive Board and this is not the first time we do this. Paper's go to Councillor Carter, Executive Board we have a discussion and we

will find a way forward, it's not the first time it's not going to be the last time so stop making politics out of it.

(Laughter)

That's exactly what you're doing and no decision whatsoever has been taken on the future of the Temple Newsam Estate. The Council through Parks and Countryside will be consulting widely well into the New Year on the future of council estate. We have brought this consultation with reluctance and a heavy heart as you know fewer members of people are using Templenewsam Golf Course, to put that into perspective we've seen since 2011 65% reduction in pay and play numbers and 60% reduction in season ticket holders. Golf courses by their nature are costly to maintain. It looks like we'll be hearing later from the Member's supporting this White Paper that they are concerned on the Council's borrowing levels. If they want this Council to stop borrowing and to continue subsidising this facility as it stands by £220,000 a year can they say the frontline service they'd like us to cut to pay for that.

I hope that Members are aware that today the IFS reported that Local Authority spending on Adult Social Care has declined by 7% over the last ten years. This is since the inception of this government and the coalition government prior to that. From £359 per person in 2009 to £333, this is against a backdrop of our ageing population so bear in mind that pressures on services have grown over time. It's been said again and again in this Chamber Lord Mayor that Leeds and most other Local Authorities in England have had to increase charges but reduce services including closing leisure centres and facilities and diverting spending to essential frontline services such as Children's and Adult Social Care. Opposition members know that we don't have the same resources that we used to do and this is a result, a direct result of decisions taken by your government.

COUNCILLOR: Yeah yeah yeah yeah.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: This is a government whose own figures show that one in three children in the UK, one in three children in the UK, that's a staggering four million are living in poverty and is predicted that figure will even go further.

(Background shouting)

That figure ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: According to your figures, check your figures.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique, Councillor Rafique please keep to the ...

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Why aren't members opposite calling for more resources to be spent on alleviating poverty or tackling health inequalities or the housing crisis which is affecting a whole generation.

If Leeds residents come back to tell us ...

(Background talking)

If Leeds residents tell us they want a golf course on site what are they concerned about. I look forward to hearing views of these ideas Leeds residents you know across the city on our consultation.

Lord Mayor this paper is a cynical attempt to capitalise ...

(Background talking)

It's not a red light so shut up, let me speak. The real reason is to come back and tell us the golf course is ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique, Councillor Rafique just a minute please

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Just a minute please Councillor Rafique. Excuse me could you please ...

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Lord Mayor

THE LORD MAYOR: Not you, not you.

(Background talking)

Could I ask the visitors in the ante-chamber could you please keep quiet while Councillor Rafique makes his point. Both sides.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: I'm talking about the members on that side.

THE LORD MAYOR: Upstairs and downstairs.

(Background talking)

Upstairs and downstairs. Could you please.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Lord Mayor this paper is a cynical attempt to capitalise lies in the run up to election on a proposal which we brought forward because the Council keeps losing money, money that we don't have because the government will stop cutting our budget. I encourage all members to support this amendment. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to second the amendment in the name of Councillor Rafique and reserve my right to speak which I will be taking up.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Sharpe. Could I remind members this will be Councillor Sharpe's maiden speech. Councillor Sharpe.

(Applause)

COUNCILLOR SHARPE: Lord Mayor I welcome the opportunity to make my maiden speech in the Chamber on the Temple Newsam Estate. It really is one of the City's greatest assets and a fantastic amenity in my ward. It's also not the only amenity to shout about in Temple Newsam we also have the Halton Moor Premier League Kicks Programme which has been funded through local Councillors endeavours and encourages eight to nineteen year olds to get involved in constructive activities which has resulted in youth related anti social behaviour dropping by 40% after the programme started in 2016 and on top of that in September the Executive Board approved Thorpe Park as a Parklife site an all weather pitch would be another great assets to Temple Newsam and I hope that it secures match funding from the FA in February next year.

Lord Mayor these investments are particularly welcome given the levels of deprivation in Temple Newsam and across East Leeds. One third of Temple Newsam residents are in the most deprived areas in Leeds and we border three of the four most deprived Leeds wards. I do not need to tell you all about the links between deprivation and poor health and low levels of physical activity. We need to encourage more sport, more walking, more cycling, more activity and exercise in East Leeds for all ages.

(Background talking)

And on that note I welcome the consultation on proposals to invest in the Temple Newsam Estate. Any proposals to make changes to an historic estate with long established facilities is going to provoke strong views and it's important that all views are taken into account. Given how important the estate is to the local community and given the levels of deprivation in East Leeds and the benefits improved sports facilities can bring it is vital that our local residents are asked what should be done with the space Temple Newsam has to offer. As a Ward member I'll be encouraging everyone living in Temple Newsam to contribute to this consultation and make their views known. I am glad that the results and proposals will be coming back to the Executive Board and I hope that priority is given to the views of people living in and around Temple Newsam.

On a less positive note it's with regret that I'm delivery my maiden speech on a proposal that has been brought as a result of the severely damaging cuts to Leeds City Council that this government has imposed over the past long nine years. At the end of the day we would not be having this debate if we had a government which chose to fund Local Authorities properly and I'm proud that

instead of selling off our assets Leeds has chosen to keep them in Council hands and let our residents decide what should happen to them. As ward Councillors we are determined to see quality sports provision delivered to all, for all in our community. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause and cheers)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn, David.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. The previous speaker says facilities to all, for all. Well I've got no problem with putting an investment into any of our parks, certainly our members of Outer West have put plenty into that, into our parks but not the kind of money we're talking about here of course but the fact is, is if we've got a group of people that are using it we want to increase them as well and the whole tenure of that report that I read said to me it was one of these cases where Leeds City Council are going to come along and we're consulting on closing it. Alright we're going to replace it with something else and I don't think, talking to some of the golf people, they've got any problem about us developing, well the facilities there, they'd be quite happy. The cafe. They'd love to have cafe (inaudible) so that would make more people come to play golf but it seems to me what we're doing is is we are closing one group of people out to let another one in and then with that using that so called saving as a way of financing what you're going to do in future but that so called saving, how much of a saving is it.

According to the Temple Newsam group the bulk of the expenditure that's £239,100 on horticultural management an estimate, it's not also certain that that refers solely to cost of Temple Newsam golf course it may refer to other parts of park. The staffing levels, (inaudible), the staffing levels are higher than Roundhay Park Golf course but there are same number of people work there. Is this a smoke and mirrors thing, my parks department, I mean we all know parks department are quite crafty with there to say the least anybody's who financed them by MICE will know that but the fact the fact is I'm not sure the figures within this are solely correct. Yes let's consult but lets consult with a blank piece of paper, that these are some ideas we've got, do we want to keep the golf course and let's get some of these figures that are true because I don't necessarily agree that the figures that they are giving are correct. On that basis I'm going to support Councillor Carter's motion.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I have to say I have personal memories of Temple Newsam because when I was a child for a few years I actually grew up on the Halton Moor Estate and I have fond memories skipping through the bluebells ...

(Laughter)

On Temple Newsam Park I have to say as well I am no fan of golf, I think golf is a good walk spoiled so I'm sorry for those of you who are keen adherents. However what I will say is that we're not here to think about investing in what we like to do it's more about serving our people and I have real concerns about this I appreciate why the Parks and Countryside people are very very keen on it because there has been a successful cycling investment made in Middleton Park and it's been very very well received there. That does not mean to say that therefore you need to replicate it in other places and the thing about Temple Newsam as well as it's not just a park for local people it is recognised as being a city asset and it will therefore have amenities within it that are meant to be for a wider population to take part in and I'm worried about this this particular proposal because it talked about how it was going to create a family cycling centre and it would be family cycle trails and it was basically saying well how could you object to this because this is all about families going out and being active but it isn't necessarily all the family that go out and do that and all the family doesn't turn up all the time to do biking and actually for the local population of Halton Moor I don't think there's some kind of subsidised scheme whereby there going to be encouraged to enable them to have bikes to participate in this activity and when we're looking at things like golf there is a tendency in this Council to follow fashion and I remember when we were talking about allotments in terms of them being a valuable way for older people to actually keep active and when we looked in the Council's Leisure Services guide it promoted everything right up to tai chi but didn't mention allotments at all and we've had papers before from this Council that say there's been a drop off in demand for allotments so therefore we shouldn't have so many of them, we shouldn't be putting so much money into them and we're subsidising them by the way and then all of a sudden there's a change and people get more interest in growing their own food and now we have waiting lists.

So the same thing happened with tennis I seem to remember there were lots of Council parks that had tennis courts that were tatty and vandalised and no one used them and then all of a sudden it became much more popular, the Lawn Tennis Association came into partnership with us and then we had some fantastic new tennis facilities that have waiting lists and that people travel from different parts of Leeds to access because they are valuable amenities.

If we are serious about being an age friendly city as well as been a child friendly city then we need to take into account that there are activities that older people have a tendency to want to participate in, golf is one of those and if this is an activity which enables people to combat isolation, to create friendships, keep fit and out of our healthcare system then why are we not trying to find a way to get back into it been a growing pastime and actually get more demand within our facilities and I have to say on this particular one in my particular area we had our own golf course and that got closed and in the consultation for that they said don't worry you've got a really good facility not too far away that you can access, now that facility is under threat so please take this in the context that it is, this is a city wide issue not just one for Temple Newsam and it's about making sure that every part of our city has access to good active lifestyles and not just the family.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garthwaite.

COUNCILLOR GARTHWAITE: So who doesn't love parks and green spaces. I'm glad that nobody's put their hand up. Last Saturday over nine hundred people came into the City Museum to respond to the Leeds Park strategy, that's nine hundred people. Of course Parks and Countryside Services worked very hard to promote the event just to be sure that it reached many people not just a few so it was great to hear Councillor Sharpe's maiden speech and the importance of the Temple Newsome Estates in her ward and I agree it is wonderful, I love it, I was there at the launch of the Go Ape a while back and I was, in fact I was featured on Look North when I was up on the high ropes course. It was brilliant.

The Premier League Kicks Programme sounds like a great way to reduce antisocial behaviour but also get young people active as well. It's one of the many ways that this Council encourages physical activity there's also Leeds Girls Can which is an initiative by Active Leeds and we do need this because across the UK one point 7 million fewer women play sport than men do. So Active Leeds has recruited eleven volunteer ambassadors who range from fourteen to sixty eight years old and they deliver sessions across Leeds supporting women and girls to get active. For example Couch to 5K, social running groups, led bike rides, one to seven miles Healthwalks, swimming, squash, indoor rowing, yoga, bootcamps, International Women's Day events and loads more and of course we've also got the fantastic Leeds Urban Bike Park at Middleton. Despite Parks being used over three hundred thousand times in its first eighteen months and it goes from strength to strength and it's very willing to support other initiatives elsewhere in the city it does demonstrate the appetite for cycling in Leeds and builds on the support for Tour de Yorkshire and for children it trains the cyclists of the future and indeed adults as well who might be a bit nervous about getting out onto our streets. We all want more cyclists, we want fewer car drivers on our roads even those of us who drive electric cars.

We need to use our Council owned open spaces to deliver what our local residents want and would like to see. It is disappointing to hear the decline in people using the Temple Newsome golf course and I do think residents should be asked why they are not using it, what would make them use it and what they think the estate should be used for.

So I therefore support the amendment in the name of Councillor Rafique welcoming the consultation and investment in Temple Newsome. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I just want to second obviously Councillor Carter's motion and I think we have lost a little bit of site in the last few minutes around the heritage asset that the golf course does provide as Councillor Carter said it was built in 1923 and the home of Poppy

Wingate who was you know an inspiration to women in sport and to lose that would be a serious loss to Temple Newsam which is a wonderful place as it is and the new proposals for a road safety park cycle trails and improvements of the event space could be done whilst retaining the golf course, that could happen now.

(Cheers)

And so there is no need to lose the golf course and you know the comments that Councillor Rafique makes around there not been a lack of maintenance, it's not a criticism of the workers that there's been a lack of maintenance but if you don't invest in these things and do things then things do decline and do slide and I have to say Councillor Rafique if you'd been out you would probably better to see that but it's not a reflection on the workers that the maintenance has been drawn back and the proposals that came to Exec Board were at an advanced stage now this is the thing with consultation if I'd seriously want to consult the first people that I would consult with would have been the golf club because they are the most affected by this and ...

(Cheers and applause)

I would have gone out personally and spoken to the golf club members and said how can we work together because you've heard from Councillor Carter they accept there can be change and they accept change whether they want change is a thing but they accept change and things like that the cafe and things are a revenue benefit for you and you would think you would take those on as part of the change and the decision to bring this consultation back wasn't the original proposal that was made to Exec Board it was only after protests from various people that it was brought back to Exec Board and with the consultation and if this is open consultation well I'm happy with it but it doesn't look like consultation and I'm really pleased to hear Councillor Sharpe say that she wants open consultation and I hope that you accept what the consultation is and if the members, if the residents of Temple Newsam and surrounding areas say we want to get rid of golf them be it, then that's what you can do, but if they say we would like to retain golf and have the other things as well then I hope you will take that openly and carry that forward and the other thing is around Councillor Coupar, she's been very quiet on this matter and she's always said to me my door is open, well we hope your door will be open to the people of Temple Newsam.

So as I say I just hope you have open consultation and that consultation responses will be relayed back to Exec Board and an open decision will be made and that there's nothing forward thinking around closing the golf because it does look not like consulting but insulting unfortunately. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Firth

COUNCILLOR FIRTH: Thank you very much Lord Mayor. In four years time we have a City of Culture, Leeds 2023. In four years time is the Centenary of

Temple Newsam Golf Club opening and the funny thing about it I heard some chuntering opposite, I appreciate the situation of the fact that it's easy to blame the government. We've mentioned the figures, we've talked about the fact that we are astounded that you're going to borrow £1.35m to then still be losing money because compared to your figures of £239,000 at the moment every year you'll still be losing £161,000 so you'll be at a loss borrowing the money and then still losing money and the concern is that in 2023 in East Leeds for example there was a proposal, I'm not sure if it's still around, to build John Smeaton's Lighthouse the Eddystone Lighthouse somewhere in the city. Well East Leeds has something as well Alister MacKenzie was a famous Golf Architect and he is not only just a golf architect, born and bred in Normanton and then raised in Leeds at which point not only did he play at Temple Newsam and Alwoodley golf courses he designed them as well and in 2023 we can celebrate golf in the city but the problem is that this administration feels that we just have to abandon it because the fact is that it's a game that's in decline but the only engagement that this administration of this Council gave to the golf club was on the 30th September to immediately tell them that within two years municipal golf would not exist and as a result effectively going to the golf club and not telling them oh well we actually realise there's a problem with regards to the fact that you're losing money, what can we do to make this work, no that's it finished finito were moving on. That is not how you engage with your communities whatever your politics, wherever you stand today, politics is changing, people don't care about political parties because they care about local issues and the fact is this 2023 we could make a really big part of the fact that what could happen and as well in terms of the consultation that comes in the future, on the 1st October council staff who work at the golf club that Councillor Wadsworth and others have mentioned were told that they were going to be redeployed or would be given some sort of incentive for early leaving. So it sounds like the consultation doesn't need to happen because the decision is already made, so one thing that this side of the Chamber will make sure is that if we do get that consultation and it does get the chance to go back to Scrutiny by us the elected politicians that actually in that sense people have a say in their community because the fact is this, without them the Golf Club would have been built in the first place. Thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor and I'd just like to take this opportunity to welcome the members of the Golf Club to the Chamber this afternoon to hear this debate and I'm actually glad that that there here to hear this debate because the way the opposition members have been talking is as if we've taken a decision to close the golf course, not.

(Background shouting)

Not a decision to consult on the future of the golf course. I do have to say, colleagues, I cannot believe the hypocrisy of this White Paper. Councillor Carter, Leader of the Opposition, supporter of the government for almost ten years that has cut this Council's funding to the bone ...

(Background talking)

Demanding that we don't look to save money where we can. He really is using this consultation as a political football.

(Applause)

Just to remind the Chamber once again this afternoon since 2010 our core funding has been reduced by £267m due to central government in the name, Lord Mayor, in the name of austerity, once a much applauded project that the opposition benches now have a different story about that one. Let's take a look at the facts shall we. The Executive Board agreed that a consultation should take place on the future of Temple Newsam golf courses and there are two. All Executive Board Members wanted to see the results of this consultation brought back to Executive Board not just Councillor Carter, let's get the record straight.

This is a genuine consultation that welcomes all views including views and proposals about the golf facilities. The report laid out some options for other uses like the cycle trails and family cycling centre and the road safety park and also event spaces which would provide opportunities for local families to use the amenities within walking distance as the area is sited on the edge of a large residential area. We as Ward members have requested that the consultation is extended significantly to ensure that all views both of the local community and the golfing community have the opportunity to be heard, to be discussed and to be considered. Further the other proposals be considered during that consultation as well as the ones in the report.

I also recognise this represents a significant investment of over a million pounds which would improve the amenities for local residents. We Ward members are pleased that the consultation is taking place, that local people will have the opportunity to shape the plans for the future of this part of the estate. We are talking to the local community and the golfing community to ensure that all their voices are heard. Through these conversations and working with all parties involved we are hopeful that by the end of the consultation we will see options that incorporate all the sport and activity that is needed here.

So Councillor Carter I'm pleased you've taken an interest in Temple Newsam as I don't ever remember you're showing any interest in my ward before especially when we've had to take difficult decisions because of your government cuts and I have got a long memory as I have lived in the ward for over fifty years.

Can I suggest you put your political football back in the locker for another day because you just might just have scored an own goal.

(Cheers and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. If we're doing sporting analogies I think that was the equivalent of Councillor Coupar jumping into a deep bunker and keeping digging when she got there.

(Cheers)

Lord Mayor we should at times like these I always think it's helpful if we do a little bit of audience participation, so hands up, hands up anyone in this Chamber who's played golf in the last twelve months.

(Background talking)

Hands up, keep your hands up if you played at Temple Newsam in the last twelve months.

(Background talking)

Interesting. Councillor Rafique just out of interest have you ever played golf at Temple Newsam

(Background talking)

Have you ever have you ever played golf at Temple Newsome Councillor Rafique. I think the answer is a clear no. You might have a better understanding of the golf course on what it's all about if you ever actually bothered to play a round there.

Lord Mayor both, I hope your adding the time on Lord Mayor.

(Background talking)

Lord mayor golf is the fifth most popular sport in the UK. Over 3.7m people played at least one round of golf last year, 2m people play at least twice a month. Golf is worth £4b to the United Kingdom economy and it generates a billion pounds of tax revenues. I don't know how many people are aware that in a few years time it's hundred years since the first Ryder Cup was played and how many of you know that the first Ryder Cup was played here in Leeds. We have we have a rich heritage of golf in this city and Temple Newsam is a proud part of that and we should be getting rid of it at your peril Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayor Councillor Rafique has blamed it all on the government and cuts but this is a decision made in Leeds the reason it's losing money is because you don't know how to run the service and you've got form, you have got form Lord Mayor when this side of the Chamber in administration we used to run, does anyone remember Party in the Park and Opera in the Park ...

COUNCILLOR: Yes.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Free events for the people of Leeds that used to make a profit for this Council, free events, free events held at Temple Newsam that made a profit for this Council. The Labour administration came into power introduced charges, started generating a loss and had to close it down. There was a clear path and an easy way to keep it open the same is true with golf at

Temple Newsam. There is an easy way, if they don't know how to do it step aside and let some people take over ...
(Cheering and applause)

That can run this and do it properly. Come to my ward in Wetherby and we'll show you how you can create bike trails. Have you been to the Wetherby bike trails that were created, fantastic resource for all the people of Leeds and our community they cost the taxpayers of Leeds the princely sum of £1 to deliver, £1 we were able to deliver bike trails in Wetherby. Lord Mayor they don't like to listen but the simple truth is on this one they have got it wrong, they have got it wrong.

They haven't listened to people and what members of the public might like to know is that before these papers that recommended the decision was simply left to officers they have to go through Cabinet clearance in this place which means Councillor Rafique saw them and approved them and Councillor Coupar will have seen them and approved them. Bare that in mind when she tries to stand up as the saviour of the golf course. She moved ...

(Cheers and applause)

And every word that, it's shut them up now hasn't it, when the truth comes out ...

(Background talking)

They knew what they were doing and every word they've said today makes it sound to me like it's a done deal already and they've made their minds up. Lord Mayor they have made a mistake and just for once in what is a toxic political climate wouldn't it be nice for a politician to stand up and say 'do you know what we've made a mistake, there's a better way and we could keep golf at Temple Newsam ...

(Background talking)

which is exactly what should be happening. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Illingworth.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could we have a bit of quiet please.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: I wasn't expecting to be called Lord Mayor but I'm happy to talk about golf if you want me to.

THE LORD MAYOR: Don't you want to speak, do you want the paper to speak.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: Sorry.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you want the paper to speak.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: No it's all right. There's been some misunderstanding cos I wasn't expecting to be called, I've prepared nothing and I'm happy to listen to the debates.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Right and I wasn't expecting to speak either was I, no.

Right so where are we. Well I've been requested to take this issue to my next Scrutiny Board where we will have a chance hopefully to air some of the points that have been raised here today so it will be quite interesting to see how the debate actually goes in the day because we've heard all sides of it today and it will be interesting at that particular Scrutiny Board whether or not there is any movement in the administration's position that would mean that Scrutiny could then say fine, great, you've improved, you've done what we've asked you to do so on that basis I will support the motion in the name of Councillor Carter.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter to sum up.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Councillor Lamb hit the nail on the head, the system in the Council for the guests is that the Exec Board Member for the portfolio concerned, in this case Temple Newsam, clears and approves the paper. It then goes to the whole of the Labour cabinet and they approve the paper including Councillor Coupar. It then comes as written to the Exec Board so therefore what they were putting forward was a fait accompli whether they like it or not.

If Councillor Coupar hadn't read it, hadn't realised what it meant well she shouldn't be in the cabinet and on that same ...

COUNCILLOR: Here here.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: And on that same point as Councillor Rafique sank into a mire of his own making finally and highly unusually the Leader of Council came to his rescue and turned to the audience and assured them that it would be a fair and open consultation and all views will be taken into account and even before she said it, as has already been pointed out, the staff had been told they were going to be redeployed, they'd been advised on the Early Leavers Initiative. Now I'm not saying that Councillor Blake's a liar what I'm saying is I don't think she knew what was going on and to me that's as bad and clearly

Councillor, and I don't think Councillor Coupar knew. Her face glazed over. You have made, you have made a massive mistake and to try and blame the government, blame us. You brought the paper, we didn't ask you to, you brought a paper that you had approved. Don't blame the officers either it's entirely your fault and you have the opportunity now to put it right and come forward with a positive plan that keeps golf at Temple Newsam, gives more people a chance of an active lifestyle and get the improvements at Temple Newsam that were outlined in the paper and which most people support on the proviso that golf is maintained at Temple Newsam. This should be a win win, this debate shouldn't be happening, it should be a win win situation and you'd spoken to the people at Temple Newsam first you wouldn't be in the pickle that you're in now and Councillor Coupar ...

(Background talking)

Councillor Coupar for your information my interest in Temple Newsam goes back forty years when you was ten years old

(Laughter)

Unfortunately, unfortunately you've clearly failed to grow up.

I move the resolution My Lord Mayor.

(Applause and cheers)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now call for a vote.

(Background talking)

Recorded vote.

(Background talking)

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

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we have 89 present. Yes 55, abstention none, no 34. That's been CARRIED.

(Background talking)

We are going into the substantive.

(Background talking)

Recorded.

(Background talking)

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Present 89. Yes 55, abstain 2, no 32. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move on to Item 10. White Paper in the name of Councillor Finnigan. Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. In formally moving this White Paper it's my intention to talk broadly about the policing that surrounded Extinction Rebellion but also to raise concerns about the use of Section 61 and the police's reluctance to use Section 61 when it comes to unauthorised encampments which I'm sure is an issue that concerns a lot of Councillors from around the city and it's not really an attempt to have a go at Extinction Rebellion. We all absolutely support people's right to protest and certainly many in this Council Chamber have been on lots of demonstrations, I've been on lots of demonstrations and we would want to defend people's right to raise those concerns and to demonstrate and indeed Extinction Rebellion can hardly be blamed from taking advantage of the fact that the police chose not to enforce the law during their protest week and indeed the concern that I have is being selective about what laws you enforce depends on the type of cause you're supporting because I genuinely believe that if that had been the EDL or the Brexit Party or some other organisation the police would have enforced the law with all vigour and the fact of the matter is that the people who tended to suffer most as a result of this disruption were ordinary folk trying to go about their everyday business and that included people who had an hospital appointment, it included people who are attempting to get to work many of those on minimum wage, many of those who would not have been paid because they had to get through that particular disruption and the economic cost is really not as relevant as the impact it had on everybody's daily life and the fact of the matter is that the police are under an obligation, an absolute obligation to enforce the law without fear or favour and at the point where they seem to back particular causes and not back other causes it is an implication there that the police are selective about how they enforce the law. It's not good for the police, it's certainly not good for our city. So the aim of this particular resolution is to make sure that we send a clear message to the police service that our expectations are enforcement will be undertaken without fear or favour and to a degree the police don't help themselves because they become politicised in the way that they're actually operating and indeed I believe,

as somebody who has had years of frustration at the police's lack of use of Section 61, unauthorised encampments, the worry that they decide which bits of legislation they want to implement and which bits of legislation they don't want to implement.

We've all had problems where we've asked the police service to enact Section 61, initially those particular notices as a result of their failure on many occasions to undertake that particular action has left many communities blighted by unauthorised encampments and that's where this discretion as to what they will and won't do starts to frustrate ordinary people and you get a disengagement with ordinary people's faith in the police because they see them enforcing in some places and not enforcing of others and they become frustrated and they disengage from their belief that the police are impartial and fair in the way they operate things.

So what I'm suggesting that we do, and we'll talk briefly about the amendments at this particular point, is that we say to the police we're quite clear in how we see them functioning, that we expect if they say that a law is broken that they will enforce and they will take the necessary action and that they won't select which particular organisations are flavour of the month, which particular organisations are ones that they can be more sympathetic towards and that they enforce vigorously.

In terms of the Section 61 issues I am pleased to see that the Home Secretary is revisiting that to see if we can't have more vigour in the way that is actually approached. Our planning policies are entirely sound in terms of providing travellers' sites. This administration has set out its plans and proposals that are regarded as sound ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: And as such the revisiting of Section 61's appropriate. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hutchison. Can I remind members this will be Councillor Hutchison's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR HUTCHISON: Thank you My Lord Mayor. In seconding this White Paper I would first and foremost mention that the Morley Borough Independent's completely and without hesitation fully respect the police officers, both men and women of the West Yorkshire Police. Been the Safety Champion for Outer South Community area and regularly working closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team it is evident that they have extremely hard stressful and often difficult jobs to perform compounded by what could be seen as operating with their hands tied behind their backs with bureaucracy and legislation. I also completely respect the rights of people to be able to protest and demonstrate safely and peacefully for their own beliefs but when that peaceful protests effects regular folk trying to get to work, trying to get to funerals of loved ones, hospital and doctors' appointments and affect the way the blue light services have to operate then this should be enforced by the West Yorkshire Police to the

fullest without fear of persecution and without favouritism to the protesters. A peaceful protest should not affect normal citizens of Leeds going about their ordinary day. I hereby second this White Paper. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor and I move the amendment to the White Paper. Actually I'm fully supporting what's been put by Councillor Finnigan and Councillor Hutchison the intention is to strengthen not take anything away what you've put because having listened to what you've said as well I actually agree with every word. We're going to dangerous territory if we start deciding what protests are OK and what protests are not because very quickly as has been said people will lose confidence and faith in the system, in the police, in the Council if we can cherry pick what is all right and what isn't all right. It's a very very dangerous game to play.

We entirely support the right to peaceful protests and is a key part of democracy. We cannot, it should be allowed, tolerated, supported where it can be but when it's for prolonged periods when it stopping people going about their ordinary everyday business you have a problem and that is why the police have those powers so that people can make their point in a peaceful, democratic, respectful way but without disrupting everybody else and that's crucial.

The reason for moving the amendment is this is a crucial issue and actually in some cases the way these particular protests have been placed have done a disservice to a very important issue and for people who are on the fence about whether, and I think everyone in this Chamber recognises, this is probably the single most important issue facing us that we have to address. You also have to recognise that not everybody agrees with that view. Last night at Wetherby Town Council we declared a climate emergency because we want to do something about it as a community. Mostly it's been positively received. I received one or two abusive messages today for proposing it and I can't repeat what has been said but there you go it's not everybody's view. There are occasions when there will be people that we don't like and we don't like what they stand for and they may want to do exactly the same kind of protest, how will we feel then. You cannot ask the police to retain impartiality and say we'd like you to tolerate this set of people because we like what they stand for but we want you to immediately move these people on because we don't like what they stand for. We're in a very dangerous society if that's where we're heading and if we want to give this particular issue the spotlight it needs, the spotlight it deserves then we also need to be prepared to say when people who clearly believe passionately in the agenda above anything else it's our duty to say look you're actually turning some people off this agenda by your behaviour and we don't want you to do that we want people to listen to we want people to take action and that is the reason for the motion which I think is sensible and the amendment which I move now. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley, Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I think we're all saying similar things here to be perfectly honest on this side. I'm seconding Councillor Lamb's amendment here but interestingly that Councillor Finnigan made some extremely interesting points and he is absolutely right about Section 61 and in fact we've had this situation in Alwoodley with the usual thing with traveller encampments and so on and because they felt political pressure from us to use Section 61 they've actually gone ahead and used it in muster time. But just going to the declaration of the climate emergency which is behind most of all this stuff, somewhere along the line the public is going to have to accept some awkward decisions about climate change measures and so on and so forth and the only way to get people on side in all this and keep them on side is to get them to respect the law of the land and abide by it as Councillor Lamb referred to and not only for them to support the police but the police to be directed by politicians to actually enforce the law in a reasonable way and this actually, when you look at the United Kingdom, this is one of the great reasons why we're respected as a nation, a free country across the globe because of this respectful, the law property rights and the adherence to law and order which has to be obeyed by everybody.

Now again as Councillor Lamb said we want to get these climate measures right but you can actually divide some people into what I would call on one hand the builders and on the other hand the wreckers so, and I would say certainly here, I would say where's the builders we want to crack on and get this sorted out and I have to say that there are some people who just want a pop at authority, including the police and I have here a little pink book and Councillor Pryor was in town on the day when I bought it it's actually ...

(Laughter)

He wasn't actually with me.

(Laughter)

Actually Councillor Pryor's not quoted in the book however it's £6.95 and I have read it, is it worth £6.95, no it isn't however I would just say, I would just say talking about the people who would wish to wreck the climate situation there are some quotations which at random I'll just pick out. We declare ourselves in rebellion against the government and our corrupt institutions, the brute force misleadingly called the economy, the problem is capitalism and colonialism and the only good thing I could find in there was we should eat more turnips.

(Laughter)

These people are the wreckers and not the builders. Now the Conservative Group strongly support sensible measures to deal with climate change and the public can then support this with enthusiasm and the police must then be told to enforce the law, people must be allowed to go to work, earn a

living, go to hospital appointments and so on and so forth. But the police should have political cover in all this and be instructed to enforce the law robustly and politicians should have the bottle to say this in the first place. If you are weak on those ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Orders you will damage the prospects of bringing the public with you

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: To get these measures that we so desperately need. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. This is a slightly interesting debate in that we've got a White Paper and an amendment which actually if you read them it's a bit like warming apple pie, why would you disagree with any of it and yet we've had speeches which actually bear little relationship to the White Papers themselves and we talked about, there seem's to be a view that the police are being impartial, which I'm not sure they are, by not doing something or doing something and then we appeared to have effectively politicians trying to direct what the police police so we've had a reference to gypsy encampment, we've had a reference to a protest that took, a particular protests that took place. Now that seems to me that we're actually been as partial as were accusing the the police have been, because we've actually picked out two things that we have decided we don't want to do and therefore we are going to use this as an opportunity to have a go at that.

Now Councillor Buckley in many ways it's a valid point. You know the police should be equitable and our reputation as a country rests on the fact that we have a judicial system that's not open to corruption and deals with applicant without fear or favour, deals with it without fear or favour which is of course why it's slightly depressing that very recently a number of senior MP's and I can use the word cos I know it isn't political because they're not MP's anymore, were accusing the High Court for example of been traitors because they interpreted the law in a different way to the the Prime Minister. Now actually we've got a system in this county for political control of the police, it's called the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police and Crime Commissioner and by the way I think it's been the biggest disaster for policing that we've ever come up with but the Police and Crime Commissioner directs. Rather than us batting it out here we should be addressing him. Now if he's saying that actually we should be dealing with different things in a different way then OK that's what we've got to accept that because he's the elected representative.

This Council can pass any resolution you like but I've a suspicion that it won't make any difference to him. We do have some control over policing and for example we fund PCSO's and the Leader this afternoon has said we've managed to maintain funding for PCSO's, what she forgot to tell you of course is that we've also managed to move most of them out of the outer areas and into the inner city so that some areas now get actually extra police in and places like Morley for example and Horsforth are reduced to funding extra PCSO's themselves. That's not a fair and equitable system but I'm really unsure what passing any of these resolutions will actually do to move the discussion forward if the police do not treat all equitably then we should be taking that up with the Police and Crime Commissioner, we're not being asked to do that. If the police are unable to treat people fair and equitably then I actually ask ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Oh sorry Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Who me. Oh right.

(Laughter)

I apologise Lord Mayor. Yes to carry on the reflection from Councillor Campbell. We should not really be seeking to direct the police in what they think is appropriate action we have to remember that they are a professional service and that senior police people go through significant experience both on the beat and of course in the operations room and when we're looking, sorry when they are looking at a situation and how they might respond to it rather than thinking about, well what will the politicians think of us when we decide what we want to do, they should really be thinking what is the best interests of society, what are the best interests of the environment within which this activity is taking and if they decide, even when someone is strictly breaking the law that they should not enforce the law because the law, enforcing that law would actually potentially create a bigger issue where there would be even more law infringement then that's what we have to leave up to them and at the end of the day we should spend a little bit less time criticising the judgement of the police and their decision making and thinking a little bit more about how we can actually enable the police to have a little bit more thinking time. So for instance we're where mentioning all these new laws that we think should be enforced by the police service and when we decide that for instance there should be more custodial sentences for offences then maybe we should be thinking about enabling the police through resourcing them effectively to take all of those issues into consideration but leave them to make the final decision into how they enforce that law.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you Lord Mayor and apparently Councillor Buckley, a colleague of mine has found a cheaper version of the book that you referred to earlier on ...

(Laughter)

On the internet for £4.99 so if anybody can find it for less do let us know won't you.

May I turn now to the White Paper in moving this amendment and Councillor Finnigan's White Paper I have to say was really vague on its own and gave no indication as to what Councillor Finnigan wanted to talk about as a matter of, you know the Council might want to know about just, you know which would have helped the debate may be somewhat Councillor Finnigan and may have helped your approach and cause somewhat, but never mind.

And I think the second thing to say is that I need to arrange a seminar for Members of the Council so that they can have a full briefing and introduction on the division of powers between politicians and the police and how it actually works in practice ...

(Applause)

Because it is nothing like as being said earlier in the debate I've got to say. There are operational issues that the Chief Constable has power over and there are budgetary concerns that the PCC has power over, there are also other misgivings that you said about politicians directing police to do things which is nothing of the kind. So can I take this opportunity Lord Mayor to thank West Yorkshire Police who work tirelessly supporting our communities and maintaining the safety of all our residents in all situations.

(Applause)

We have recently seen some truly horrendous scenes that our services faced last week in Harehills. The police force did all they possibly could reacting to the situation and I hope that Members of Council can join me in expressing gratitude for the way in which they conducted themselves protecting our communities. Since 2010 we have seen continuous and severe cuts to policing as we've already heard earlier in the Chamber. Apparently the government thought this could be fixed by short term funding of our police forces in recent announcements, supposedly tackling knife crime and the introduction of the new Violence Reduction Unit although I've got to say although this is welcome funding the short term nature of the strategy and the funding causes me great concern over the future of these very worthwhile projects. It's also worth remembering that this money has previously been stripped from our police forces and perhaps had it remained crime would not have increased.

Councillor Finnigan refers to at the Extension Rebellion protests during the summer of this year which were peaceful and without any violence or need for any

arrests and I'd just like to remind Members of Council that peaceful protests are allowed under our laws and I have no concerns regarding how these protests have been dealt with and there should not be one rule for one and one rule for another as others have said and in fact as you may have seen Extinction Rebellion won a legal challenge this week against the fact they were prevented from protesting in London. Is this not enough evidence this would be the wrong direction for this city to go in.

Partnership working is crucial in Leeds and having West Yorkshire Police as one of those key partners has seen the city benefit. Last week was a prime example as I've just said, the work we do in partnership with West Yorkshire Police is extensive and includes working at a partnership, strategic level and a safeguarding level.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: And I hope Members can support the amendment and the police in the work that they do in this city.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ragan.

COUNCILLOR RAGAN: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I would like to second this amendment and echo the point my fellow colleague has made particularly those on partnership working and strong links we have with colleagues in West Yorkshire Police. Similar to many I too have a ward which can experience its problems and to me it's reassuring to know that in times of need we have a strong network of teams who work together to offer reassurance and support to our communities. Working together means that our communities can put their trust in not only us as local Councillors but also the likes of our Safer Leeds and Communities teams and local police officers. Been able to maintain our Police Community Support Officers is also a massive bonus to this city thanks to this administration. Getting to know local officers, sharing concerns and ideas means we understand the priorities for each ward. It's wonderful to work together, building the community cohesion, striving to improve our local area and constantly work to reducing concerns in the area. Having strong connections is crucial to our communities. How can we work on building better areas for our residents if they couldn't be protected. How confident would people be living in their homes if safety wasn't addressed or taken seriously.

However I too share a concern that we do not have enough police officers in our city and across the country. We've seen the impact locally and nationally with crime levels increasing but the strain on our police force cannot be ignored. Officers trying to manage expectations by the public while struggling to cope and yet when something goes on where is the finger of blame sadly pointed. The resources are dramatically lacking and it is a concern that the blame will be on the police when in fact these problems stem back to the ongoing austerity crush by this present government. Police numbers dropped from 140,000 in 2010 to 117,000 in 2018, I think those numbers require no further explanation and yet

we're led to believe they are supporting the police with recruitment drives and pots of money to tackle knife crime when in actual fact had cuts not been made in the first instance the money would have been evident throughout. In fact this recruitment drive would not even equal the numbers of officer per area as was seen throughout the majority of the 1980's and 1990's.

As a Council we can only continue doing what we are doing to prioritise the needs of our people and city through the best means we can. Hopefully this will be recognised and reciprocated nationally by the government.

I really am grateful for our police force and will happily support the decision to write a letter confirming our support for everything they do and really look forward to developing our relationship across communities to protect our residents. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I'd like to start by reminding our fellow Councillors that a hundred years ago about half of us here did not have the vote. Although we know that many of the suffragettes took part in unlawful actions, votes of all was also won by lawful peaceful protests over many decades. But we do not have decades to act to prevent the catastrophic climate breakdown that the IPCC has warned us of. We have a decade at most to take the serious action to get to zero carbon. Action which will take changes to the way we live our lives on this planet and in this city. That's why the members of Extinction Rebellion have been mentioned in this White Paper and doing what they're doing. Why many of them have taken time off work, risk being arrested to take direct action as other methods have not worked.

We've known about climate change for decades and there's been campaigns about for decades that's not been heard and yes they've caused disruptions to some people's lives but these transformational changes that need to happen in the next few years are going to be inconvenient, far more inconvenient than a road into Leeds been closed for a week by peaceful protestors. I believe that these changes will actually bring opportunities as well as inconveniences, that's not what this White Paper is about in the amendments.

So the people of Doncaster and other areas of South Yorkshire have again been inconvenienced by the effects of climate change something we know about here in Leeds. The climate's changing and much faster than we thought it would. The members of Extinction Rebellion come from all walks of life, they knew what they were doing and when they took the week long action in Leeds. I have obviously been listening to different people because I know that they received a lot of support, I know many exile members I was there myself for some of the time. Exile are alerting others by peaceful lawful action to the imminent risk of climate change, they're rightly saying that continued economic growth is not compatible with dealing with the climate catastrophe. Expansion of Leeds

Bradford Airport, the building more roads, cutting down more trees, these things need to stop. We need to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

So the suffragettes are now remembered, lauded and praised for what they did hopefully if we take the really necessary difficult decisions needed to tackle this climate change some of our descendants may be in this Chamber in a hundred years time remembering and paying tribute to Extinction Rebellion and also to the Youth Strikers.

Thank goodness we live in a country where we can take a protest peacefully. I will be supporting the third amendment which affirms the right that the police in upholding the rule of law and specifically the right of peaceful protest. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to speak on the White Paper and take more local angle. Like my fellow Councillors I too speak highly of the work that West Yorkshire Police do to protect our communities. The partnership links we have throughout our services are truly one of a kind and I believe it is this close knit working relationship that allows us to address issues throughout the city. In fact it has been one of the real joys of becoming a Councillor to go to meetings to meet people who are working in my ward and who really know the community and really working together, I didn't know that went on before I became a Councillor and it's been a real joy.

As a ward Councillor there are times when problems arise as has been mentioned and we need additional support, as I'm sure many other Councillors experience in their own wards. West Yorkshire Police work tirelessly to support residents and together with Safer Leeds and our communities teams we worked together to try and lessen the impact of various types of crime on our ward and our city. However I can't speak on this without highlighting how stretched resources are. Everyone would like to do more and it is my opinion that cuts to the Police, Local Authorities and other services have had a negative impact and we are now seeing the results of those impacts with rising crime including ASB because of the underinvestment in our communities, in our young people by this government.

I am proud that we have kept, in this in this city, our youth service. Not everyone's been as lucky to actually keep a youth service. It's on a much reduced budget but we have got it and they do invaluable work with our young people along with our fantastic third sector partners. The partnership working with our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Housing, Communities is a real asset to our communities.

I would like to end by extending my thanks to the teams both within the Council and West Yorkshire Police especially our Neighbourhood Policing Team and our PCSO's. We have PCSO's who have been working in our ward for fifteen

years, yep known by his first name, yeah and not just by us by everybody, by the kids, everybody in the community who love our community, who are embedded in it, who work tirelessly, who will email me at all times of the day and night to either ask for something or tell me something or you know and it just shows that commitment, that real commitment and I'm incredibly proud of them, I'm incredibly proud of this Labour Group who both on and constantly agree to fund our PCSO's with the PCC and without them we really would, our communities really would be poorer for it. So I'd like to thank them and all the work they do to ensure the safety of people in Temple Newsam and across the city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter, Amanda Carter.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. Members of our group are certainly intrigued by Councillor Finnigan's White Paper to start with but then eventually it all became clear. I've never heard such rubbish in all my life as I've heard from the Lib Dems tonight.

(Laughter)

The Police and Crime Commissioner is not allowed to interfere with the operations of the police. He lives with a budget and he has a strategic view of the police force. When it finally did emerge that ...

(Background talking)

When it finally did emerge what Councillor Finnigan was getting at, it was about the police acting without fear or favour, that's what it's all about and it's not about cuts you've completely missed the point across there, completely and totally and if you want to talk about cuts just remember what your Chancellor of the Exchequer said when he left. There's no money left that's why we have to have austerity, that's why we had to police cuts in the first place...

(Background talking)

Any government that came in power would have had to implement austerity so we'll have no more nonsense from you and I have ultimate respect for the police, every year a police officer is killed on duty, they are stabbed, they are kicked, they are spat on, they have my ultimate respect. It is not about that. In fact the Council and the Police utilise the diversions associated with the high winds protocol used in that part of the city which was used and put in place to protect people from the effects of high winds and it's true to say that this Council broadly support Extinction Rebellion, we all want a better future, a greener future and we want sensible things put into play so that our future can be great for our children and our grandchildren. But I'm forced to ask if it had been another group blocking off the city causing inconvenience and congestion, would the police have reacted in the same way. My Lord Mayor I think not. Especially when it costs the West Yorkshire Police £200,000 and it's worth noting the comments of the West Yorkshire Police Federation, every penny that has been used on policing this

event is a penny that would have been spent better on local policing issues within West Yorkshire. The simple fact of increased expenditure within policing runs the risk of less police officers on the beat. My Lord Mayor I do not always agree with Police Federation but I think that they're bang on right with that.

The declaration of climate emergency in Leeds is something we take very seriously indeed on this side. During the debate last March we would have liked it to have gone further with more accountability and the Leader of the Council having portfolio responsibility. But despite that we are fully behind all efforts to cut carbon emissions and ensure a brighter future. In that sense I've got every sympathy with the Extinction Rebellion but a point they've missed and this is a vital point, really important, you have to take people along with you and they've just irritated and annoyed the citizens of Leeds, they couldn't get about, it caused congestion, it added to carbon pollution. We have to take people along with us and in terms of persuading them, stopping them from getting about their business in Leeds is not the way. Everyone has a right to protest and we just hope in future that all concerned give more thought to this and ensure that the protests can go ahead peacefully but also to ensure that it does not cause a week of disruption in our city and potentially damage efforts to persuade the public to buy into what is an extremely important thing. Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan to sum up.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's certainly the case that and I suspect all the Councillors support the police and the great job they do and it's not about funding of the police indeed. The Labour administration has cut the number of PCSO's that operate in Morley backed by Councillor Dawson and that's something that we will reconfirm to the voters in May next year. But this is about being selective on what laws you do and don't enforce and I'm really puzzled with the Greens and I have a warm affection for the Greens at this particular point but the fact that you fancy doing a bit of virtue signalling can decide which bits of the law that you do or don't want to implement is entirely and utterly bizarre. At the end of the day the Police Commissioner, there's not much point having a conversation with him, he can't have any influence on this. This is about police operational approaches and all we're saying is that we don't want to interfere, just do what you're supposed to do and that is ultimately to enforce the law.

Now we haven't a problem really with the Liberals amendment and we're quite happy to back it as I suspect ours won't win. We're quite happy with the Tories amendment at this particular point but I think the Labour amendment basically misses the point ...

(Background talking)

Well it misses the point because if we take out the Extinction Rebellion ban in London, that's about banning the whole thing, that's not about actually day to day policing which the poor Met are going to have to get stuck into next time and

while there over there policing these people then they're not policing the streets of London and it is counter-productive, you've got to try and persuade people to make significant changes to their lifestyle if they're going to buy into this and irritating them in this way sends a whole issue backwards it does not help and assist us to take them along with some really tough decisions where they're going to have to really ultimately modify their lives to a greater degree. What it actually does is it gives those who are at the fringed end who are climate sceptics the opportunity to say oh look at that lot, they're all tree huggers, they're all disrupting your life, they all want the end of capitalism, all those other issues and that's not the way to persuade them if we're going to make those fundamental changes that we need to make. So I think it's counterproductive but ultimately the police are there to police without fear or favour. Those laws are passed they should enforce those particular laws and not do their own bit of virtue signalling in saying on this particular occasion we choose not to bother. That's what it's ultimately about.

Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go for a vote. Firstly vote in the name of Councillor Lamb. *(A vote was taken)*. I'm sorry that's been LOST.

Second amendment in the name of Councillor Campbell. *(A vote was taken)*. Again that's been LOST.

Third one in the name of Councillor Coupar. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

Now can we vote for the substantive motion. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

ITEM 11 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move on to item 11, White Paper in the name of Councillor James Lewis. Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've just had some encouraging words from my left saying oh it's cruel keeping us here this long which I think is really encouraging words just before I start to speak Lord Mayor. Hopefully this isn't a controversial item at all and I'm sure we'll get the full agreement of Council on this item so let me start by talking a little bit about why we brought this White Paper and I think there's two parts to it. First of all there is a specific government decision to arbitrarily and unfairly raise the cost of Public Works Loan Board finance based on no substantive fact, reasoning or any meaningful consultation and I think the second thing as well and again I think, you know Councillor Golton's had too much praise today much of it undeserved so I'm not going to give him any more but it is one of those decisions that it is the the arbitrary and unfair way that government treats local government and to bring this on to us at this time when we're already struggling with lots of uncertainties and lots of uncertainties, lots of potential added costs and pressures and no end in sight to austerity is unfair.

The second thing I think it's again specifically around the Public Works Loan Board itself for those who might not be familiar with it, who don't read the Treasury Management updates every time they come to Exec Board in the papers. I know every member of Exec Board reads them very carefully, I'm sure many Members of Council do. But this is a way of raising finance of providing our core public services around infrastructure, around housing and around facilities. It's raised through the UK Debt Management Office exactly the same way that the national government raises its debt except unlike national government we have to spend it just on our capital programme, our day to day spending has to be funded through the revenue budget where nobody knows that national government can fund its revenue budget through borrowing as well. So we have to really make the case about why we are raising finance so we can demonstrate like I say that the things that are at the core of public services that we need to deliver in a city that this goes towards.

In terms of our Treasury Management Strategy over the last nine years as to other things we need to deliver, infrastructure we need to deliver and need to borrow has raised by 106% but actually the cost of that, the funding of the capital programme has only gone up by 6% and I think that shows we've got a really robust treasury management strategy and before I move on to some specific examples I think it's also worth remembering as well that one third of our capital programme goes towards initiative, we can either save money for the revenue budget or contribute extra income to the revenue budget. Just looking on what the actual impact is and again these are just some examples, don't set any hares running as a result of the government's decision, things won't happen but just to give an example so it could cost us over £6m so that could be eighteen primary school, new primary school classrooms or twelve new secondary school classrooms. We've got huge pressure on school places as many ward Members know. It could be tens of thousands of potholes being filled in, twenty miles of new roads, it could be twenty miles of roads being resurfaced that aren't being done by this. It could be over six hundred disabled facilities adaptations to people's homes. One of the reasons our borrowing has going up is because we've been allowed to borrow to build new council housing because the Housing Revenue account has been lifted. This is something we've called for for a long time and the Council whole, council housing stock in the city is built on borrowing money to build houses and then refunding it through the rent we collect and it's things like the Heritage assets, we could let the Town Hall fall down if it wasn't in the Capital Programme.

Things like district heating and electric vehicles to tackle the climate crisis, school kitchens to help give children nutritious and healthy meals during the day particularly when we know there's rising poverty it might be the only healthy meal they've got and providing updates in the new sports centres as well. These are all things that are covered by the Capital Programme, the costs will go up because of this move and there are things, I don't think anybody in the Labour Group would apologise for providing to the citizens of Leeds.

So I say I hope this is not an uncontroversial one, I do have some sympathy with the Lib Dem amendment in terms of some of the risks taken particularly by Councils down south who have invested massively in properties not

in their district using the Public Works Loan Board and finally just to move on to the MRP approach and again this comes back to the point about consisting of government funding. In particular if we'd had fair and sustainable public finances it's probably an approach we wouldn't have taken but it was an approach that meant we didn't double down on the Tory cuts to our budget by being able to change from our borrowing slightly so we could deal with the pressures over time rather than dealing with them all at once and if anybody opposes MRP all they are calling for is deep and more severe cuts in recent years to Council finances. So I will leave it there and I look forward to hearing what everybody else has to say.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am delighted to speak in support of Councillor Lewis's White Paper. I am appalled by the behaviour of the government with regards to the Public Works Loan Board. It is almost unbelievable that at a time when councils up and down the country are facing real financial hardship and struggling to maintain frontline services the government chooses to increase the cost of borrowing for the basic infrastructure now. While the increase in the interest rate of 1% may not sound like a lot, it translates into additional cost of £100,000 for every £10m that we borrow meaning that public debt will continue to increase and at a much faster rate. What this has done is further tie the hands of Local Authorities as they face the reality of increasing debt while still needing to ensure housing, regeneration, schools etc are in place for local residents. One example is of this a new secondary school that is planned for my ward of Burmantofts and Richmond Hill. There is a need for secondary school places in East Leeds and in September a paper went to the Exec Board with the outcome of the consultation into the new schools. In addition to the mainstream school the proposal includes a thirty places resource provision for children with complex, communication and moderate learning difficulties. There is plenty of sport in the area for the school, families want to be able to send their children to local schools and as ward Members we are very supportive of the proposal. My concern now focuses around the affordability of this and all other schools, new builds, expansions and the city needs to be able to meet the ongoing demand for places. We already know that the money we receive from central government is not enough to cover the cost of building or expanding a school, we have to borrow money to ensure that projects are completed and children and young people have somewhere to learn. How much more difficult will this be when the cost of borrowing just increases so dramatically and with no warning. This decision (inaudible) of government in in trouble and once again passing the buck onto Local Authorities who will be driven into further financial hardship, I am disgusted Lord Mayor but sadly not surprised. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor and I understand what Councillor Lewis means about the Treasury Management report it's not for

everybody, it's not the roller coaster read that people want to have but it's one of those that I always look towards because it is the crucial way that we fund services and keep this council going and I move the amendment not to say that there shouldn't have been consultation or there should have been further discussion with government but to try and explain the position that we are in and the way out of this will not be further borrowing.

Let's deal with one matter straight off the bat which is that this change in the interest rate will only affect new borrowing so unless the administration has lots of plans to go and start borrowing more and more money this shouldn't impact them at all. Already £2.2b in the whole if you're not going to be borrowing anymore this won't change anything.

Secondly if you're using the Public Works Loans Board there are other cheaper interest rate providers out there that are available, so there are other options and one thing that we've seen with officers and I note Councillor Blake's comments earlier that some of the officers have done excellent sterling work on this changing some of the short term debts to longer term debts to try and make sure that they source the best interest rates actually saving the Council £3m in servicing the debt that can go towards frontline services and that should be applauded but it still doesn't quite go and explain the hole that we find ourselves in. Every year at Budget time that I can remember since 2010 the debt ceiling has gone up. If we take from 2015/16 the debt of the Council was £1.6b as of last year's budget it was just under £2.1b, it's going to be £2.2ish looking at the reports at the moment and it is continuing to go on the rise and I mentioned before the £113m that needs to service that debt that's 22% of the spending and Councillor Lewis is quite right we could borrow more but the change in the interest rate could mean that there's more schools and potholes and everything but £113m could go towards roads and potholes and schools and the other spending of this Council and that £113m is more than any of the other departments, more than refuse, more than parks or anything else it's a huge spend and I'm sure that the Council Taxpayers of this city would not be very impressed to know that over 20p in every pound of their Council Tax is going towards servicing the debt.

I also note that recently within, recently there was a speech that was noted by Councillor Lewis earlier, Councillor Blake gave saying there should be a 10% rise for all Council staff across the city regardless of what pay level there on. That was to try and tackle what was quoted as 22% of some of the cuts that had come into place. Well 10% firstly doesn't equal to the 22% that's going to be cut so they're selling themselves short a little bit there.

The second element to this is that that comes to around £43m. I'm not sure if that £43m is coming from this Council because at the moment there is a discussion around a Settlement Grant and my understanding is that 2% is being discussed meaning that around another £34m needs to be found that won't come from central government it would have to come from this Council and that would have to go to the Council Tax payer. So it's very clear if the administration want to not borrow any more and want to put Council Tax up they can go to a referendum to go above that 2% Council Tax rise, they can take it to the public and they can take it to the people in the city and let them have their choice on

whether they want to Council Tax to go up but what I am trying to point out in the starkest, most black and white terms is that borrowing more is not going to get us out of this hole. The MRP position is what it is, we're going to need to make some difficult decisions and the can cannot be kicked down the road anymore and further borrowing from any source will not be the answer Lord Mayor. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. As you can see from our amendment we are generally supportive of this White Paper for many of the reasons that Councillor Lewis has outlined already but I will perhaps just expand on some of them. I was really amused by Councillor Robinson's amendment wanting transparency over levels of debt no doubt when, if we get a Conservative government he will make the same plea of transparency of debt payments and asking how much of our, what proportion of our national income is going on debt because the whole future of the government from both sides from Labour and from the Conservatives is based on debt mounting and mounting up so everyone sees that that is the way it's going to go forward.

So let me just get back to what we're really talking about in this White Paper and the effect of increasing the interest rate from the Public Works Loan Board. The low cost of borrowing is something that we should be taking advantage of and something we have been taking advantage of. The removal of the cap on the Housing Revenue Account borrowing is giving us the opportunity to invest in new houses, improve our stock, increase jobs in the construction industry and all those things it's part of regeneration. Developing infrastructure schemes, district heating schemes, climate schemes that are going to address climate change. All those need upfront investment and its borrowing to invest and to save and increase opportunities for the people of Leeds.

One of the areas we're also doing is investing in the infrastructure of Leeds in commercial assets which again creates jobs, creates opportunities, brings new business into the city and provides an income for the city as well. So the decision to increase the interest rates of the Public Works Loan Board is going to be severely restricted on in the future to enable us to do that and one of the reasons I think that the government is doing this, one is that Local Authorities are an easy target and we've discussed that earlier but also some Local Authorities have been abusing the system, they've been investing in what I'd call high risk investments, shopping centres, hotels outside of their area, things that don't actually benefit the authorities who are borrowing and we haven't been like that so you can understand that low cost of finance is not necessarily appropriate for them so what we're saying is rather than if we have a call to action from this White Paper, rather than just say oh it's the government they should give us more money, just

say well actually using that interest rate is a bit of a blunt instrument, let's be a bit more, let's have a bit more finesse about that, let's examine what we are investing in and tailor the interest rate to the risk. That's what you do in the commercial world you look at the risk of the investment and then set the interest rate accordingly. So good quality investments in social housing and infrastructure, in schools, in hospitals OK that they would have the low interest rate. High risk investments ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Have to have a higher interest rate. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Second and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor I'm speaking in support of the White Paper in the name of Councillor Lewis. As I said earlier affordable housing is an important subject to me as well as many people across the whole of Leeds. I spoke about how here in Leeds we were proactive in responding to the lifting of the Housing Revenue Account although that was welcome news it doesn't wipe clean the years that the government has tied the Local Authority hands and stringing our ability to build the homes that the city need for the people that desperately need a place to live, but that the people in the city of Leeds need to live. Be that in the house in the community they grow up in or social housing because of their circumstances. However as ever with this government things are always not as they seem. Why people across the country welcoming the news of the HRA cap has been lifted the impact this will have on Local Authorities been able to build affordable houses will be limited by the increase in the Public Works Loan Board interest rate. A decision with no thinking or foresight it is a government decision to finally give us the tools we need to only take away the best source of funding for it. It speaks of a government that cannot understand the importance of long term stable funding sources and a government that will not support long term planning.

Unfortunately we talk about inadequate funding far too often but it is a message that needs to be repeated loudly and often. All the powers in the world are useless if we do not have the funding to use them. Stable funding is so key to making realistic and lasting plans. We are so often forced to bid for adhoc or one of pots of money trying to plug gaps and show up programmes in ever changing circumstances.

It is a sad fact that we cannot rely on this government to provide funding we need or to really support us with trying to clean up the housing mess that they

have created. We need the government elected on the 12th December to commit to proper funding for the proper affordable housing we need in Leeds. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jenkins.

COUNCILLOR JENKINS: Lord Mayor I wish to support this White Paper in the name of Councillor Lewis. On the 9th October the Treasury increased interest rates on loans from the Public Works Loan Board by 1%. Confusingly the overall lending limit was also increased from £85b to £95b. The Tory Communities Secretary said the change was to determine and reduce borrowing as a small number of councils had abused the Public Works Loan Board and have become highly indebted as a result. Could this be Northamptonshire or East Sussex by any chance. Public Finance magazine not my usual bedtime reading reported last Monday borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board has dropped by nearly three quarters in the last month. Now Local Authorities are scaling back with the value of loans falling from 174 loans worth £1.6b in September to just 57 loans worth more point £0.469b in October. So it has already had a disastrous effect but do they care and why have the Tories done it, political motivation, we can only presume that to open up the private markets and force Local Authorities to borrow at higher rates of interest costing far more for Council Tax Payers and at the same time improving, increasing the profits of the privileged and gilt edge sectors of society.

A year ago their encouraging councils to build more after eight wasted years of stifle growth and massive cuts in council grants, a year later they make it harder to improve our roads, children's centres and invest in flood alleviation schemes. It was an illogical decision by an uncompassionate and bankrupt Tory government, they gave no warning, have no sense, no reason, no conscience and no end to austerity until four weeks later at election time they make promises which none of us can believe in or trust would be implemented.

The Labour government will lower the interest rate, it will be transformative and redistribute wealth ...

(Background groaning)

From the billionaire class to the working class and will use a national investment bank.

Finally I would not even mention Jacob Rees-Mogg ...

(Laughter)

The empty chairs of not so cleverly and Sajid Javid or this so called born to rule Johnson or the U-turn on fracking but I have now.

(Laughter and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR BARRY ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Did the government get it right, no. You know this doesn't, you know in a period of where we're trying to get more infrastructure and investment in it didn't get it right, but neither did you as well. You are also been not very clever with your financing and the way that your ruling the Council just now. But your also been quite disingenuous to your Treasury team, who ever since I got on Council have risen to the challenge year on year on year and I'm sure that if you went to them with proposals they will be able to use the professionalism and the expertise that they have because if you've never ever met the people in our Treasury team they are the top people you can get, they are the people who know how to do things and if we ask them they will deliver the goods for us. They will come up with a strategy as to how to do it, it might mean some pain for you in some of the decisions you might have to make but you can trust our Treasury team to do things.

Now let's hope that after the date that we're coming up against the government reflect back again as well and reverse this particular increase, but at the same time one of the problems that we've all got now is that we've all got so used to low interest rates that when it goes up from 1.8% to 2.8% that's a massive increase in what we're doing. In years gone by when it was 10% going up to 11% you know it didn't really hit you as much as that and sometimes we are actually forgetting that it is the public's money that we are borrowing when we're actually doing things and sometimes we've got to look to maybe to go out to the private sector a bit more in this city to try and see if they can fund some of the improvements that you are looking to introduce that we would all support in terms of what you're doing as well.

So at the end of the day I will repeat what I said. The government need to go back and think again so that when the elections over I think the LGA and through the offices of people like Councillor Blake who has a lot of responsibility within their, in terms of the role that she plays. You know this is across the LGA, across party, they are not making a political point about it. I think we've got to use the offices of the LGA to go back and get the best deal they can for Local Authorities because we have taken an unfair hit on a number of things and we need the infrastructure, we need the housing, we certainly need the affordable housing throughout this country so on that note thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Just to inform members I have six Members withdraw from speaking. I'll call on Councillor Collins to speak and then Councillor Lewis will sum up.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. A few years ago our local Horsforth Museum was threatened with closure, not immediately but what happened was that officers went to the museum and said you can no longer stay in this building we want to sell it, we're going to have to find you somewhere else, smaller and tucked away where nobody will actually know you're there. As a

response to that Horsforth Town Council went to the community and proposed a solution which was for us to actually buy the museum and the building next door, number three. The community came back with a very good response and over 90% of them wanted us to go ahead and by the museum and number three and the stables at the back. As a result of that we went into some very good negotiations with Councillor Coupar and officers about how much we should pay for these buildings and a figure of £200,000 for a lease hold was put forward. The Town Council then negotiated further and we also made the effort to actually raise the request for a Public Works Loan. In January this year we had confirmation that we'd got the loan and we formally made an offer to Leeds City Council to buy these premises for £200,000.

Since January when we formally made the offer we have heard very little from Leeds despite arguing and chasing, they are still thinking about it. You are still thinking about whether we can buy these buildings for our community and a benefit to you of £200,000. As a result of this interest increase, which I am very disappointed about, the Town Council will have to now pay more when repaying the loan but we don't yet know when to draw down this loan because we still haven't heard from you as to whether you're going to accept our offer.

So it is disappointing that the Council have done this but you have shown no commitment to our local community and your prevaricating has cost our local community a lot more as well. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. Councillor Anderson has made our position clear and I think we can quite simply make an offer that whoever is in government after the 12th of December we'll quite happily work with you to try and get a reversal for this 1% increase however we need to make sure we're been honest and that's why I'm supporting Councillor Robinson's amendment so, I'm never quite sure with Councillor Lewis, he's difficult to read and I'm never quite sure whether he just doesn't understand what he's saying or whether he's trying to mislead people deliberately ...

(Background talking)

I think the truth is probably somewhere in between but it's a tough one to weigh up. So let's just make sure we've got the facts right first of all. This change will not cost this Council a single penny unless it chooses to borrow more money, not one single penny. Has everybody got that because you could have been given the impression from what he said that the change itself will cost us more money, it will not. It will only cost more money if we choose to borrow more and it will only cost more money if we choose to borrow from this source which is one of many that are available to the Council to choose. As Councillor Anderson said for every year that I've been on this Council right up to the current day we have had the best Finance officers in the business in this Council bar none and we should applaud them for the work that they've done to keep our finances on an even keel throughout all of that time. Their imaginative, their creative and they are, they are

the best in the business. But you have choices when it comes to borrowing and the choices that you have taken over many years have led us to a position that in three years'time this Council will be spending as much on debt as it does on all of Children's Services. And I don't know about you I'm not comfortable with that and I can't think of many people around our city who if you said to them is it all right that we spend as much on debt repayments as we do on looking after the most vulnerable children in our city, the answer to me is no and that tells me you've got your strategy wrong.

The cost of this is enormous, Councillor Robinson has covered the figures, your proposal is to borrow more and more and more and more. It's already been said we know the country got into a mess because of Labour's addiction to debt in government this Council is getting into a mess because of Labour's addiction to debt in this Council ...

(Background talking)

Yeah, Lord Mayor we don't, I don't think we need any lessons on financial management from John McDonnell thank you very much.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor this is a serious issue. This is, this is the big challenge that faces this Council because our budget is going to get swallowed up, the pressures that are coming in the next few years are not from government, there not external, there because of decisions that this administration has made about how it sorts out its debt and we need to be talking about that and people need to understand it. There is a choice, there are different ways to do this, there are different ways to invest in infrastructure and improve our city, there are better ways and you do not have to get to the point where we are spending as much on debt repayment as we do on looking after the most vulnerable children in our city. That's not a choice I want to make and I hope people will take it on board and that they'll make a different choice as well. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I'll just pick up on a few of the comments I know I've got a very fairly limited time so I won't raise every single error that the Conservative Group have made during the course of the debate but a couple of things I do want to pick up first of all Councillor Collins, I'm happy to pick up the Horsforth issue that you've raised with you individually, see what we can do to get that one moved on.

Just looking through some of the other comments that were made, Councillor Jonathan Bentley you know or may know we have taken advantage of

the low rates and some of our recent financing has been done a rate as low as 1.24%.

I think again that Councillor Khan spoke about the need for a new school in his ward and what's been absolutely clear for when, you know if anybody's writing information leaflets I won't use the election word but one or two of the Conservative speakers have committed to the fact that if the Conservatives were running this Council no borrowing will happen and that school will not happen.

(Background talking)

Let's be absolutely clear Councillor Hamilton spoke about the need for more affordable housing and again at the commitment from the opposition benches not to borrow again means none of that affordable housing can happen. There's something we can all put in our leaflet.

Moving forward I just wanted again, so I think it's really useful that the Conservative Group have clarified their position about what they don't want to see in this city, they don't want children to be in adequate schools, they don't want affordable housing, they don't want the infrastructure to tackle climate change because they don't like the way we pay for it and you know I was intrigued by some of the things that came back and again you know I'm limited on time to explore so I think that Barry Anderson said, Councillor Anderson said we can ask the private sector to fund them. It sounded to me very much like the ghost of PFI was walking back into the room and you know just a year after the collapse of Carillian and things like that the idea that that is a way we should be going forward to bring about John Major's PFI programmes back into the city after disaster we've seen ...

(Background talking)

After disaster we've seen with companies like Carillian ...

(Background talking)

Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor if they don't want to listen to what I'm saying, Lord Mayor if they don't want to listen to what I'm saying I will have to raise my voice so people can ...

(Laughter)

So people can hear, so people can here what I am saying and I just wanted to turn to Councillor Matthew Robinson's rather extraordinary contribution and blimey you can see why Conservative Councils like East Sussex and Northamptonshire and Somerset got into trouble if they let people like Councillor Robinson run it.

Just to run through some of the many mistakes Councillor Robinson made. First of all we didn't say would cover a staff pay rise by borrowing, we couldn't do that, that was a factual error. To be absolutely clear, to be absolutely clear we're

asking for the government to pay for that from the money they've got in the Treasury that no doubt they'll try and give away in tax cuts to the highest paid. We said the lowest paid Council staff. We didn't say all Council staff we said NJC ones which are the lowest paid Council staff and then when Councillor Robinson said, it'll be useful for you to listen Matthew you might learn something, and then when you said we shouldn't pay ...

(Background talking)

Then when you said, you know instead of ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

Then when you said, you know instead of paying off the debt we should we should use it for frontline services. Well if we stop paying off our current debt we'd have some big financial institutions chasing us, chasing us for debt we weren't paying what a lot of financial illiteracy rubbish and heaven hope that that lot never get in charge of this city.

Again you know we've heard what they want to bring back, bad debt, PFI, cuts to public services and just to turn to Councillor Alan Lamb and the only thing common between us is we're both wearing the same colour shirt and tie today which we'll make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

(Laughter)

Absolutely, absolutely nothing in common and for him to try and, it shows just how little they understand the Council budget for him to try and draw comparisons over ED Capital Programme or vulnerable children. Does he not think our vulnerable children are looked after in buildings paid for by the Capital Children. He doesn't understand the fundamental difference between revenue and capital spending. Lord Mayor I think it shows what a shambles they are over there.

I will not be lectured by debt on the Conservatives. The last Conservative government borrowed more than any Labour government ever has and ...

(Cheers and applause)

We'll never do that to the (inaudible).

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK, we'll now go to the vote. We first go to the amendment in Councillor Robinson. (*A vote was taken*). That's been LOST.

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

We now call for the third, the motion. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

So we have come to the end of Full Council.

(Cheers and applause)

Thank you, thank you. I shan't give any cake next time because it gives you too much energy I'm afraid.

(Laughter)

(The meeting closed at 7.25pm)

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