

**COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2020**

**VERBATIM**

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**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC HALL,  
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR  
(COUNCILLOR E TAYLOR)

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Auto-transcribed from Webcast

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

THE LORD MAYOR: OK let's get started in part two. Can I remind Members to please switch your phones or put it to silent and also the meeting will be webcast today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE LORD MAYOR: I'd also like to extend congratulations to the following local recipients who were honoured in the Queen's New Year's Honours. First can I congratulate our own Tom Riordan on his CBE for services with Local Community.

(Applause)

Those awarded with OBE were Wallis Simpson for service to businesses and communities in Yorkshire, Professor Philip Howard for services to healthcare, Carol Dewhirst for services to Education, Juliet Wright for services to families and children, David Toole for services to dance and people with disabilities, William and Maureen Hughes both received an MBE for services to children and young people in Leeds, Francis Clayton received an MBE for services to apprenticeships, as did Dr Eileen Burns for services to integrated healthcare for older people, Trude Silman also received an MBE for services to Holocaust Education and finally two Council employees also been recognised Ruth Terry was awarded an MBE for services to Children and Families and Amy Hearn was awarded a BEM for services. can I pass my congratulations and I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating all those.

(Applause)

**ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 &  
4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll go on to item 1 the meeting held on the 13th November 2019 and on the 4th December 2019. Councillor Dowson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Declaration Item 2. Sorry Can I call for a vote. (*A vote was taken*). That's been CARRIED.

## **ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

THE LORD MAYOR: Delaration of Interest. Any Members anything to declare.

## **ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Communication, Chief Executive do you have anything. No.

## **ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS**

THE LORD MAYOR: Deputations, Chief.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: To report that there is one deputation from a group regarding Employment Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: That the deputation be received Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

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

## **DEPUTATION 1 – A GROUP REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY**

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please make your speech to the Council's which should take no more than five minutes and begin by introducing your team.

SUSAN HANLEY: Hello Lord Mayor and follow Members my name is Susan Hanley I came with Mandy and Joe from Leep1. Leep 1 is a self advocacy group that's for people with learning disabilities and why we're here today for employment. We are talking about employment for people with learning disabilities. Lord Mayor and the Members of the Council we are here today to talk about the employment of, the imortance of getting more people with learning disabilaties into employment within the city of Leeds. We have asked lots of people with learning disabilaties what work meant to them and this is what they have said:

JOE: We would feel better being paid and earning money. It gives us the freedom to do what we want. We want the same pay as our colleagues, instead of a tokenistic jobs (such as a free lunch).

We would like to feel trusted, valued, comfortable, motivated and respected, safe and secure whilst working.

People with learning disabilities want to be understood, to achieve, improve their self esteem and confidence.

Being employed will help us to increase our social circle and feel part of a working community.

We want to feel equal, be able to help people and enjoy our jobs.

We would like to feel like we are contributing and working somewhere with friendly staff with no bullying work zones.

We want better funding to help people with learning disabilities find and stay in work.

We want a buddy system to be provided with extra equipment if needed and easy read job descriptions.

We want recognition to help boost morale and to get the right support or any extra if needed, with regular team meetings to discuss any concerns.

We want to be listened to and feel comfortable to speak out if there are any issues.

We want employers trained on how to work with individuals with disabilities and how to give the correct support.

We want more paid opportunities offering a variety of roles and more apprenticeships, not just cooking and cleaning.

We want a range of recruitment methods for example video CV's.

We want more open days to gain more of an insight within organisations with more shadowing opportunities and recruitment fairs specialising in employment for people with learning disabilities.

We want better training before starting a new job and the chance to get qualifications and learning opportunities to further our skills.

We want more people to learn about how working affects our benefits.

We want the chance to gain new skills which will give us a sense of achievement.

We want to challenge ourselves to become better and prioritise goals.

In order to do all these things, we need an employment strategy for the city that helps people with learning disabilities get real jobs. We are really pleased that some money has been put aside to set up an online hub to provide information and we think that this is a good start, but it is just part of what is needed.

MANDY HAIGH: Leep1's vision is to have a city centre space which would have a variety of employed opportunities such as a café/evening bistro but also a retail outlet for any arts organisations across Leeds to sell their art in too, this would also create paid employment opportunities. It would also act as a super safe place for a daytime and evening if adults with learning disabilities were lost, bullied or not feeling well but more importantly will be a place where people with learning disabilities will be visible within the city.

It would also be used as a central hub for organisations to meet and a digital inclusion hub for adults with learning disabilities to be supported to get online with the basics such as applying for jobs and job searches.

It would support people into work, offering them training, routes to employment, doing CV's and interview techniques.

We would join up with various organisations supporting adults with learning disabilities into employment such as DWP, Access to Work and CAB and work more closely to look at what resources we already have and where the gaps are.

The hub would give people with learning disabilities a sense of belonging in our community, where we could integrate and show Leeds that people with learning disabilities want to achieve, be successful and have meaningful jobs.

As the biggest employer in Leeds we want the council to lead by example and look at their process and procedures to empower people with learning disabilities to gain all the benefits associated with work.

These asks (for a city wide strategy, a physical hub and for the Council to be a leading example of being a positive employer) align with some of the top priorities of the Vision for Leeds 2030, new job opportunities, a sense of community spirit, safety, great culture and entertainment and covers parts of the Being Me strategy.

(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 Adults and Health and the Director of City Development for consideration in consultation with the relevant Exec Board Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Absolutely delighted to second My Lord Mayor.

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

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

MANDY HAIGH: Thank you.

(Applause)

### **ITEM 5 – REPORT ON THE LEEDS AWARD**

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to Item 5. Leeds Award, Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Lord Mayor this is a really important announcement about a decision on awarding the Leeds Award to Mags Portman. I know several of you in the Chamber knew Mags personally I didn't actually meet her but I've heard extraordinary stories about her and her work. It is because of this that we have taken a recommendation to award the first posthumous Leeds Award in our city. I know as I say many of you know about the work that she's done but I will just like to tell you a little bit more. A very proud Yorkshire woman born in Sheffield and after training in Glasgow returning to Leeds. She lived and worked here and her work as a sexual health and HIV specialist is internationally renowned. She was extremely highly regarded and loved by those who worked with her as well of course as her immediate friends and family. She was a pioneer in providing wider access to HIV prevention via pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP as it's more widely known.

First she was involved in the study that found PrEP to be effective in reducing the risk of new HIV infections, in fact it is 100% effective when taken as prescribed. She then joined forces with PrEP activists to make the drug more widely available, she engaged the General Medical Council and made it possible for doctors to arrange access to PrEP, proved it was safe and created the basis for national guidelines on its use. This led to an increased use of PrEP and by the end of 2016 the number of gay men diagnosed with HIV in England fell by a third. Now HIV diagnosis are at their lowest level since 2000 with PrEP thought to be a big factor.

Mags didn't stop there she became an advocate for the benefits of PrEP leading to the Scottish parliament making it available on the NHS in Scotland. She brought the benefits home to Leeds promoting it in venues across the city. The Council supported the Leeds sexual health service leading to an increase in trial places in Leeds from forty to over three hundred with a significant drop in new HIV infections in the city as a result. The Department of Health and Social Care is now working closely with NHS England and Public Health England to move to routine commissioning in 2020 to 2021.

Tragically Mags was diagnosed with asbestos related mesothelioma 2017 and passed away last year aged just forty four. As a Leeds, and before she died another piece of work that she did was to introduce what was known as Mags Training Mandatory Asbestos Guidelines for NHS employees.

I'm sure you'll all agree with me as a Leeds resident she made a truly remarkable contribution to improving health in the city and indeed nationally. We believe it is absolutely fitting that she be put forward posthumously for the Leeds Award and I seek your approval to do just that.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Formally second Lord Mayor.

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

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6 we've got appointments. Councillor Dowson.

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

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Second My Lord Mayor.

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

#### **ITEM 7 – REPORT ON THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES TAX BASES FOR 2020/21**

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to Item 7 Council Tax. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Lord Mayor. Move in terms of the notice.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

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

## **ITEM 8 – EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS**

THE LORD MAYOR: We're moving on to Item 8, Executive Questions.  
Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Will the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment please inform the Council of the number of young people in unregistered alternative provision, full time or part time, and if he does not know would he explain to Council why not.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Carter for the question. I'd no idea you were so keen on highlighting systemic problems within our education system and around the primary legislation but I'm delighted to talk about this. To answer the first part of the question we don't have any information which I'm sure you are aware of but what you've quite cleverly highlighted is why we don't yet have that information. Now to quote the 2013 legislation on statutory guidance from the DFE and it states that an alternative provision independent provider should be registered as an independent school if it provides full time education to five or more full time pupils of compulsory school age or one such people who is looked after or has a statement. All AP academies AP free schools they must be registered as independent schools whether or not they are full time or part time. Now the issue with some of the primary legislation is that the schools and this is part of the government's fragmentation of our education system, schools are under no obligation to provide us with this information and indeed when we ask for this information of a lot of schools, a lot of academies refuse to provide it. We as a Council have been lobbying alongside other groups across the country to change this legislation and I welcome you joining that campaign to change the legislation necessary. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Have you got a supplementary Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: (inaudible) Councillor Pryor will accept that he has read the report which was agenda Item 8 on the Exec Board agenda last week, Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Leeds and presuming that he has I'd like him to comment on page 172 the fifth bullet point which refers to barriers of service delivery to young people leaving the offending service which says barriers to service delivery such as difficulties with the child or young person attending education, training or employment provision or being referred to social care should be routinely escalated to management and acted on. Just over 50% of school age and post sixteen cases open to the YJS are not receiving their statutory entitlement to education, training or employment. These cases, Councillor Pryor, would you not agree are referred to your department and you do know who they are and aren't you still failing them.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: I'm sorry as your referring to a specific bullet point in a specific report which wasn't my own report obviously I don't have that information in front of me so I will write to you with a full answer but really if that was your original question that should have been your original question.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Where's my paper gone. What's my question.

Does the portfolio holder responsible for Highways agree that responding to the needs of those with limited mobility should be a priority.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Yes I do Councillor Golton and undoubtedly I'll now get your real question because I'm not really sure what lies behind that either.

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Well I hope she will indulge me in my supplementary as it's quite a convoluted question, my supplementary, which would have been quite difficult to write down. So would she agree with me, Lord Mayor, that if a group of adults with learning difficulties made a deputation, as they have done this afternoon to us here in this Chamber, but came to their local Councillor and pointed out that their ability to access their day centre activities which were being fulfilled through the mainstream facilities at Rothwell Sports Centre were being impeded because the bus stop which they wished to access actually didn't have any official groundworks around it, there was no footpath, it was an unkempt the area that they have to traverse across and these adults with learning difficulties have limited mobility as well as a lot often do that when they approach that local Councillor and a scheme is put together and the funding is found for that scheme to be implemented that it is unfortunate that that scheme has still yet to be implemented over a year after it was agreed with the Highways Department and when the enquiries made to the Highways Department they reply that it hasn't been done because they have prioritised major works for the Combined Authority, section 278 works for private developers and works for several other Council sections ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Does she not agree with me Lord Mayor ...

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you please ask the question.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Does she not agree with me Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor I'm been interrupted ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton can I, is that a question or is it a paragraph.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: I'm coming to the end of my question Lord Mayor ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Well it's a very long question Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: There's quite a lot of information in there. Does she not agree with me Lord Mayor that Highways officers should not be independently allowed to prioritise, corporately prioritise work over that which has been emphasised as an important by ward Members ...

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Without informing Ward Members of that.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton that wasn't a question and I personally would not have an answer for that so I am not sure if Councillor Mulherhin will have an answer or will you forward some info to him later. That was a very long question.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. It was a very long speech with what passed for a question at the end of it and really that's the issue raising is something that you've clearly raised with highways officers who haven't raised with me. It would have been helpful if you had put that in the question or if you'd emailed it to me so that I could actually give you an informed response. So I just suggest then that if you can put that in an email, you said you couldn't write it down because it was too complicated in terms of a question I'm not really sure that a true comment from the start of your speech. Can I just suggest that you send me the full details of that issue and we can look at this specific issue that you are raising because that is not really the nature of the question you originally asked.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton Connor can I point out Councillor Mulherin will answer your question, paragraph whatever it is in an email in due course. Thank you. Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: Given that it is now four years since the devastation caused by Storm Eva, please can the Leader of Council provide an update on progress with the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Councillor Bithell for the question. Yes as you quite rightly say it's just over four years since storm Eva caused catastrophic harm to nearly 3,500 residential and commercial properties across Leeds and of course we've been working flat out since that horrendous event to reduce the reduce the risk of flooding for all those affected particularly in this case along the river Aire. During this period we've completed the award winning £50m Phase One scheme and progressed advanced site works on Phase Two as well as going through the design, approval and planning stages.

To make physical progress on site with Phase 2 we have awarded a construction contract to deliver a one in a hundred year level of protection with the option to extend to the one in two hundred year standard when the shortfall in funding from government of £25.7m is released.

Works started on site on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Since storm Eva everyone I think in this Chamber will be aware we've consistently lobbied government for funding to fully fund the one in two hundred year scheme. We've done it on a cross party basis and have involved all of the MP's representing the city of Leeds.

We are continuing with this after the General Election I wrote myself to the Secretary of State, Theresa Villiers, asking her for an update on the outstanding funding. What we have done to avoid further delays on this is given an instruction to incur expenditure on detail design costing. £1.1m by February 2020. But what we need from government is confirmation from them of the further work, so the further work to the existing contract can continue and we need that decision by July 2020. If they delay, continue to delay on honouring their commitments to us, their very clear commitments to us after storm Eva that they would fully fund what we need to protect the citizens of Leeds it will lead to significant extra costs and a real risk that we will not be able to do the work that we have to do. There are also added inflation costs of at least £2m to £3m per annum if this is not honoured.

We believe that everything we're doing in terms of introducing the one in two hundred year standard of defence fits exactly with the recent National Infrastructure Commission recommendation that this should be afforded to all. What we need is to make sure the government give our commitment, I look to the opposition benches and hope that we can continue with the cross party lobbying to make this a reality and of course your ward in particular is one of those that bore the brunt of Storm Eva and the answers to this question are indeed urgent.

Did the General Election manifesto contain a commitment spend £4b on flooding defences nationally and the prime Minister confirmed this commitment in December in the Queen's speech. We believe our request for the outstanding £25.7m seems wholly reasonable and I hope indeed that we

receive a letter from Theresa Villiers at the soonest opportunity confirming that we will get the funding that Leeds deserves and needs.

I will endeavour to keep you fully informed as soon as I get any response to confirm that the government is indeed releasing the money that Leeds needs.  
Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary. Councillor Hutchison.

COUNCILLOR HUTCHISON: Thank you My Lord Mayor. Please could the Executive Board Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults explain why the referral time for Adult ADHD by the Leeds and York NHS Partnership is nine to ten months, adding anxiety to a possible sufferer who will already be experiencing attention deficit, focusing issues and the inability to wait their turn for an additional ten months could invariably result in the individual becoming depressed and despondent with getting further help with the mental illness.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you very much, thank you for the question. The specific condition and service that you are relating to and that's really welcome that you could bring up that sort of subject in Council so we can think about it and talk about it.

I'm sure that you are aware that Leeds City Council doesn't commission or have responsibilities for the adults ADHD service in the Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust because it is an NHS service commissioned within the NHS and will have ministerial accountability. Excuse me. But through the Health and Wellbeing Board we have partnership arrangements in the city which seeks to help wherever we can through partnership voluntary arrangement to make services better and ensure people get the right service at the right time for them.

So there are difficult challenges, I've got some notes from the service itself because of your question which is welcome but just so you are aware we don't commission it or have responsibilities for it. We know there are difficult challenges around long waiting times increasing demand is exceeding the current capacity in service and resulting in waiting lists. I would say this is common across mental health services as well, nationally as well as in Leeds. It's partly due to an increase awareness of ADHD needs in adults and a growing population in Leeds with more people having multiple complex issues adding to the pressure.

Currently when a person accesses the service people are not discharged unless they move or pass away so they remain in the service for their entire lives if they are living in Leeds. It ensures that they're well supported across their lifetime through treatment pathway which includes , annual medication reviews and other support such as occupational therapy but there are more people coming into the service than are being discharged for which you will understand from

public purse point of view and limits on services can create waiting times. LYPFT the Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust that run this service in the NHS have informed us they are exploring how the therapies can be improved so that people can get the best care in the right place at the right time and as this occurs they recognise the impact that waiting times can have on people and the adults ADHD services are doing whatever they can to support them.

There is a broader city wide approach going on though through the Health and Wellbeing Board around shifting the culture and model of health and care around the Leeds left shift which is about bringing resources earlier in the cycle for somebody into prevention and early intervention to help meet the challenges and opportunities as our population grows and this is around more support happening in the community close to where people call home, social and medical models of health and wellbeing brought closer together and a more joined up system with staff and citizens finding their way around the system more easily and redesign processes and pathways so that people families and carers have the skills and confidence to manage them in conditions were it's safe and appropriate to do so.

I think we're doing this within the health and care system wherever we can, recognising there is a significant pressure on NHS services and on social care services and not a huge increase in national funding and resources and staffing for those services as our population increases and people have more complex needs. You mentioned mental health we are making a huge focus within the mental health strategy which I've taken a personal role in really pushing forward the changes on to try to get rid of silos and this sort of like you know you don't meet the criteria for one service so you fall off a cliff there and where do you go and how do you have a seamless transition between services but we're trying to get more people treated in the community because we have to look at how we use our resources more effectively given we haven't got enough resources for the people of the city. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR HUTCHISON: Thank you for that. Would the Exec Board Member share my concerns that it takes nearly thirty six months for children to be referred for ADHD and Asperger's which could severely impact on the health, welfare, education and family anxiety.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Yes I would share your concerns and if that is true it's not something I'm aware of, it's not been brought up in a question so I haven't got the information in front of me. Thirty six months is a long time for anybody, certainly for children that is incredibly long. I'm sure whatever we do in the city is trying to bring that down but again I refer to my original point about funding and about resources and maybe we could write together to the Minister responsible, they could actually take action on this for us. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smart.

COUNCILLOR SMART: Can the Executive Board Member for Communities join me in congratulating the work being done to provide digital skills courses for Leeds mums by Leeds City Council.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Smart for raising this question and giving us a great opportunity to speak about an award winning scheme that we've got in the city and Leeds is one of the first cities outside of London to run Techmums Club and there are programmes that bring mums together around learning digital skills. The first of these free ten week courses launched in January 2019. During the first course alone we saw 41 techmums graduating, twelve of these move straight on to at least one other Leeds employment and skills course. Three graduates also secured places on the prestigious Techup programme which supports people from under-represented communities to return, retrain and work in technology. Through the club's opportunities were opened up to women who due to career breaks or ongoing childcare were outside employment. They were able to learn new digital skills for day to day life or go on to retrain and access further education.

Graduates of the course have told us that the course was friendly, fun and most importantly free. This has meant that these women could build their confidence and develop their skills without the worry of any financial impact on their family life. We are delighted to see the Leeds Techmums Club recognised by the Women in IT Excellence Awards. Our libraries play a hugely important role in boosting digital skills for all and the 100% digital Leeds Initiative has opened up fantastic opportunities to learn new skills for work and everyday life.

It's great to see the steps we have taken as a city to provide these opportunities and ensure that everybody is given the opportunity to develop should they wish to. In fact Techmums has returned this month due to popular demand and we hope that once again it will inspire women to develop their technology skills and should they choose to a career in this industry and if the front benches of the Tory Group need me to email that because they weren't listening I'm happy to do so Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary Councillor. Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. Does the Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee think that the council administration in Leeds was right to put so much faith in local bus operators to solve Leeds transport problems.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Councillor Wadsworth and the bus remains the most used public form of transport in this city and we can't improve

travel around Leeds without improving the bus services. As you know private companies run the buses in the UK outside of London and therefore to progress improvements in the bus service we need to engage with them.

In the longer term a new ownership and governance model is needed for buses, we have to be mindful of where we are currently and work with what we have got. It is important that no matter who runs the buses we have to free them from delays caused by traffic congestion which is why connecting this programme is so important. Investing in the works to speed up bus journeys to make them more reliable.

The work of the alliance working with the partnership over the last year has actually had some achievements. So the Myday go anywhere ticket for under nineteens the figures grew, is a 60% increase in the first year sales for under nineteens. Consistent standards of customer service including the last bus guarantee no quibble journey, voucher refunds, joint tickets acceptance in times of disruption and over four hundred and fifty buses upgraded to clean air zone standards.

We've now got more transparency off the operators and punctuality I'm patching each day of data, if you need to know more I'm more than happy to meet you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I actually have. Does Councillor Groves share my dismay in the service change introduced in December by First Bus which were to reduce service on the 33/34 route between Aireborough and Leeds which is a much used service and has caused passengers a significant amount of delay and inconvenience.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Yes.

(Laughter and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Oh dear didn't think it would go that go quick. Thank you Lord Mayor. Would the Executive Member inform Council what steps are being taken to improve the safety for pedestrians and cyclists at the Glen Road /Otley Road junction in Far Headingley.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you Councillor Bentley. As you know this previously was part of the scheme that was looked at through LPTIP alongside the loud Lawnswood roundabout. A review is now taking place separately around this junction to understand what measures may

usefully improved pedestrian and cycle safety alongside the existing provision of pelican crossing, the waiting restrictions and cycle lane at this site.

So as I say the results of that work any measures recommended would be brought forward for consultation prior to consideration and inclusion in the annual programme of road safety casualty reduction measures.

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary Counillor Bentley.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Mulherin for that the assurance that it is being looked at. As you know we've had a recent cycle accident there just before Christmas and we've had a schoolchild from Weetwood Primary in October there last year.

You indicated that it was originally part of the connecting Leeds, the improvements on the A660. Will any measures that are recommend have to wait until those improvements come through as part of the bigger plan or will they be implemented separately in view of the danger and hazards that it causes right now.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you. So we are aware that this site is a cause for concern and is currently ranked twentieth for collisions in the city. Barriers such as the ones that are already there preventing, they're actually not supporting what we want to see in terms of promoting active travel, we want to see children being able to walk and scoot and cycle safely to school and of course commuters to be able to walk and cycle along that part of the city if we're going to get people to make that shift from the private car.

So I'd just like to just reiterate what I said previously that at the end of that review that's taking place we'll be in consultation which will include obviously local ward Members and that the programme that will then take place will be done through that annual programme of road casualty reduction measures not through part of the connecting Leeds LPTIP scheme.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wray.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: Can the Executive Member please update Council on the Electric Vehicles trial scheme.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: Thank you Councillor Wray, yes I can. Electrical vehicles trial scheme started from two starting points, first of all where the government decided that the charging clean air zone charges should apply to council roads they exempted the roads that they run themselves through the Highways Agency which is the motorway network from that but Highways were

given money to spend on the schemes. The other thing we recognise in terms of the commitment to low emission vehicles, particularly electric vehicles is the huge leap for many small businesses to take to go out and buy an electric vehicle not knowing whether it meets their business needs. So the two vastly come together because Highways England does have some money to put into schemes and we're spending it on a trial scheme to provide businesses with electric vehicles for a period of two months, that period allows small businesses to see whether the charging regime and running an electric vehicle meets their business needs and will be able to provide an analysis of how much it costs them so we can show that the lifetime cost of electric vehicles are often lower even though the purchase cost is high and we can show them their consumption is and what (inaudible) costs are.

We're running this scheme starting fairly soon, we'll have upto seventy vehicles available, they are small vans for businesses, cars for taxi and private hire drivers and also electric bikes as well. The scheme is launching next week on January 23rd and we'll certainly be promoting it. I'd encourage all Members to look out for materials and if there's any businesses in their area who want to share it, let it know. I know it will be a properly received scheme, when I've spoken about it before businesses have already contacted asking us when they can take part and I think it really shows our commitment to delivering on our ambitious environmental projects but also supporting small businesses to transition over to low energy vehicles and doing a really really practical way which is about helping people

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Member for Communities please inform me as to whether the sprinkler systems at Gamble Hill Croft and Gamble Hill Grange will be fully operational by the end of January 2020.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Can I first of all thank Councillor Blackburn for raising this question in Council. Members of Council will know that we have spoken at length in this chamber around the fire safety in our council housing stock I have to say and particularly around the high rise multi storeys since Grenfell and can I also thank Councillor Blackburn for raising the issue with me separately outside the Council Chamber as well so I'm very happy to answer your questions and indeed more than happy to offer a meeting with yourself and officers to go through the details of the scheme at Gamble Hill as well after the Council. But Leeds City Council have today fitted sprinklers to ten high rise blocks and there are currently four blocks within a construction phase and twenty one to be installed as part of the Leeds Pipes District Heating Investment. A further twenty one high rise blocks are in development to be completed by September 2022 this will mean that fifty six blocks in the city will have sprinklers fitted as part of Leeds Fire Safety Investment Programme. The total investment

for these sprinklers when completed will be £32m pounds. Prior to the tragic events of Grenfell Tower the installation of retrofitting sprinkler systems to higher rise blocks was already underway in Leeds. This approach was based on the considered life risk in the event of fire. Developing the order of need in prioritising our sprinkler system installation considered the height of the block, the occupancy, the number of flats, resident demography, sheltered for example, if they had single staircases, history of any fires in the blocks, any antisocial behaviour and protection for fire and rescue personnel.

The first buildings to be completed were our high rise sheltered accommodation which houses some of the most vulnerable citizens. Passive prior protection projects have been ongoing across Leeds City Council's high rise stock since 2012. Such works underline the positive partnership in place between Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and include the fitting of flat fire doors, communal fire doors and fire stopping all areas to achieve compartmentation. In addition fire safety advice is on display in all blocks and signage aimed at assisting the firefighters, in the event of a fire, is in place in all blocks. This ensures there is no spread of fire and or smoke in the event of a domestic fire.

The sprinklers at Gamble Hill Croft and Gamble Hill Grange will be fully commissioned, operational by the 1st March 2020. There is a delay of one month from our anticipated programme date. We will continue to communicate with residents during the works period including when the sprinkler system will become operational. Leeds City Council blocks are fully Fire Safety Compliant. The sprinkler installations add a further layer of protection. Blocks without sprinkler installations are not at risk. Effective compartmentation prevents smoke and fire regardless and therefore people should not be fearful of another Grenfell in one of our high rise blocks.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Is there a supplementary.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: No thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK thank you. We've now come to the end of question time. All those questions that haven't been answered will be answered in due course.

## **ITEM 9 – MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll move to Item 9 minutes and comment.  
Councillor Blake.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor C Anderson.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking to minute 40 of the Health and Well being Board minutes. As a member of my local patient participation group at my GP surgery and having just attended a meeting there last night I thought it would be appropriate to describe some of the good things that are going on there that contributes to the Leeds Health and Care Plan.

Firstly the group has strong representation having Members from all parts of the community with various differing life experiences and ages. We have a good chairman and people who have been on the group for a number of years and also new people. A recent recruitment drive received interest from thirty new patients and seven of those turned their interest to reality by attending their first meeting last night. We are a can do group who have come up with a number of good ideas for the surgery and to date most if not all of these have been put into practice. Our practice manager, Mike, attends every meeting and he's always open to practical suggestions that are inexpensive to implement. One example is that our waiting room has been transformed over the last five years. One suggestion was to allow the patients to have more privacy when they are dealing with the reception area and a reconfiguration has been achieved. At last night's meeting we looked at an action plan that a new subcommittee of the group have developed and we discussed how we could take forward the actions in it.

Everyone joined in with ideas and we agreed that we would focus on healthy lifestyle which would incorporate progress towards the top three things within the surgery, geographic and demographic that our professional clinicians had highlighted namely cancer, diabetes and mental health. By focusing on healthy lifestyle we can try and make a difference of any size to all of those.

We discussed how we as a group can do practical things towards this. We have Asda and Holt Park on our doorstep and perhaps a stall with information and leaflets which would capture those who don't attend the surgery or have had no need to attend the surgery would be useful. We also discussed making use of the expertise of the students at Leeds Beckett who could perhaps spend some time doing a work shop locally to pass on their knowledge and help people achieve a healthier lifestyle.

We also discussed something that is of great interest to me and that is social prescribing. Four social prescribers have been recruited for the Practice Partnership area which covers eleven practices locally so we will get input from those people which will really help us achieve a number of aims. Social prescribing is one of the initiatives in the Leeds Plan. 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 particularly on minute 38, page 93 of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes which is about developing local care partnerships. Local care partnerships are meant to be a model of joined up working across the Health and Care front that we ideally want to see in each of our communities. Teams delivering local care for local people with staff from Primary Care, Community Healthcare, Adult Social Care and other partners working together on joint priorities. One of the aims of health and wellbeing generally in Leeds at the moment is to keep people out of hospital and if they are unfortunate enough to go in to get them out as quickly as possible and the health and care partnerships can play quite a part in this.

In particular the local care partnerships have been asked to focus on one particular aspect and the one that I am a member of which is the Aireborough and Otley Health Partnership, Local Care Partnership that's decided to focus on dementia because we have a particularly ageing population out in the Outer North West which I am ideally suited to represent I might say. But we've identified dementia and in the meeting we've spent a lot of time discussing what we can do with local assets and you'd be amazed how much in Leeds today local people are forming dementia cafe's and the suchlike in the order to cope with this growing population but by using locally focused and joined up approach we can make quite a bit of progress or help to make progress in finding ways to signpost people with dementia towards helping their own community, keeping them out of hospital as far and as long as possible. The (inaudible) of this work is to support people with dementia to live well so that rather than fearing a diagnosis of dementia, people with memory problems feel that the doors are open to them and they have a range of options available. If we can help to achieve that through the Local Care Partnership then it would be a wonderful achievement for our community.

Finally I do think that Elected Members being encouraged to take part in Local Care Partnerships is a very very positive thing. We note that local elected Members is a key way of achieving the aspirations of the care partnership because local Members we know if we're doing our stuff, doing our job we know our communities, we know what's available and we know how to direct people into the right direction so that if we can manage to improve the lives of people with dementia through Councillor Partnerships ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I am wrapping up. Then ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Allow me to be polite Lord Mayor I was going to say thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: OK.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I'll be speaking to minute 38 on page 93 and 40 on 94. First of all I'd like to comment on the Local Care Partnerships these are clearly an exciting new opportunity to ensure joined up working within the health and care sector in Leeds which will have significant benefits to service users if successfully delivered. However at the moment they are very much in their infancy, at the beginning of a journey that will hopefully lead to better services for local people and I believe that one of their strengths is elected Member involvement as my colleague said. A good recent example of this is a healthwatch consultation event that we discussed at the Local Care Partnership that I sit on in Outer North East Leeds. As a result of our input we were able to influence the date and time in the consultation and suggested a change that the event moved to a Thursday which is market day in Wetherby and you would have a much larger audience. The consultation event took place in the Town Hall and in the town around and about. As a result of the event there was very much positive feedback from local residents and I hope also a satisfactory event for the Healthwatch team as well. This highlights the potential strengths of the Care Partnerships approach with people from across the sector meeting to help deliver improvements.

On a related point about improving services, in Wetherby we are of a course located close to the North Yorkshire border and like other communities who live close to a local authority or hospital trusts boundary there can be issues where residents go for their care and where they would prefer to go. In Wetherby Harrogate is often the preferred option and the most convenient choice and it's all often the place where the relevant services are provided from. This can often lead to confusion or delays in receiving information because Wetherby does not sit in North Yorkshire which can mean that consultation does not reach service users and us as elected representatives in Wetherby as efficiently as it might do. A good example of this is a recent decision to close mental health services at the Briary Unit in Harrogate. Unfortunately this was presented as a fait accompli to Wetherby residents with no clear opportunities for them to feed back their views through consultation. The provision will now be provided in York which is a significant journey from Wetherby and I am concerned about the impact of this change on service users in our town and the wider area. There was no consultation or warning about the changes being made until a decision was being presented to the Tees Valley and Weir Trust Board. At that stage as a Scrutiny Board member I did get invited to attend a meeting in North Yorkshire or be it we had to ask for the opportunity to attend that meeting. Consultation has taken place with residents by way of informing them of the changes and the best way to achieve them but this was after the fact.

We support the drive behind the change in service which is to deliver more community services and a mean to tackle mental health issues early and reduce admissions to facilities like the Briary Unit but it is important to take people with you when services are changed ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrington.

COUNCILLOR HARRINGTON: Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor it is a pleasure to give my maiden speech in this Chamber on these minutes particularly the report on strong engaged and well connected communities developing our Local Care Partnerships. My colleagues will know that I am a nurse by profession so physical and mental health and wellbeing is a subject that is close to my heart. The report talks about our Local Care Partnerships where health and care leaders and providers from nineteen local areas across Leeds come together to plan and deliver support for our residents. It sounds like a simple idea but this is joined up working, working in and with our local communities.

Each area of Leeds has its own public health challenges and the work of the Local Care Partnerships can be tailored to the local needs and the features of that particular community. Targeting those particular health issues in each area will help us to improve people's health faster. It's really great see that our partnership's remit includes reducing health inequalities. My own ward of Armley faces tough challenges with serious and complex physical and mental health and comorbidity issues with rates of high respiratory and cardiac disease, smoking and obesity in particular and mental health issues and low life expectancy throughout the ward.

I sit on the Armley Local Care Partnership, I'm there with a few different hats on as the local ward Member, as a nurse, as a mum and as a local resident and a user of the physical and mental health services and pathways in Armley. I will use the opportunity to focus on working on local health and wellbeing priorities and I'm sure that my colleagues across the Chamber sitting on these partnerships will want to do the same for theirs.

It is clear from the report that this local partnership working is something that Leeds is leading on nationally. The National NHS long term plan stressed the importance of developing things called primary care networks but I believe that our local care partnerships pre-date these and have an even broader remit. Not only that but the four partnerships population health management work on frailty is a national exemplar with early case studies reporting positive experience so far. It's always good to see Leeds ahead of the curve and I commend the board for bringing together these teams which have already made a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable residents in Leeds.

I look forward to seeing these partnerships including my own in Armley continue with this joined up work in and with our local communities and hope that they mature and develop in years to come.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I wish to speak about Leeds System Resilience Plan. It says that our healthcare system now faces a winter crisis all year round. I'm sure we all pay tribute to our staff whose dedication keeps the system going under such pressure. We have many boards, committees and working groups but it's hard to think of one that is more important than the System Resilience Assurance Board which works to keep our health and care services running under difficult periods. Given the increasing pressure on the NHS Social Care and grossly insufficient funds to meet them it's vital that we have a robust resilient plan addressing those huge challenges to our overstretched services. One very effective way we do this through our reablement services, building the physical ability and confidence of people to continue living at home, maintain them in comfortable and family surroundings and reduce the need for hospital beds and care home places.

It's absolutely right that we remain committed to treating people closer to home wherever possible and to think home first. At every part of someone's journey through the health and social care system I'd like to commend the great work of the 'look out for our neighbours campaign' across West Yorkshire and Harrogate that encourages people to keep an eye on vulnerable people living close to them. Social isolation is a major issue and we have a responsibility to tackle it, creating stronger engagement and well connected communities is a key priority for Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It's good to see this reflected in the regional campaign that encourages us all to look out for each other.

Lord Mayor despite year on year cuts to our budget and the funding settlement for the NHS that hasn't kept up with the needs of patients, we in Leeds will continue investing in sensible, forward thinking a long term solution for improvement of the lives of our residents. It's clear from the report that we and the other partners in NHS are striving through to do this. What we can do to keep people healthy and ensure that when problem arising our health and care services can step quickly and successfully but the pressure continues to increase and we desperately need the funding, the government to stop fudging the issues and actually give us the proper resources to do the jobs. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood to sum up.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to all the Members for their contributions. I want to start by thanking Councillor Venner for chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board to which these minutes relate. I myself was mystery shopping in the NHS system and had an operation myself last year. At that time so I was offered that and I'm all very well by the way so thank you to her and also just to say what an amazing initiative Local Care Partnerships seem to have been and are becoming. Many areas are already developed quite significantly, Councillor Anderson, Councillor Latty and Councillor Harrington mentioned some significant work that's going on locally. All of you mentioned how wonderful the involvement of elected Members is and also that the wider group of

people from different parts of the community being involved, not just GP's, Primary Care staff, Clinical staff which is the primary care network model.

Having that wider group of people has really seen benefits for your community and focusing on particular parts of your community as Councillor Latty mentioned with dementia because of a population in his ward in his area where that is perhaps more prevalent than in others. The opportunity that Local Care Partnerships offers is to really focus in on issues that are relevant to your area and that Councillor Cunningham mentioned in her maiden speech and what a wonderful maiden speech she made, congratulations for that. You know in Armley in her ward the issues might be very different and that that partnership can work together to build health, to build social connections to help people stay well in those areas and you've all described a myriad of ways in which that is already happening so I'm delighted that that is the case and thank you, all of you for highlighting for championing that and for those members who haven't commented who are members of their own Local Care Partnerships thank you, thank you for your energy and commitment as well maybe we can in a few years time, see some really great outcomes for that.

I'd also like to pick up on Councillor Cunningham's point about Leeds leading nationally on some areas, she's absolutely right the Primary Care Networks idea came out and directors came out to NHS England and Improvement or whatever they are now to GP's and Primary Care and we were already doing Local Care Partnerships and we were really keen not to see our work being undermined by the national good ideas that they've got, their just a few steps behind us already and then actually locally we still push forward with our wider model of support and care that builds our communities and builds our connections in those communities and that the population health pilot which she also mentioned is again really groundbreaking work that we're able to focus in on populations that's seeing some extremely strong results coming out of that and just after after saying all those wonderful things I would just like to point to Councillor Khan's point about System Resilience and winter Plan Board and his comments. It is the more formal side of what we do as a Partnership governed with our better care fund trying to get people through the system, out of hospital, get home care right, getting people into care homes where there needed. It's extremely tough as we know through hospitals and during the winter and stories that were on the front pages of the the paper, lots of pressure on A&E, lot of full hospitals, people having operations cancelled, the very severe end of that so this work is incredibly important and we do need more resources in the system especially in social care which I know we're coming to later with the White Paper but I'd like to thank everyone again for their comments and for their continued involvement in health and social care in Leeds and your commitment to the people of Leeds as well. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to Children and Families. Councillor Stephenson.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Before we move on to the minutes proper I'd like to propose an amendment to the minute 120 of the Executive Board minutes in respect of Safeguarding in Leeds. This is not a complaint about the content or what's in the report Lord Mayor it's rather about what was missing in light of recent safeguarding concerns. Page 113 of the report states that Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership recognises that when children are accessing good quality education provision their safe, protected and have access to good quality support to protect them from harm. It goes on to say there are two hundred and twenty two primary, forty four secondary, five local authority maintained silks and four special or alternative provisions in Leeds. It doesn't make any reference, Lord Mayor, to any unregistered provision in the city. At the Executive Board Councillor Venner informed Executive Board that there are no children in unregistered provision in Leeds, she then went on to correct herself to say that there are no children in care in unregistered provision in Leeds. Today the Executive Board Member for Learning and Skills failed to update Council on how many children are in unauthorised or unregistered provision in the city.

I have deep concerns as well as other members of my Group that this safeguarding issue has had no spotlight shone upon it by either the Executive Board, Executive Member or the Lead Safeguarding Children's Partnership. To be clear this is a safeguarding matter because we don't know how many children from this city are currently in provision unregistered or checked by Ofsted. Furthermore a recent report by the Centre for Social Justice published data highlighting that Leeds has three times as many unexplained exits from mainstream education to alternative provision than it has permanent exclusions. Again there was no reference to the safeguarding concern within the report that was put to Executive Board. This is a deep concern Lord Mayor because I think we could be missing here a safeguarding concern in the city and I do think it's important that we shine a spotlight on it to say, not too much criticism about the concept of the report but we think if Exec Board had another look at this they could task the Safeguarding Board to look again at it. When Councillor Carter directly asked the Chair of the Safeguarding Board Exec Board whether this was an issue that had been looked at it was confirmed that it hadn't.

I don't want to sit here in the future Lord Mayor and realise that there is a safeguarding issue in this city in respect of this area knowing that it was there and we didn't act so it's a request the Executive Board look again and reconsider this before they endorsed the report and I move the motion Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking to second this reference back and also comment on the minutes as well as per the order paper. Before I do that though very quickly Lord Mayor I do want to, I notice Councillor Field is back in the Chamber after quite a period of absence and I would certainly like to take the opportunity to welcome her back, you have been very much missed and its great to see you in fine form.

(Applause)

My Lord Mayor that there is an old saying that only a fool misses an opportunity to take a second look and my colleague Councillor Stephenson has, I think, raised an issue of something that is missing in the Annual Safeguarding Report and it's something that was highlighted by a question that Councillor Carter, who's always taken issues of education, safeguarding and young people very seriously. In fact I find Councillor Pryor's comments that suggest contrary both rude and bizarre frankly but there we go sometimes that just happens, I'm sure it was unintentional, but what has been highlighted is something that has been missed by the Safeguarding Board and what we are suggesting is that the report comes back and as Councillor Stephenson has said it is looked at again to make sure that we are not missing an important issue of safeguarding here in the city. I am proud that in this city we have never sought to politicise children and families and we certainly never sought to politicise safeguarding. There are a whole range, there are a whole range as Members of Exec Board will be aware of issues that need looking at within this area and I hope they'll take the opportunity to support this reference back today.

Very quickly Lord Mayor I just want to look at minute 121 the Inspection of Youth Services Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Leeds where unfortunately there was a judgement that requires improvement when looking at the report one could think that the only reason that judgement came out was because of the methodology of the report but if one looks at the inspection report that is certainly not the case. I hope that the report is not the start of a scrubbing and a washing of what is not a good judgement, we will take the criticisms in the manner that they are intended and use our position within that organisation and board to make the improvements that are needed. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you Councillor Stephenson and Cohen. The confusion at Exec Board came because I was talking about accommodation and we have no children under the age of sixteen in unregulated accommodation. We do have forty eight sixteen and seventeen year olds who are in supported accommodation transitioning from care to independence and whilst it's not regulated by Ofsted it is regulated by us.

Councillor Pryor has already answered Councillor Carter's question on this subject and this is his portfolio rather than mine nevertheless I will make a couple of comments. One is the unregulated educational provision is still visited by Ofsted. When they inspect a school and there are children in alternative provision the inspectors go and look at that provision to ensure it is meeting educational needs of those children. The other point I'd wish to make is that we can't accept this Reference Back because it pertains to a report which is not a report of the Council, it's a report of the Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership, they are independent of the Council. The Safeguarding Executive which is a statutory body comprises the Director of Children and

Families for the Council, the Chief Superintendent for Leeds to the West Yorkshire Police and the Director of Quality Nursing for those Clinical Commissioning Group and in Leeds we also include the Independent Chair, Jasvinder Sanghera.

What I would suggest is that your request, if you wish them to look at this issue, is made through Steve Walker the Director of Children's Services to the Executive and they can consider if they want this to be one of their priorities for the coming year. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We're now going to call for a vote on the, 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 Reference Back in the name of Councillor Stephenson. All Members should refer to the desk unit and press the button marked P, the lights will flash, then press plus to vote in favour, minus to vote against or zero to abstain.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: Yes we will vote on the ...

(Background talking)

Councillor Hamilton and Councillor Gruen you haven't voted. Are you going to vote. You've pressed 'P' but vote if you haven't voted.

Sorry. 90 present. Yes 33, abstention nil, no 57. So that's been LOST sorry. Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you Lord Mayor. If you'd just indulge me for a second Lord Mayor I think it's perhaps been remiss and I'm sure all members of Council will want to join me in welcoming our newest colleague, the new Councillor for the Wetherby ward, Councillor Linda Richards.

(Applause and cheers)

So I am sure all colleagues will make her more than welcome.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS: (inaudible)

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Im sure she is Councillor Lewis.

(Laughter)

Are you still enjoying it. Lord Mayor there are a number of important issues that were raised by the previous speakers, I think as the Chair of Scrutiny of the relevant scrutiny it would probably not be appropriate for me to comment further on those things. But just for Councillor Venner's benefit it is quite appropriate and in order for a reference back to be put on an item Executive Board has considered so it was quite right to raise that but I'm sure there'll be opportunities to discuss those issues elsewhere.

The item I want to talk about is the Child Poverty Strategy which I very much welcome, very much support and there are two points that I would like to make and I hope when Councillor Venner sums up she'll take the opportunity to confirm that she concurs with me on these two issues. So while while we recognise absolutely that child poverty and poverty in general is far more prevalent in certain parts of our city I hope all Members of this Chamber will recognise and accept it is prevalent in every part of our city and there are children living in poverty in all parts of our city, my ward, everywhere, we must not forget them as part of the strategy and I hope they'll be an assurance that this strategy is focused on all parts of the city while we understandably try and focus on the areas where they are most prevalent.

The second thing I hope she'll agree with me on is these issues are longstanding and while I think the report itself the strategy sounds excellent, the report that sits alongside it contains commentary that suggests that these issues are of the last decade. While there's no doubt there are many challenges these deep rooted issues have existed for decades. We could have written and read that report in the sixties, the seventies, the eighties, the nineties, the noughties, the issues are longstanding and it will do a disservice to those people affected if we don't recognise the root causes of the problem and focus instead on a narrow cause we will never tackle the issue and in giving our wholehearted support for delivering this strategy I hope Councillor Venner will recognise that the issues are deep rooted, long standing and affect every part of the city and we share and I hope she shares our ambition to tackle issues for every child and every family everywhere in the city. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor P Latty.

COUNCILLOR P LATTY: My Lord Mayor I wish to speak on minute 105 page 79 A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds and minute 106 page 81 Protecting Children's Programme. Poverty and particularly child poverty is a topic that stirs people's passions and for good reason the report that went to Executive Board quite rightly pointed out that people living in poverty want all the same things in life that people not living in poverty want though they often lack the means and opportunities to pursue them. All of us want to see poverty reduced though we might disagree about the best ways of achieving that. I think it is helpful to focus on what we as a Council can do to help tackle the problem. The Executive Board report refers to the work of the Child Poverty Impact Board which is a city wide partnership that will oversee work to try and reduce the impact of child poverty using interventions, projects and six impact workstreams. This seems to me to be

a good initiative, I was however a little concerned to read that this body will meet only three times a year. I appreciate that it is a strategic board to oversee the work of six work streams but I also feel that three meetings a year is low in terms of commitment and scrutiny of this important agenda. I would be interested in the Executive Member's thoughts on whether there is a reason for this and whether it might be a good idea to look at increasing the frequency of those meetings. Nevertheless I am keen to see the progress that this board makes over the coming years and will be following it with great interest.

I also welcome the government's commitment to continue efforts through the tax and benefits system to reduce poverty including child poverty and maintain the commitment to free school meals.

My Lord Mayor turning to the second minute about the leadership arrangement in Children and Families Directorate. The Board's decision means that our current director will be flexibly deployed to continue the improvement work with other local authorities. I appreciate that in many ways this is a product of the success that Leeds Children's Services have achieved in recent years, however I think there has been some acknowledgement that having a director and other officers performing two roles simultaneously has created capacity issues in the department.

My Lord Mayor I have to say that Members of my Group did warn about that possibility when the arrangements were initially agreed. None of us want to see the progress in Leeds stall or go backwards because we are too busy helping other local authorities with their services as worthy as that work is ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR LATTY: Sorry. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll be speaking to minute 120. The most recent report from the partnership provides some reassurance that there are robust arrangements in place to safeguard vulnerable children and young people in the city. I certainly hope so but we must never relax our vigilance and always ensure that allegations of abuse made by children are investigated and not ignored. Although some abuse took place many years ago it continues to have a traumatic effect on survivors today and it's important that they are supported to achieve justice and to come to terms with what happened to them.

Those of you who attended the Executive Board meeting last week will recall a gentleman tried to address the board about his own experiences. I subsequently spoke to him and a friend of his and they told me they were both subject of child abuse. While it's not appropriate for me to go into detail here for obvious reasons what I will say is that the account they gave me highlighted issues across a number of agencies over a number of years and thirty years on

they are still campaigning for some form of closure. I'm embarrassed to say that they've been campaigning in the city for years and handing out leaflets in Millennium Square more recently and I had no idea.

I am grateful to both men for their courage and for sharing their story with me they tell me that their memories live on with them every day, that the first thing they think about in the morning and the last thing they think about when they go to sleep at night. They're in the public gallery today and I'm determined to ensure that they receive the support that they need. I'd think we'd all agree with that wouldn't we.

I'd like to ask the Executive Member for Children and Families and for Adults and Health to arrange a meeting with me and the appropriate Directors together with both men to ensure that they have all the support that they need. I'd also like to ask that all elected Members are provided with the report on the number and natures of cases of historical abuse that have been reported to Leeds City Council over the last ten years, how these cases are responded to by the Council and what support is available and provided to victims of historical abuse.

The recent report, in fact it was released yesterday, a report that was commissioned by the Mayor of Greater Manchester exposed serious failings in the police investigation of child abuse and child sexual exploitation in Manchester. I can assure you for those who haven't read it, it makes harrowing reading. It's a salutary lesson to all of us I think that things, if things can go wrong they will go wrong and I would like to thank officers who have helped me with the depth of this speech today because of the sensitive nature that it is. Thank you very much indeed Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. Can I comment on the Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Leeds report and the Safeguarding, Children's Safeguarding report both of which came to the last Executive meeting and can I thank my colleagues Councillor Stephenson and Councillor Cohen for the measured way in which they raised the concerns that we all on this side have and just as an opening point, Councillor Pryor, if you have a close member of your family with learning difficulties then you will be as concerned as I always have been about safeguarding and these two reports quite frankly if you don't take the criticisms on board and look to rectify them then you are being extremely foolish.

When the Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Board admits his board has not done any investigation into the number of young people not in unauthorised provision in education then alarm bells ought to ring, it is a major issue, it's a major issue across the country. It's not, we're not saying you lot are to blame for some great catastrophe, we're just drawing attention to the fact that something has not been done that ought to have been done. Similarly with the inspection into the Youth Justice Service, I made the point at the meeting that you

were far too defensive, a lot of the report is very good, some of the good points are actually highlighted but the way you dismissed the areas for improvement smacks of complacency and dangerous complacency at that. You just didn't want to take on board either, I have to say, either at officer or Member level that you had to address these things and get on with the job. Now just as I said in the Exec Board get on with it by all means take the plaudits for the good points but don't ignore the areas of criticism because you're doing us all a majorly disservice if you do.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Arif.

COUNCILLOR ARIF: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I would like to speak on minutes 105/106 page 79/81. As Deputy Exec Member for Children and Families I am proud to see that Leeds continues to gain national recognition for the work we do to support children, young people and families across the city.

Leeds has come a long way since 2010 we have been on a nine year improvement journey working hard to transform our services resulting in Leeds receiving a judgement of outstanding from Ofsted in December 2018. Throughout that time we have also attracted a considerable additional funding through the DFE's partners in practice and innovation programmes. Despite the very difficult financial climate under which we are operating Leeds continues to lead the way and promote excellence within Children's Services and we have remained committed to supporting children and families across the city and beyond.

Lord Mayor our success within Children and Family services would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff. In Leeds we truly value the work that staff do day in day out to support some of our most vulnerable children and families this is why I'm really pleased that the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme will offer important professional development opportunities to a number of our staff. We know that recruitment and retention plays a key role in inspection outcomes as workforce stability is crucial when building relationships with children and families. This is why Leeds improvement journey has had a continued focus on and investment in staffing through a comprehensive workforce strategy including training and progression as this makes staff want to work and stay in Leeds.

Leeds continues to be below the national average in terms of social worker turnover, has one of the lowest percentage of social work vacancies in the country and has one of the lowest percentage uses of agency staff. Through the programme we will continue on this trajectory with extensive workforce development programme which I think will be a fantastic opportunity. I am confident that we can continue to build on our already strong workforce and drive our child friendly ambitions forward. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: My Lord Mayor like Councillor Arif I was delighted to read the report in Strengthening Families and Protecting Children's programme. Isn't it great to see that through the programme we have an opportunity to scale up our innovative Leeds family valued approach, driving improvements and promoting best practice not just here in Leeds but further afield. Family, Leeds family valued is an excellent example of how we make the most of the wider family network to address issues before they escalate. By working restoratively with families we're able to use the strength of the family to prevent children needing to go into care. Early intervention and preventative work is crucial to successfully improving the lives of young people who live in our city that is why I called for properly funded youth services when I spoke to this Council in January last year. When this administration, this Labour administration promoted and submitted a White Paper calling for the government to properly fund youth services I was disappointed that last year this call wasn't supported by all.

In face of austerity I am proud that this administration has continued to fund preventative services to help manage demand despite ever dwindling resources.

By intervening early we can prevent the need for statutory social work interventions. Our youth services also act as a valuable preventative measure by engaging young people in activities that promote positive behaviours and offer opportunities to fulfil their potential. Youth work plays a crucial role in building a gap between families and services helping young people and families have the access to the right support at the right time which clearly facilitate savings further down the line. However sadly youth services has been particularly hard hit by austerity, they have suffered a funding cut of £737m nationally since 2010 that equates to a staggering 62%. In the same period over six hundred youth centres have been closed down in the period between 2012 and 2016 three and a half thousand youth workers have lost their jobs.

Let me say that again in case you missed it because it's really important information. Youth service nationally have faced a 62% cut and thousands of youth workers have lost their jobs, it is shocking. As the Inner South Children's Champion I am passionate about young people and recognising the value that they can bring to our city and also the youth services that our city provides bring not only to young people but to the community as a whole. So again I stand here and I urge the government to properly fund youth services on a long term basis in the best interests of the young people and children in our city. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Yes thank you Lord Mayor and I'm speaking on the same minute. I'm delighted that the report included such a detailed section on the great work that the Communities Team are leading on in relation to the Healthy Holidays programme. Over the past two years in partnership with Leeds Community Foundation and Children and Families Service we have been funding third sector groups to provide food and activities for children during school

holidays. The crucial part of the Healthy Holidays programme is that it's free of charge to children and young people who access it and Councillor Lamb nobody said that child poverty didn't exist before your government came to power back in 2010 but actually we've seen a huge increase in it since then and that the number of children living in poverty is increasing even if their parents do work.

In 2017/18 in a classroom of thirty children you could expect that there may be nine of those children living below the poverty line. During term time free school meals can help ensure that children are benefiting from at least one hot meal on weekdays, however during the school holidays we have witnessed a national increase in the number of children going hungry. Not only is this detrimental to their health and general development but it often means that pupils are not returning to school ready to learn and therefore having an impact on their futures. It's not just children who are enduring food poverty either nationally the use of food banks has rocketed, the Trussell Trust has indicated that the roll out of Universal Credit is significant contributing factor to this increase and we actually discussed this earlier this week in Scrutiny Board and across all parties agreed that.

This is unsurprising as the minimum five week wait for universal credit has led to acute financial hardship in households leaving councils and food banks to deal with the fallout and provide local people with the support they need all be it underfunded. I was shocked recently to find out in this country that we now have more food banks than we have McDonald's. I am by no means advocating McDonald's as a health food choice but I think it really brings home the extent of the issue we are facing.

I'm delighted that in Leeds we are able to provide a Healthy Holidays programme to ease this burden and how we're working cross Council about positive strategy and together with Scrutiny. However I think the government on the other hand appear reluctant to admit that poverty in this country even exists so can I urge Boris Johnson to prioritise eradicating the poverty epidemic that plagues this nation and provide local authorities with dedicated funding to respond to local needs. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Lord Mayor and comrades. Sorry I'm having a bit of a microphone problem. First of all I would just like to start by referring to Councillor Lamb's comments, I notice he's left the Chamber, the truth obviously hurts. He said that child poverty is a longstanding problem going back decades which none of us will argue with. However let me give you the reality, since 2010 there has been an increase of 800,000 children living in poverty. Analysis states 2.9m cases last year which is an increase of 38% since the start of the last decade, so that's where we get those stats from. It is a longstanding problem but I think it's nearly doubled in the last decade. So comrades these children who do live in poverty miss out on the kind of childhood that us and many of our children take for granted and we find it difficult sometimes to understand

that impact. I'm not talking about missing out on foreign holidays or the latest phones. Growing up in poverty means going to bed hungry and cold, going to school not having done your homework because there's nowhere at home to do that homework and we've got children crying at the end of the school day because they don't want to go home to a cold and dark house where there's nothing to eat.

We've all heard both here and in the news over the last nine years about the steps that schools are having to take to help young and vulnerable pupils in their schools and I'd like to give you some examples comrades of what our fantastic teachers are having to do to help those children ...

(Applause)

Buying uniform and school shoes, washing uniform, buying food for children who can't afford to eat, lunchtimes given up helping children deal with the emotional impacts of poverty. We've got a charity in Leeds set up by an Assistant Head in her spare time, the bit that she has, which helps children who don't even have a bed to sleep in and their distribute beds to the families that need them. We set up our own period dignity scheme so that young people can attend school who previously had to stay at home when they had their period and for their mothers who couldn't leave the house to take their children to school for the same reason. Hopefully this scheme's helping improve the attendance that's mentioned in our three A's strategy.

But comrades let's not forget Christmas. After ten years of austerity politics one of our own schools, Parklands and it was an article in the Guardian in December, managed to raise funding and open the school during Christmas holidays to give those children and families who really are suffering the worst from poverty. A Christmas day with presents and a Christmas lunch as the Headteacher, and we all know who he is and he's a fantastic Headteacher, said we have children here who get no Christmas presents and no birthday presents, the families simply cannot afford it. The heartbreaking reality of children writing a letter to Santa knowing they will get no presents at all.

I think we can all agree that our teachers in Leeds and beyond are exactly the fourth emergency service that these families need and all this is happening in a country that as the fifth largest economy in the world, let's not forget that, this Tory government should be ashamed of itself.

(Applause and cheering)

I've run out of time.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: But I want to say that no child ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Should live in poverty and if they do that poverty should not follow ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Heselwood.

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: Into the classroom.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hayden.

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you, thank you My Lord Mayor. I'd like to speak on the same minute please on the report on the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme. I too applaud the positive work being done by Leeds Children and Family services and I know that they all work extremely hard. and welcome our involvement as a pioneer in local authority leading the DFE's new programme. However as has been mentioned I am very concerned that the government is yet to announce any sort of long term sustainable funding to councils that would enable them to plan for the future. The LGA estimates that there will be a £3.1b funding shortfall within children's social care by 2025, that's only five years in the future. It has urged the government on numerous occasions to bridge that gap with increased investment to allow Councils to meet the rising demand but to no avail and then more recently there was absolutely no mention of children's social care in the recent Queen's speech so I don't know how much longer we're going to have to wait for this emergency to be dealt with.

But there's another problem that we've become aware of that is to do with the UK exit from the EU and as we know the government is fully focused on that and not on things like our children's social services, but there are concerns relating to the impact on the welfare of the children in this country. I was horrified to read that EU national children and young people in our care in the UK could actually find themselves in the UK unlawfully, facing homelessness, immigration detention or deportation after we leave the EU. The settlement scheme for EU nationals who want to remain in the UK has been developed for people who live ordered, uncomplicated lives and have easy access to identification documents. It does not account for those individuals who may live in different circumstances such as children in care and care leavers. As Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board I know only too well how complicated the lives of care experienced children can be. But think about those children from EU countries who have no proof of nationality, whose birth parents may be in a different country, what will happen to them after the 31st January.

I worry about the impact that Brexit could have on these young people. I worry they will experience a sense of not belonging which no young person should experience and I urge the government to consider the future of these young people in a post (inaudible) Britain as an absolute priority along with announcing a long term funding solution. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dye.

COUNCILLOR DYE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Like several of the people before me I'm also going to speak on the Child Poverty Strategy. Can I urge you if you haven't read it to please read this document, it's a really really important

piece of work and I have to say I very much welcome the initiatives that it talks about. I just want to start with a quote that really struck me from it and it's this. Poverty is a societal and moral failing and the emotions and shame that surround people who experience poverty is something that will never leave them it's an injustice that strips away opportunities, builds barriers and reduces freedom. It represents the loss of the rights of a child and I can't say that without my voice breaking because it's absolutely devastating. You know all of you, that I've spoken about it before, how proud I am to represent my own home ward which is Killingbeck and Seacroft and I absolutely am, there's some wonderful things about that ward but something that really deeply disturbs me is how many families struggle daily with poverty in my ward and of course it's not the only one.

Councillor Heselwood spoke about Christmas, well I had a lovely Christmas day like many of you will have had here. I was warm, I was safe, I was with my kids that I love very much, I was in the company of my family and I had plenty of food but I shed a tear on that day thinking about many families in Seacroft who didn't have that kind of thing around them and you heard from Councillor Heselwood about one of the initiatives that went on in Seacroft and it's not the first time it's happened from Parklands Primary. I really applaud that it's one of many many wonderful initiatives that people in Seacroft or taking, we're very good at helping ourselves in Seacroft so Parklands isn't the only one. I want to pay tribute to St Richard's who put on a food bank, I want to pay tribute to LS14 Trust who work every day with people to give kids things like trips to pantomimes and they work against the holiday hunger so do the organisation's at Kentmere such has fallen into place a brilliant new organisation that's doing a lot to combat holiday hunger and a wonderful group called Nurture at Kentmere.

They're all doing brilliant work in our ward and without them people would be suffering a lot more. So we can be rightly proud our ward's doing a lot of things to make change but we can't forget that tackling this long term poverty giving children and families hope for the future isn't something we should be doing on our own, it isn't something that should be left to our schools, the government has to take responsibility and I agree with people who have said before yes poverty, of course poverty has been around for a long time but it is increasing, I was born in Seacroft, I've lived there for the vast majority of my life. Poverty is increasing I see it every day and we have to have national changes, the government has to take responsibility we deserve better in Seacroft. Thank you  
Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Knight.

COUNCILLOR KNIGHT: Thank you. Lord Mayor and colleagues I'm also speaking on the report on child poverty and the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy. All forms of poverty are unacceptable but in one of the wealthiest countries in the world it's an absolute scandal and it is indicative of the continued inequalities that are allowed to exist in the UK and what is particularly horrifying and alarming is that up and down the country child poverty is increasing and has been particularly

since 2010, there's no doubt about that. It has lifelong negative impacts on children's educational and career opportunities and unfortunately poverty begets poverty and it will continue to do so until or unless government policies bring about a radical change in direction and start to seriously invest in people.

In 2017/18 there were 4.1m children living in poverty in the UK. This was and still is largely attributable to changes in government policy and that have added to already existing local pressures. Child poverty in Leeds continues to be a major concern and we're all familiar with that in our own wards. However while the government may be turning a blind eye to the child poverty epidemic I'm delighted that in Leeds we are putting it at the forefront of our work with children and families across the city. Our Children and Young People's Plan affirms our commitment to putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do and it has a central focus on tackling the impact of child poverty in the city.

The power to lift our children and young people out of poverty though does not actually rest in the Council's hands it lies in national legislation. However this Council strategy highlights it's absolute commitment to taking every action that is within its power to ensure that children and young people get the best start in life that we can provide in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Most striking about our strategy is that it's an approach that the whole city has got behind to support and it demonstrates our shared commitment to driving forward our ambition to make Leeds the best city to grow up in.

There's already been some fantastic progress under the different impact workstreams and the diversity of projects really highlights the wide ranging impacts that poverty can have on children and on young people. I think it's fantastic though that the lived experiences of children, young people and families living in poverty are at the heart of our child poverty strategy because it reflects our ongoing commitment to ensure that every child and young person has a voice and an influence on issues that concern them, that is really important and listening is the key to successfully working with them from (inaudible). But whilst we're still waiting for that to happen I'm delighted that in the meantime this Council is prioritising child poverty, that we have so many dedicated partners across the city on board to help tackle this important issue and that together we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that every child in this city ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Knight.

COUNCILLOR KNIGHT: Gets the best start in life. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Maqsood.

COUNCILLOR MAQSOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. I also wish to speak on minute 105. I would also like to congratulate the ambition and efforts of this Council and our city wide partners in working to tackle the impact of child poverty. However like my colleagues I also think it's an absolute disgrace and I cannot

fathom that in this day and age in one of the wealthiest countries in the world we even need such a strategy.

Under the Labour government from the late nineteen ninetys we saw a significant reduction in the number of children living in poverty. By 2010 UK child poverty was at a thirteen year low and 1.1m children had been lifted out of poverty's grasp. However under the current government, the Institute of Fiscal Studies has predicted that child poverty will soar to a record 5.2m by 2022 diminishing the life chances of children across the country. The dramatic increase in child poverty has largely been attributed to strict and unsympathetic economic policies, austerity and welfare reform all imposed by the Conservative government. The catastrophic roll out of Universal Credit has pushed many families into poverty adding insult to injury. We've also been forced to endure the government imposing the sharpest cuts in the poorest areas. A Labour government would have stopped three hundred children from falling into poverty by scrapping the benefit cap and the two child limit. However under the Conservatives we will simply see the continued roll out of the car crash that is universal credit, alarmingly 70% of children now living in poverty live in households where at least one adult is in work indicating there is something in the Tories policy which simply isn't working. I can count the number of times the Conservatives mentioned poverty in their 2019 manifesto on one hand.

To clarify there were only three fleeting mentions. We know their manifesto has a big focus on delivering our exit from the EU by the end of the month however I am concerned that there is not enough of a focus on other issues such as child poverty. I'm concerned that Mr Johnson simply doesn't view it as an issue however I am delighted that in Leeds we are leading by example and doing all we can to address this important issue with the limited resources we have but until the government opens it's eyes to what's really going on there is only so much we can do as a Local Authority. I urge the government to prioritise this issue and support Local Authorities ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Maqsood.

COUNCILLOR MAQSOOD: In the fight against child poverty. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bithell.

COUNCILLOR BITHELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm also speaking on minute 105. It's fantastic there's a superb work undertaken by our Children and Families Directorate has been recognised by the government and under this new programme we will continue to lead the way in terms of support for children and their families. However we also need to recognise the vital role played by our partner organizations and one such partner are our schools and yet they themselves are facing financial crisis. Councillor Golton gave me a wonderful, he's not even listening. Councillor Golton gave me a wonderful segway into my speech today. He said If you think something's important keep going on about it

and what is more important than funding appropriately the future of our young people and indeed our city.

Boris Johnson's promised schools that there will be a multibillion funding boost in the UK. The Guardian however reported last December that four in five state schools in England will be financially worse off in 2020 than they were in 2015. That really brings it home, there's going to be a multibillion pound funding boost and it still won't be enough. It isn't just general school funding that's been decimated though, funding for our most vulnerable children is woefully inadequate as well. Campaigners say that even with the £700m promised for children with special educational needs and disabilities the High Needs block will still be £1.5b short. I was waiting with bated breath to hear in the Queen's speech exactly how Boris Johnson's government was going to reverse the legacy of cuts and give our children the education they deserve. I was unsurprisingly disappointed. There was talk of school budgets increasing by £7.1b by 2022/23 with increases to the minimum per pupil funding rates, however the Institute for Fiscal Studies has already said that this equates to just £4.3b in real terms and leaves the education sector facing an unprecedented thirteen year real term spending freeze. There was no reference to legislating for the full implementation of the proposed national funding formula meaning our schools are still in limbo.

Although it's not funding related there was no reference to help for pupils excluded or off rolled despite previous promises to do so in response to the Timpon review. The lack of reference to education be it funding or policy left me more worried than ever before about our children's futures as they appear to have been abandoned by the Conservative government once again. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you Lord Mayor. When I first read the Child Poverty report and the strategy's (inaudible) thriving I was pleased to know what Leeds City Council is already doing and what it's planning to do to mitigate the effects of poverty for our children and young people but then I did a double take and mentally pinched myself and felt absolutely incensed. To quote from the report poverty is a day to day reality that results in people living precarious lives with every decision evaluated from choosing between heating or food, having a cup of coffee or using the washing machine, buying clothes or shampoo. Why are we even having to talk about this in 2020 in one of the largest cities of our country, one of the richest countries in the world.

There's been many reasons over the last few years for me to feel ashamed to be British but our growing levels of poverty highlighted in a UN report last year is the greatest. This strategy is about ways of mitigating poverty for over 33,000, that's one in five of our children here in Leeds. These children about whom the words holiday hunger or period poverty or social exclusion need to be used. When we use our words a lot we can be immune to their real impact. Poverty is a societal and moral failing and it is therefore a political failing as its our politicians

that determine what our priorities are as a country, what sort of country we want to be.

It's the national governments that choose to spend money on Trident instead of schools or on tax breaks for the rich rather than non properly funded public services. If the government can invest in a massive vanity project like HS2 with it's eye watering doubling of costs already then it can afford to make sure none of its citizens are living in poverty. But the national government could introduce a Universal Basic Income that would mean no one in this country would have to make the sort of day to day choices that people living in poverty have to make. There've been successful pilot Universal Basic Income products in different parts of the world perhaps Leeds City Council should look at that as a possibility.

In the UN report published in May last year professor Alston said the bottom line is that much of the glue that has held British society together since the Second World War has been deliberately removed and replaced with a harsh and uncaring ethos. Poverty is a political choice, I applaud the work of the officers and the Executive Member in bringing forward this strategy and I especially thank all those people working daily to mitigate the effects of poverty in our city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm going to get booted now.

(Booing and laughing)

I just want to say there is every day, every day of the week for 365 days a year our staff in Children's Services do their very best to counteract the effects of poverty within this city and that cannot be denied and their commitment is unquestioned. However whenever I get a report from the Council about poverty I get frustrated because we're very good at evaluating and analysing and gathering data on poverty within our city and tell people that we really hate it and we want to do something about it but whenever we look at the policy and the practice within the papers too often it says 'Well we're working on something that we're going to be launching in six months time or oh well you know we're going to talk to sort of our friends in Leeds University and we're putting together a strategy which has got together all this information in the city because Leeds is unique and what we do in Leeds has to be absolutely specific to our city and therefore it's worth taking the time to work that proposal up' and the problem is when we do that we tell ourselves that we really care about those that are poor but it delays our responsiveness to dealing with their needs right now and the one thing that was a problem with this paper itself is that it had very little in it which talked about how we as a Council were going to measure and evaluate progress and impact on all the things that are included within it and I'll give an example of where I think the Council has talked about how great it is and how different and innovative it is that

what it's done but actually it's let people down significantly and it's about period poverty. Councillor Heselwood was talking earlier about how we've been great at engaging young people in what we've been doing but the problem is is that we were starting with another blank sheet of paper after there was already a proposal in place that we could have implemented as a Council two years ago and we could have helped those young girls in education that have been bypassed because all that we've done is created something which is particularly ad hoc and certainly not universal and then we tried to make a virtue out of it by talking about how the packaging that the sanitary protection will be included in has been designed by our children whereas the lessons that we have from our children looked after in particular is that they don't want to be singled out as being any different from anybody else because of the stigma and we are in danger of doing exactly the same thing with this programme ...

(Background talking)

And that's just an example, Councillor Heselwood, about how we could have done something significant and by trying to make it specific to Leeds we've actually made it something which is less so.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Amanda Carter.

COUNCILLOR AMANDA CARTER: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to speak on minute 121 and refer in particular to the HMIP inspection of Youth Offending Services. I'm concerned that the Council administration are so busy manning the barricades instead of addressing immediately the weaknesses highlighted in the report that safeguarding of young people could be jeopardised. I refer in particular to page six of the report and highlight one of the areas of weakness and it says this, barriers of service delivery such as difficulties with child or young person attending education, training or employment provision all been referred to social care are not being routinely escalated to management and acted on.

Just 50% of school age and post 16 cases are not receiving their statutory entitlement to education, training or employment. This begs the question or questions, do we know where these young people are, are they in harm's way and how on earth are they going to earn a living without a proper education. These matters need addressing of the utmost urgency and I would urge also the criticism about the attendance of members, statutory and non statutory partners or the management board is simply unacceptable.

All in all whilst the Council can take credit for the successes we remain very concerned at the defensive way in which they have responded to criticism giving a sense that the Council is in denial. We will be expecting feedback on this. Thank you My Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you everyone for your comments. I'm incredibly proud of our outstanding Children and Families departments. Our Child Poverty Strategy highlights this administration's ongoing commitment to tackling the impact of austerity on our children and young people. They are not responsible for government cuts yet they are the ones suffering the consequences.

I thought the most striking element of Councillor Coupar's speech was that there are more food banks than branches of McDonald's. It is shocking that that is the world our young people are now growing up in.

Councillor Knight was right to highlight that while we can work in partnership as a city the levers to lift children out of poverty rests with central government and it is well overdue the time that they stepped up and gave our children and young people the childhoods and the life chances they deserve.

Thank you Councillor Maqsood for reminding us of the figures released by the Institute for Fiscal Studies that under this Tory government child poverty will rocket to 5.2m by 2022. It was depressingly predictable that there was nothing about tackling child poverty in the Queen's speech, children are just not a priority for this government.

Councillors Dye and Heselwood what Chris Dyson and his staff did at Parklands Primary over Christmas is amazing, it's so inspiring and it's so moving and it exemplifies Leeds as a compassionate city as do all the teachers that Councillor Heselwood talked about providing food, clothes and sanitary products for children in Tory Britain which as Councillor Forsaith said is shameful.

Councillor Latty thank you for your ongoing support always. I will take forward your suggested about considering more frequent meetings for the board of the Child Poverty Strategy though as you pointed out the workstreams do meet more frequently.

Councillor Golton the reason our period poverty scheme took a longer time than you would have wanted for it to develop is because we developed it with children and young people to make sure it was a scheme they wanted rather than the one you wanted and by getting our child friendly Leeds Ambassadors on board we also have created a scheme that is sustainable.

Councillors Cohen, Carter and Carter, I was very clear at Exec Board that we accept the report of the Youth Justice Service inspection. I was also clear that I accept that the governance needs to be improved and that I will have a role within that and I recommended that the report goes to Scrutiny Board so that it can be looked at further however we are critical of the methodology as are other authorities as is the Howard League for penal reform and as a result of our criticism we've been asked to take part in the review of the methodology nationally which we look forward to been involved in.

Councillor Flynn we have seen many national reports about historic sexual abuse in a range of areas and of course Leeds is not immune for exempt from the fact that historically there will have been children harmed in our care and whilst I don't feel it's appropriate to talk about an individual case I am aware that the Director and Deputy Director of Children's Services have met with the individuals that you referred to and that this is ongoing. I would also wish to reassure Council that if anyone wants to make a complaint in relation to childhood abuse to the Children and Families department this will always be thoroughly investigated.

Councillor Lamb I am very well aware of the poverty that exists within affluent areas however as Councillors Heselwood, Maqsood and others have referred to, child poverty has increased under Tory governments. It halved between 1998 and 2010. That's not a coincidence it was initiatives like Sure Start where as under your government with policies like the benefits cap and universal credit we've got 33,500 children in Leeds living in poverty.

Councillors Scopes, Arif and Bithell, thank you for referring to the Strengthening Families programme and our commitment to sector led development and I'd like to reassure people about this that this brings resource into the department which means that this work will not be done at a detriment to Leeds. We will continue to deliver outstanding services in Leeds while supporting other areas of the country to improve their outcomes and their services for children and young people.

Councillor Hayden was right when she said that Children's Social Care will be facing a £3.1b shortfall by 2025. It is so vitally important that the review that's been announced by government fully involves local authorities and results in long term sustainable funding for children's social care. We heard just last week that the number of children in care has increased by 28% in the last decade. The government can no longer live in denial, the system is at breaking point only significant and sustained funding can reverse the damage inflicted by cutting council funding to the minimum which is what has happened on a successive Tory governments. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I want to speak on minute 103, 126 and 128 of the report that went to the Executive Board. We now, following the General Election in December, have a very clear pathway that is in front of us for leaving the European Union. There've been many, there's been three years of rumour, conjecture, of parliamentary manoeuvre to try and stop it but now leaving the EU will be delivered at the end of this month. I don't know what celebrations the Leader of Council intends to stage at 11pm on the 31st January that is for her to no doubt discuss with officers but it is a significant day and to quote a former Prime Minister I think we all feel the hand of history on our shoulder here. What we know from the reports that have gone to the Executive Board is that the path for the next eleven months is very clear through the transition, it has overcome its parliamentary hurdles and we are in this transition

stage where we have some certainty. It's clear that that is what everybody wanted, they wanted certainty, they wanted to understand what was been delivered. As the Chief Exec of Council said at Executive Board we want to avoid a Groundhog Day scenario here as good as that film is I am keen to avoid Groundhog Day too and I think that what we need to do to make sure that we prepare in that way is to make sure that we focus on the things and report back to Executive Board the things that the Council can really deliver and change upon. One of those is making sure that about the EU Settlement Scheme. Now I know that officers have been having conversations with any EU residents who are workers here in Leeds or employees of the Council but I think we actually need to go even further and look at the supply chains and making sure that we are speaking with our colleagues and partners to ensure that their employees are aware of the EU Settlement Scheme and are prepared in advance too to make sure we have a steady supply chain to come into this Council.

Similarly I know Councillor Golton in the past has raised the agricultural concerns of the agricultural sector and I think we are absolutely right having had meetings with some of them this morning to make sure that we're well aware of that and I'd be interested to see that that is reported back to the Exec Board too.

On the budget matters I don't intend to give any precursors for what amendments will be on the debate next month. However what I would say is that this provides a unique opportunity for this Council to be ready for a post EU world, to support business in this city and support residents as we strive to make sure that Leeds secures its place in the twenty first century as we leave the European Union. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garner.

COUNCILLOR GARNER: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking on the same minutes on the Council's preparations for the exit from the European Union and this particular subject's moved on quickly since we were last sat here. A number of reports have been to our Executive Board detailing our preparations with two reports going to the two last Exec Board meetings, I think that underlines the seriousness and attention the Council has been giving to preparing for Brexit.

Many people are pleased, many people are not pleased both inside and outside this Chamber but one thing we're certain of is that we're leaving the EU at the end of this month. The uncertainty has eased up for now but I fear the second phase of negotiations around the UK's future relationship with the EU might not be plain sailing particularly with the artificial deadline for negotiations put in place by Boris Johnson and concerns around protections for the environment and workers rights which were a bit more certain under the failed Theresa May deal. One thing I am reassured by however is the amount of preparation and planning for Brexit by this Council since 2016. We know that much of the planning of been against a backdrop of uncertainty and lack of information for that I am grateful to the Council officers and Members who have navigated through the fog and put together a coherent and comprehensive strategic response plan for the Council to work to.

Our response plan is framed around a five specific themes of infrastructure and supplies, something as a pharmacist I recognise the possible impact of through medicine supply, business and economic impact, citizens and communities, media and communications and organisational impact.

Brexit has been and remains one of the most highly complex policy areas this Council and this country will ever have to deal with. It has helped that we've been able to closely engage with government departments throughout the preparation period and we in this city have taken the lead with our Chief Executive part of the network of regional Chief Execs who are directly engaged with the government. I don't think that really single handedly got Tom his CBE but it can't have her hurt.

In addition our Leader, Councillor Blake, sits on the Local Government Association's EU Exit Local Government Delivery Board and on a local level it helps that we continue to have a Cross Party Member Working Group and this continues to play a key role in highlighting important issues which have fed into our response work and brings together key stakeholders in the city, partnership working that's very important despite what Councillor Golton said a bit earlier. Brexit has also been discussed as part of a regular agenda items at a range of meetings including Scrutiny Board meetings. When you're dealing with such a complex issue with very little information it's impossible to know if you prepared for every scenario, however given the complexity and uncertainty we face I think is fair to say that this Council is now as well prepared as it can be. Let's hope the government negotiators are as well prepared over the next eleven and a half months. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smart.

COUNCILLOR SMART: Council the UK has long been a place where refugees fleeing conflict and persecution can find safety. The unspeakable tragedies of the twentieth century so many fleeing here and indeed many made Leeds their home and have contributed to the rich history of our city. In the last decade we saw people fleeing horror in their homeland and again many refugees made their way here. Among the unimaginable trauma that comes with fleeing persecution is the risk that you lose your family this includes the heartbreak of children losing their parents. As part of the EU's Dublin Agreement children and teenage refugees have the right to be relocated to the country where their families are. UK implemented further protection for child refugees in 2016 following the European migrant crisis that year the government accepted the Dubs Amendment in the House of Lords. The Dubs Amendment ensures unaccompanied refugee children are offered safe passage to the UK to be reunited with their families. It's worth noting that the government only accepted Dubs at the second time of asking after originally rejecting it in the House of Commons. However Theresa May's government did to its credit accept an amendment to her European Withdrawal Bill in line with the Dub's amendment that ensure the UK would continue to offer protection to child refugees

As we know, Boris Johnson, our new Prime Minister has obtained a revised withdrawal agreement meaning a new European Withdrawal Bill is currently making its way through parliament. Last Wednesday an amendment was put forward to ensure the Dub's Amendment Protections for Child Refugees are included in the new Withdrawal Bill, sadly the governments and Tory MP's voted this down. A government spokesperson sought to reassure that the protections remained government policy but removing the legislative guarantee is a very worrying sign indeed. Alf Dubs himself called it a very depressing development he called it a betrayal of Britain's humanitarian tradition and said it will place vulnerable children in danger. With the world today becoming increasingly volatile the potential for more children to be separated from their families increases. I would like this country and indeed this city to demonstrate the values its lived by in the twentieth century and be somewhere that refugees in desperate situations can find safety and sanctuary.

I sincerely hope that government will u-turn and allow the Dubs Amendment into the Withdrawal Bill to provide reassurance to us all for the future of child refugees. The fight continues in the House of Lords this week but sadly if the government doesn't back down all we are left with are vague promises from the Prime Minister's spokesperson that frankly are about as trustworthy as a promise on the side of a bus. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor I'm speaking on minute 127 in relation to the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Speaking as a ward Member I would particularly like to focus on how important the Dance School is to the local area. The Dance School occupies a prominent position in a Chapeltown conservation area, an area made up of late victorian edwardian buildings. It's a local centre that provides important retail and services to local people. The Chapel Road corridor has seen big improvements in recent years this includes heritage led conservation refurbishment initiatives, commitments from unity to new affordable housing and the development of the Chapeltown Enterprise Centre. This is also the development of the Leeds Media Centre into a creative workplace, delivery of the Reginald Centre including a community hub as well as the highways Bus Lane and Public realm improvements. The work has had a significant effect on the parents of the area but there are also many economic and social benefits for the local residents and of course the Dance School itself also has an impact in these areas.

The Best Council Plan identifies ensuring culture can be created by and experienced by everyone and we have seen the benefits of this in Chapeltown because of the contribution culture makes to the area's confidence, economy and the wider community cohesion. The Dance School itself benefits the local Chapeltown economy as the school doesn't have accommodation, many students live in the area using shops and local services. Economic modelling estimates the local benefit of the school could be up to £2m a year. The value of the Dance School goes far beyond economic impact along with RGC Dance, the Annual

Carnival, the Dance School has helped create a strong local artistic hub. The school occupies a prime position in Chapeltown Road, it's an internationally renowned facility and it can help inspire younger generations to take up dance creating future artists with all the benefits that can bring.

The school is so successful it is oversubscribed and receive six applications for every place last year. It needs to expand to ensure its long term sustainability and raises arrears and maintains it's international profile. So as a ward Member for Chapel Allerton and Chapeltown I'm pleased the Dance School has reaffirmed his commitment to staying in Chapeltown. I'm also pleased the Council is helping to school to find a local expansion site. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Brooks.

COUNCILLOR BROOKS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I welcome that the Council will work with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance to secure an expansion site as agreed at the Executive Board Board's meeting on the 7th January. Established in 1985 the Northern School of Contemporary Dance has continued to grow and repurpose buildings to meet it's needs as an education provider and maintain its status as a national centre of excellence. It's the only conservatoire level higher education provision for contemporary dance in the North of England and indeed outside of London so competes with institutions in London, Europe and other international providers. It has an important ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Brook can you please speak up. Can't hear you on this side.

COUNCILLOR BROOK: Oh I'm sorry. It offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications and has an outstanding rating from Ofsted. Given all this it's unsurprising that the Northern School of Contemporary Dance is a cultural anchor institution in Leeds. It supports the city's key national role in the creative and performing arts and provides community provision for all ages and abilities. It helps promote community respect and resilience in Chapeltown, it contributes to the Chapeltown community identity combined with Carnival and RJC dance. It supports many of our Best Council Plan priorities, it contributes to the aim that culture should be accessible to everyone, it contributes to the child friendly city aim over four hundred young people a week attend and improves attainment and educational outcomes and contributes to improve mental health in young people. It contributes to the Health and Wellbeing aim as it helps more people to live active and healthy lifestyles. The school wants to offer new courses from September 2022 to ensure long term sustainability and raise international profile and maintain international competitiveness. As referred to by Councillor Rafique courses are currently oversubscribed. The school needs an additional three studio spaces another lecture room and additional social space to fulfil phase one of its expansion plan.

It can't do this without our support over the years it's invested in the current centre but given the property market it wouldn't get the value it has to put back on

the open market so the Council has helped search for a site in the area. Leeds City Council doesn't own any land of suitable size and few private sites are available however a former garage has been vacant and derelict for a long time which is a very negative impact on the street scene. As this has been going on for such a long time I welcome the plan for Council officers supporting the school in negotiations with the site owners to purchase this site ensuring that the Northern School of Contemporary Dance can continue raising the profile of Leeds nationally and internationally and most importantly be in a position to support our communities for many years to come.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I refer to minute 126 on the extra pack regarding Britain's Exit from the EU. I've got to say I found it useful these reports going to Exec Board periodically in that it's helpful to to a gleam where we are and what direction we're taking. But I've got to say now we are in a position where we know in just over a fortnight's time we will effectively be leaving the EU, I think it's important that all of us are involved. I notice in the report it says that the Cross Party Members Working Group will continue to meet but can I remind Council that the Cross Party Working Group is not cross party, it's some of the parties on this Council and the Garforth and Swillington Independents, the Morley Borough Independents and ourselves in the The Greens have not represented and I think now at this stage we should be.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I speak to minute 127 which I think is the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, it through me slightly because both Councillors Rafique and Brooks referred to minute 128 as been the Northern School of Con...

(Background talking)

You didn't you said 128. We can check back you didn't put it on the ...

(Background talking)

Did I, I didn't shut you up in any event. We can check very soon I'm fairly sure you didn't, stop pointing its rude. Not least because what I'm about to say I absolutely agree with the points that, it doesn't say 127 it says 128, I know your not good with figures Councillor Rafique but really it's important ...

COUNCILLOR: Dance off, dance off.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Come on then ...

(Laughing)

I think, it's a roast at the Council meeting. What I was going to say My Lord Mayor was we are just three years away from our City of Culture and organisations like the Northern School of Contemporary Dance are key stakeholders in that proposition. We are incredibly lucky to have here in Leeds, here in North Leeds the only conservatoire level of higher education outside of London. We are competing with London, with Europe, with the world at the highest level of higher level education for this type of dance and drama and if there is anything that we are able to sensibly do to help this organisation that is well funded, securely funded, has ambitious plans for expansion for the future, is an asset for Chapeltown, is an asset for North Leeds, an asset for the whole of the north of the country then I hope that this Council will absolutely get behind all such endeavours and frankly I don't think it really matters whether it's item 127 or 128 what matters My Lord Mayor is that we are all behind this very important proposition. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Sorry you took me by surprise there, I thought I was going to have my rituals following Councillor Lamb moment.

(Laughing)

Thank you for the contributions, those of you who have looked at the minute book if you like will see that a big part of the minutes I took through Exec Board were concerned with the initial budget proposals for 2020/21. As is for new Members of the Council the tradition is that we, the opposition Members reserve their position on those minutes but sadly from my point of view I don't expect them to be so reserved when we come to the Budget Council in February just a few weeks away. Maybe I'll get a moment then Councillor Lamb.

But you know two very important papers that came forward with the budget proposals and I'm very heartened by the response from all the contributors around the work we're doing on preparations for Brexit and especially as you quite rightly point out two weeks away I mean it really is quite something isn't it that such a significant change is coming in so soon. Of course I think all of us are aware that you know the slogan in the General Election campaign was just get Brexit done, what we all know in this Chamber is actually that getting over the line if you like at the end of January will just be the beginning of so much debate and legislation that will be required to move us forward into position where we can actually leave. So I welcome the support for continuing with the working Group, David happy to talk to you about your contribution, there's not been any desire at all to exclude voices. I think the more of us that can have a say in how we move forward the better and as we always say in these debates whilst we know that there are going to be some challenges, significant challenges that come out of the debate ahead of us and particularly I think for the business community are quite concerned about certain aspects and just the fact that they don't have the clarity as to what's

going to happen. I think there's no doubt at all from our point of view that we need to look at the opportunities that a new situation might present and that's where we have to be working with our colleagues in parliament to make sure that where there can be opportunities coming forward we take the best use of them and one of those is the debate that we have repeatedly about the shared prosperity fund and what we have to do is make sure as Local Authorities that any money coming back from Europe that isn't going to be invested in the programmes that have benefited so many of our communities up to now, particularly those areas of high deprivation we need to make sure that the government brings the money down to us at the local level. We need to have that discussion as a matter of urgency and it needs to be one of the strands that informs all the conversations that we are now entering into around devolution, that is an absolute priority because we know and from many of the debates, the contributions we've had today that if all of that money goes back into Whitehall and is then distributed through some of the unfairest funding formulas that we have ever seen then we know it's people in our communities that will suffer and I think you know highlighting the Dubs Amendment is absolutely crucial and Alf Dubs himself said I think just in the last couple of days that he is not going to give up on this, he's going to keep fighting for those children and I hope that we can give him our full support and make sure that we do right by those young people.

Absolutely support the comments that have been made about the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. I'm personally delighted Councillor Rafique that they want to stay in your ward, I think it's fantastic what they've achieved. Their not only bringing young people from across the world into such a prestigious provision but also keeping true to their roots and really delivering for young people, very often you know who don't have the massive financial personal support behind them and that's something to commend.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Absolutely support the work they're doing towards 2023. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I wasn't quite expecting we'd get to this portfolio this afternoon but I'm never afraid to give Councillor Rafique a little bit of advice.

(Laughing and background talking)

I'm speaking on minute 129, it's not about dance, no it's 129 and 130 of the extra pack which is 129 is the Traffic Regulation Order citywide to enable refuse collection. I think we are all in favour of anything that improves refuse collection, over the past few months it's not been good and it's improved quite a bit recently but I think we've had many discussions about the Traffic Regulation Order that that is one of the issues around getting refuse vehicles into small streets. My only

sort of issue about that is really that it's a city wide regulation order and when ward Members want Traffic Regulation Orders in their own ward it's always said it can't be done because we can't do a city wide one it has to be an individual one and there isn't the money for it so I think it just goes with a little bit of a health warning on the fact that when that comes in ward Members might be pressing Highways colleagues to actually put Traffic Regulation Orders in to alleviate other things and the other thing is around enforcement and on order on its own doesn't get rid of the car that's parked on the yellow line and it's, I don't think enforcement has been quite looked into, because that car does not have to be there when the refuse wagons there it's not a particular thing in where the car is a nuisance all day the car is a nuisance when the refuse vehicle needs to get in and I think that enforcement will be particularly difficult but that said I'm generally happy with that.

Item 130 is Woodland Creation and I think every Member in this Chamber is happy to see woodland creation and I certainly am. My issue really is with the supply of trees I have quite a few green spaces that are owned by the Council and I've only got, at the moment, one park that's been assessed for woodland creation and we've not got the responses back from Parks as to what that actually means or any costs around it and so I am disappointed in that because I do have quite an active Friends Group in that ward who want to get on doing things and I'm not able to keep them active. I've also got other parks and green spaces where there are either Tenants Groups or Parish Councils who would want to get on and I can't get any trees for love no money. I know that the Arium is going to stop producing trees on that will come in in 2021 but it looks very much like 2019/20 and 20/21 planting season will be missed and I think that that's a missed opportunity of the Council and I hope that Councillor Rafique can't do a great deal about 19/20 because we're nearly at the end of that now but for 2021 I would hope that the trees become more plentiful and we can get them planted because every year that is missed is another year of growth that is missed and I have spoke to Councillor Walshaw about it, I know he's not here to hear it but he is, oh he's at the back, hello there Councillor Walshaw.

As I say I think the council does need to address the supply of trees but it's not going to get better it's going to get worse as more people want to plant trees.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor B Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I refer to minutes 129 and 130 which is on the, first one is on the experimental Traffic Regulation Order in terms of waste. Yes we've had officer contact but we've not had much recently and there are still issues out there so we need to get, continue the debate, the positive debate that was taking place. Now as Councillor Wadsworth said enforcement there is very little in this report that explains what you're going to do about enforcement. Are you going to employ additional enforcement people if not which parts of the city are going to have their enforcement taken away because if you've only got a finite size of take for enforcement and you're going to be putting it onto this it means some of the wards that get the current enforcement

just now and unfortunately it doesn't include my ward, so it's some of your wards are going to have to do without enforcement. What impact is that going to have, it's not been thought through or if it has been it hasn't been clearly set out in here.

What are the staffing implications of this, are you gonna have people running around all over the city depending on what days of collection and where they're meant to be covering.

Now there are some concerns that I've got because you've been trying to come up with other ways of solving the waste collection but it seems to have gone quiet, what's happening with the route reorganisation, what's happening with the changing of the days that some of this waste collections going to take place, what's happening with trying to get the crews to see the initial problems and feedback on what's happening, what's happening with the new bins that are going to be issued because in my area you're going to be introducing new green bins to the area what's happening with it we don't know, everything has gone very quiet.

Now in respect of the woodland creation. It's a good start but I would ask you why, unlike Councillor Coupar, don't you trust your colleagues in Scrutiny and ask us to do a Pre Decision Inquiry in this one. This is the second time you've brought a paper to Exec that would have benefited from having a Pre Decision Inquiry. There was this one and there was the wonderful Temple Newsam. We wouldn't have had some of the issues if you'd come and trusted your colleagues, fine you might not trust me that's up to you but you've got some good colleagues who are on the Scrutiny Boards and they could have added value to make sure that we iron out a lot of these particular problems.

We've also got the issues as Councillor Wadsworth's saying about local needs. There is a lot of demand but we're losing the impetus because we're not putting it back there. Parks and Countryside promised me they we're coming to talk to us in our ward about what the proposals are. Well the silence is deafening, which wards are they actually doing the work in because it's certainly not some of our wards because we've been complaining like mad about it. So on that basis yes good start but there's still a long way to go. Thank you Lord Mayor, thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speak on minute 129 from the extra pack. Can I join with previous speakers in welcoming the introduction of the experimental TRO's. I think it's a well thought out way of trying to deal with a problem. I hope is successful. I have got issues to do with enforcement as to whether we'll be able to do that but let's give it a go because we can't complain about something until we see if it works and part of the problem in many many places, particularly in some of our victorian streets is cars parked there and the new vehicles can't get round corners and I'm looking forward to this but one thing that must be kept in mind that local members have to be involved all the way through. I'm assured that that's going to happen but the fact is keep Members on side because if you do it would be helpful and keep that conversation

going. As I understand it these TRO's can be changed and modified and sometimes we might find we're causing a problem by introducing one that we didn't think about and we want to change it or we might find other areas where we need to move forward. So as I say that conversation with local Members is necessary. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Collins.

COUNCILLOR COLLINS: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on minute 129 the experimental Traffic Regulation Order to assist waste collections and 130 Woodland Creation. First I would like to welcome both of these two proposals with regard to the Highways TRO. Our Local Highways Officer has been extremely good at liaising with us and has discussed our wards issues with us on a regular basis. There have been huge frustration however on all sides as to how long it has taken to get this project this far. I know Traffic Regulation Orders can be lengthy processes especially when there are no funds available, but funding was promised by the Waste and Refuse team for this from day one.

Regarding woodland creation within the city. The White Rose Forest project is an extremely important scheme and we all need to be fully committed to it. But in order for this project to be successful we need to ensure that there are enough officers are available to work on the smaller details of the plan and bring this massive project forward. We also need to ensure that there are enough Council officers available to assist communities and local Councillors when smaller schemes are proposed. Funding of the trees and the manpower needed to plant them can be overcome by local Councillors. For example in Horsforth we've recently had a very good planting scheme where two hundred residents turned up to plant and some of the trees were actually bought through our MICE money.

The serious issue however is getting the permission from the Council through Parks and Countryside to plant the trees on Council land. At present there is very little tree planting actually happening even though we are in the middle of a planting season. The Council's 2021 budget needs to be ambitious with regards to offerer support for tree planting. We need a group of officers dedicated to tree planting. The officers on that team need to have a range of experiences. Highways, Planning, Environmental Health as well as Parks and Countryside. If we don't put the effort into establishing this dedicated team the White Rose Forest project is not going to hit its targets and within the Leeds region it will fail. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Illingworth.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: Lord Mayor I am speaking on minute 129 of the extra pack. I'm sure that everyone in this Chamber will have dealt with e-mails from frustrated residents whose bins haven't been emptied often because

the street has been obstructed by parked cars. The Executive Board report shows that our waste and recycling crews are increasingly facing access issues. This is disappointing but not surprising. Many residents do not appreciate the size of a refuse truck and remain blissfully unaware of the problems that their own vehicles are causing. As well as the inconvenience caused to residents we should also consider the cost to the Council and the Council tax payer of repeated trips for our waste crews not to mention the additional carbon dioxide emissions from our vehicles.

I therefore welcome the experimental Traffic Regulation Order which is a pragmatic and proactive solution to these difficulties faced by residents as well as Council officers. Having often advocated this solution over the last forty years just a little bit disappointed in the long delay in adopting it but been able to add, amend and remove locations will give this Council the flexibility needed to address particular hotspots and any unintended consequences of imposing the order in some locations where it causes a problem in others.

There is an important caveat to this which is that ward Members should be consulted on any locations in the order before they go live. As representatives of our local communities we will be able to advise officers which locations are likely to have positive and negative impacts. I was glad to hear that the Director committed at the Executive Board to only include locations where ward Members are agreeable to them. I'm looking forward to working with officers alongside my own ward colleagues to include suitable locations in Kirkstall in the order. But I would like to pay whilst I'm on my feet, to pay particular tribute to Councillor Bithell who I know has devoted considerable time and effort to improve collections for Kirkstall residents. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking on minute 130 on the extra pack and just like to pick up one or two points which my colleagues on this side have mentioned about woodland creation and it's probably the single most important measure which we can take here directly in Leeds which will have a directly beneficial effects on climate change and the whole emergency situation and I think part of the problem as Councillor Wadsworth said and Councillor Collins and others has been this problem that when we actually think about how all this happened the climate emergency was declared and these things tend to be a political flourish and we declared our inter climate emergency and then of course what happens is that officers who actually have to deal with these things on the ground then running round thinking what are we going to do with this, how can we do it and their undemanded in many ways and the whole process is behind but obviously the principle is absolutely the right way to go, the White Rose Forest and so on and the thousands of hectares of planting per year just doesn't go far enough, tree cover needs to be increased.

Now just referring to the Citizens Jury on the climate emergency process. In as far as they address this situation I would like to thank them for that and also

some other sensible suggestions including extra Park and Ride schemes and so on and I think also as Councillor Illingworth referred in his remarks it's always good in these situations to say to them, we really do appreciate what you've come up with, not necessarily that we agree with it all but the fact that you have done it for no reward in your own time and it is appreciated. But there are one or two things which we wouldn't go along with, I'm not going to mention public ownership of buses because we'll discuss that later on ...

(Laughter)

But for instance more or less stopping the airport situation, Councillor Harland is paying attention I can see that, she knows about these matters because she and I flew to Tenerife together two or three years ago ...

(Laughter)

COUNCILLOR: Hope you had a nice time.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: So I'm sure she agrees with me that we shouldn't close the airport and I think the other slightly woolly thing was the reference to the investment fund where they say projects are started and then they make money, well yeah I mean we all hope that don't we but there is a possibility that they actually wont. But in terms of woodland creation let's get on with it Lord Mayor and make it work. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I also wish to speak on the Woodland Creation minute I'm very pleased that this has come forward and that the debate has moved on in such a way a few years ago we weren't even talking about woodland creation, we weren't even talking about trees in the essential role they play, it's now in every party's agenda and I think that's a real testament to the hard work that organisations like the Woodland Trust and others have done. The forestry strategy that's been set out and the woodland creation plans are very welcome as the Arium where a lot of this work will be done is in the Harewood ward and the area I encourage everybody to go and visit. I think it's a fabulous asset to this city, I am unaware and I'm looking to see if officers nod at the back, I'm unaware of any other Local Authority or any other site that's like the Arium in this country and I think that that is part of the great ambition that we've got for taking climate change growing and the environment seriously.

What I would say is that we need to think about canopy tree cover as well and what that means is not just growing trees and looking at how we'll grow them in the short term but actually how we'll maintain them and beef up our Forestry department too. That's a vital role that we all, I think, acknowledge needs to be played in the future. Canopy tree cover also means not just looking at cityscapes I think there's lots and lots of urban areas where canopy tree cover can be beefed up but actually there's rural areas where there's sites potentially ready to go or if I

slightly misquote Barack Obama, fired up and ready to grow, and I think that's exactly what we need to do. I would normally say that we need to attach rocket boosters to this strategy but that I think would be against the carbon capture schemes that we need to do so perhaps it's a sprinkle of miracle grow that needs to be on these plans and one of the elements that I think could do this is if reports go to each Community Committee specifically identifying sites where this can be taken forward and looking at when those sites can be delivered that will give local Councillors far more ownership and far more understanding of plans. I know from speaking to colleagues across this Chamber in every party, they have sites that they are reporting to officers that could be planted tomorrow potentially, I know I've got them in my own ward and we need to really take the agenda forward now and not wait as Councillor Wadsworth said till 2020/2021.

Finally I would also draw attention to the point around flood alleviation. Encouraging tree planting and woodland creation has a great potential for alleviating flooding especially in rural areas and when we plant upstream I've already suggested some sites in my ward, I think that they are far more viable and far more environmentally friendly options and offer an alternative to other bigger more concrete schemes that take place elsewhere in this city and elsewhere in the country. Thank you very much Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I will be speaking on minute 130 about the Woodland Creation. Thank you Councillor Golton for earlier this afternoon allowing me to mention again and again the climate emergency. The proposals for the woodland creation are of course encouraging and yes of course they are a part of our city's response to the climate emergency and I know I'm aware that many Councillors have been very keen to have their constituents to help to plant trees. So this is an excellent initiative and it seems from from a practical point of view, yes of course we need trees, however there needs to be a supply for them in the first place we're only yet less than a year into the climate emergency.

I also welcome the fact that this is about involving education and also the community in the whole thing. However trees take a long time to grow and therefore it's important to think about the climate, the canopy cover that is provided. So we need to also think about the canopy cover that we have at the moment and cutting down trees of course is something that we need to think about whether it is necessary in planning and so on. However there seems to be an idea that somehow planting trees is a way that we can offset the carbon emissions that we are producing. I'm sorry, Councillor Buckley, but the most important thing we need to do to tackle the climate emergency is to leave fossil fuels in the ground we cannot think that planting trees is going to be a way of managing the climate crisis that we are in.

Just to get some perspective on this it would take an area one and a half times the size of Leeds planted with trees to offset the emissions from Leeds

Bradford Airport. So let's get the bigger economic scale here so I've brought in about Leeds Bradford Airport a decision that was made this week. Just to remind you that airport expansion is not compatible with tackling climate change.

At that point I'm going to stop what I was going to say, I hadn't actually prepared a speech so thank you very much for allowing me to actually say this without a prepared speech. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I ask Councillor Rafique to now sum up.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you for your comments and I think generally everybody welcomes both reports and I'll start with Councillor Robinson. I think you're quite right Councillor Robinson that we are probably one of the only authority may be in the country with the Arium Plant Nursery where which puts us actually ahead of the curve in terms of planting whips and producing saplings and that's exactly what we plan to do for planting next winter over the course of coming months this year and your quite right I think this isn't as far as TRO's are concerned, as far as tree planting's concerned we will be you know talking to members with Traffic Regulation Orders, you know we've done that before but before anything's done we'll talk to all ward Members, if you don't want anything then it won't go in your ward, if you want something adding we haven't got a list you know that hence included in the Executive Board report but that would be produced from previous conversations but also will those members who haven't actually come back to us so far with any areas they want to include we will talk to them so rest assured we will do that. As far as tree planting concern I think there's a variety of ways we can do that and that could be through Community Committees, through individual you know ward Members, so again that will happen and we will identify areas and there will be instances where ward Members actually identify a site which might not be suitable. So that's where we need to kind of you know move forward and by consultation and working together.

Councillor Collins your absolutely right there is an issue about resource and you do know where we stand with the funding cuts we had in excessive of two hundred and sixty odd millions over the course of coalition in the last government. I hope you know you will help us to lobby this government to give us more money towards this very crucial and important initiative to deal with climate change. Now as far as you know your point about times taken to do TRO's I think we started some work, John Woolmer wrote to everybody sort of back end of last summer, spoken to many, had one to one meetings with a lot of Members and we've taken a report to Executive Board and that will as a result of that we will move forward with further consultations with Members.

We've actually, with regard to your point about funding for the tree cover we're actually set aside already £350m for us to kind of plant 2.8m trees over the course of next twenty five years, we need £350m, £355,000 a year to do that and we're actually, Executive Board report actually cleared that for us to move forward. But we could do with more money, money is actually something we could actually do with to make us a great progress on this very important initiative.

Councillor Forsaith absolutely right I think that the Executive Board clearly states that we need to educate our people in schools, work with schools but also involve people from our communities as well, volunteers, we can't do this on our own I think there are people out there who want to be involved, who want to help us do this and I think that's exactly what we want to do and your knowledge, expertise, your contacts in the communities will be crucial in engaging with people in your areas.

Councillor Buckley well it's a huge, you mentioned it is a huge project and I do agree with you and that takes planning, consultation, funding and involving everybody as well so hence it's taking a few months and you'll appreciate that you know we, you know we've made a very good and steady progress in a matter of a few months on this and this will continue by working with everybody, all the elected Members and all residents in the city.

OK Councillor Anderson you mentioned about little discussion so far again I mean as I said before we've actually, have written to everybody you know and will do that again you know, this is not something we're going to do very lightly I think this is one of those areas where you know you could add, remove the TRO's as and when required. No we can't actually, unless the TRO's are in place we can't ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: Can't do enforcement.

So and finally Councillor Wadsworth I am glad you are talking about tree planting because usually when you ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

Come and see me apart from the last meeting you want to talk about tree cuttings ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Rafique.

COUNCILLOR RAFIQUE: OK thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, thank you for all the contributions this afternoon it's actually been a very serious Council, we've picked up on some really important matters that are facing us not only in the short term but in the longer term as well and I hope that we continue to treat with great seriousness all of the issues that we've raised today although I was going to make reference to the magic money tree needed I thought we were getting to that point when we were talking about special types of fertiliser but I think we'll move on. What I do want to say about trees because actually trees are fundamental to so many of the improvements that we want to make to the environment to our health needs and I think when you actually look at the number of trees that we need to plant and

mitigate the impacts of climate change then one thing we know is that the council can't do it on its own and it's absolutely crucial that we work with all of our partners, look at all of the different opportunities that we have to encourage people to use their own land to plant trees and give the assistance where we can.

Actually Councillor Collins I think your point is actually well made but you know in terms of needing more people to help in that department but you know again that comes down to the fundamentals of the settlement you know is the local government department at Whitehall actually understanding what a climate emergency means and the fact that they need to put more resource in to help us to support the real challenges that we've got in moving forward.

I want to thank everyone for the really heartfelt contributions around child poverty. I think it's probably if we look back over the last several years of debate in this Council one of the areas that we have highlighted, addressed, looked at how we can resolve the situation that as we have heard an increasing number of families are facing an increasing number of children right across our communities and I think as Councillor Dye said you can actually feel it, you can feel it when you go out and when you talking to people just the incredible struggle that so many people are facing and the heartbreaking choices that people are having to make in their everyday lives about how they spend the limited amount of money that they have and when you hear from teachers the first hand reports from children in terms of how they are being impacted by this is just something that every one of us should have at the forefront of our thinking in the decisions that we make. You know Parklands is an extraordinary example in terms of the work that the school is doing within the community you know that the work that Chris Dyson as Head has done to bring families in over Christmas providing presents, all of those things and of course we knew a lot about Parklands from Councillor former Councillor Graham Hyde who was very active in that school for many many years and I'm sure he still is but the other point and this is the thing when you go into Parklands School is the work that he has done to raise the self esteem of young people in his school and they have gone from been the worst performer in maths education to one of the top nationally through the work that he's done with the timetables in particular. I urge any of you who don't know about this work to go and see what is actually done and the biggest thing for me been concerned about particularly young lads falling behind in education this Headteacher has made it cool to study maths. It is extraordinary how he has done it and I think you know there are obviously other examples around the city of fantastic practice in appalling circumstances and people really rising up and above and beyond what they're asked to do if you look at it in a pure contractual basis. So we need to recognise that extraordinary work, give credit where it's due but really reinforce our commitment to doing everything that we can to make sure that schools get the the funding they need that they're not faced with losing classroom support assistants that their not having to make the really difficult decisions that mean so many children don't get the the richness of the educational experience that they should.

I do want to reference that the debate that we had on the Safeguarding Children's Annual Report and actually I don't want to lose what the outgoing Chair Mark Peel said at Executive Board and I ask all of you to look at it on the webcast actually in his recognition over the last five years is it that he's been with us, just

in the work, the depth of the work that we're doing in Leeds, the incredible contribution from everyone across the service working together as one with our partners and he goes around the country and looks in depth at other departments and his real praise of the incredible work that we do in very difficult circumstances should not be lost by the debate that we've had today.

I am also delighted that Jasvinder has agreed to be the new chair and I know that she will be very open to picking up the issues that have been raised here today and actually Councillor Carter's not here but I think some of the reaction to what has been said from the Conservative side is because I'm not 100% sure that they actually fully understand the different types of provision that are being discussed here and it's just they've, I think they're confused because it is an incredibly confusing situation, this is the fragmentation of education at its very worst and its young vulnerable children who are losing out through this fragmentation and I along with all parties and the Local Government Association are urging government to give more control back to Local Authorities we have ...

(Applause)

We have, we have the statutory responsibility for safeguarding for children in this city through our Executive Member, Councillor Venner, and through the Director of Children's Services. How difficult is it, it's the same with school funding everything were being asked to do without the powers and the resource to be able to do it but we pick up the responsibility, we don't mind that responsibility but let's have a level playing field where we have the means to be able to do what we're doing so let's have that discussion, we've got nothing to hide about it at all, we would welcome a spotlight being shone on some of the areas of practice that we need to look at but most importantly that we have access to children to make sure that we can fulfill our safeguarding obligations and I really regret the tone that has been taken with regards to the report into the inspection of the Youth Justice Service. Do you know what we didn't have to bring that report to Executive Board, that is the truth, we didn't need to bring it but Councillor Venner said she wanted to have that spotlight shone on it and she was absolutely clear in Executive Board that there are areas that we need to look at, governance for example, but you're missing the point. Leeds is regarded as the leader, one of the leaders of best practice in this area in the country and we feel we have a responsibility if the inspection regime is not up to speed with the change of thinking of how we actually work in this area we have a responsibility to work with them to bring the improvements that we need to bring, we won't shy away from that and I'm glad that the review is up and running and that we will be taking part in that and also thank you Councillor Venner for your comments around historic sexual abuse. This is one of the areas of talking about areas of shame, this is an area of shame for the whole of this country and more and more episodes keep coming to light and I want to reassure everyone as Councillor Venner did, that we take our responsibility in this area very seriously indeed and we won't shy away from looking into every case that comes before us and making sure that the Safeguarding Board has every bit of information to be able to take this important work forward. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now call for a vote on the motion to receive the minutes. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

We'll now break for break. We'll be back in the Chamber for ten to five.

THE LORD MAYOR: It's quiet in here isn't it. OK, before the start of the meeting. Excuse me is everyone ready. Yes before the start of the meeting I'd just like to say welcome to Councillor Field, really nice to have you back with us and I wish you all the best. Also welcome to Linda Richard's our new Councillor on the (inaudible) bench, welcome.

Again my, earlier my briefing note admits me that Ali Akbar from Unity House also received an OBE which he absolutely well deserved so congratulations to Ali.

(Applause)

### **ITEM 10 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS**

THE LORD MAYOR: So we will go straight on to Item 10 and it's Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm moving the report into Devolved Matters. Obviously we have had the General Election campaign right up until Christmas so no real significant progress to report in terms of conversations with the different Ministers around devolution from our point of view. We've asked for further meetings, we've sent a whole raft of letters as you can imagine to the Prime Minister as I said earlier to the Secretary of State for Environment, the Local Government Secretary of State, the Northern Powerhouse minister and as we'll go on to discuss a lot of correspondence between ourselves and different parts of the Department for Transport. We had a Yorkshire Leader's meeting last Friday just catching up and recognising the significance of the General Election and what that means for the One Yorkshire Devolution. I think it's fair to say that whilst recognising our ambition to continue working towards One Yorkshire, the lack of enthusiasm from the current Minister's is quite clear to behold so where I outlined before I think, where you know the plan in terms of coming up with interim deals across Yorkshire was discussed at the Yorkshire Leaders Board and all the areas of Yorkshire are really keen that we all move forward together at pace and I think certainly East Yorkshire and Hull feel that they've been left behind somewhat in the discussions and we're not clear of the relationship where York wants to sit with regard to North Yorkshire so some pieces of work still to do. What we did agree though is that we would rewrite again to the Prime Minister, tell him that we really welcomed his comments at the Northern Convention back in the autumn about giving support to the Yorkshire Leaders Board through what he called the Yorkshire Committee and we've written to him asking how he's going to make that a reality and what sort of funding he's going to give us because there is no doubt at all that there are some issues at a Yorkshire, that would benefit from work at a Yorkshire level. Climate emergency

being top of the list and all of the work around the Industrial Strategy, Green New Deal, Energy, all of the things that contributes to that.

Clearly a lot of work to do in the post Brexit or the next phase of Brexit if you like in terms of giving support to businesses right across the region.

Tourism, obviously we've got a new Chief Exec, a new Chair of Welcome to Yorkshire and there's a lot of enthusiasm and energy about expanding the remit of Welcome to Yorkshire in really recognising just how significant tourism is to our economy and the whole world of transport. Clearly we have our local input into transport schemes but it's very clear that a regional voice would be very helpful particularly when we're going forward and working with our colleagues from North West and the North East as well as the rest of the the North.

So I have heard that there is an email has just come through proposing a date for Jake Berry and Simon Clarke from Treasury to come up to see us, I'm not sure if those dates work for everyone but it does suggest that discussions around devolution to Leeds City Council are ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: On their agenda and we look forward to engaging with them on it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've got to say I welcome the available update from Leader. I've got to say I'm somewhat disappointed not necessarily in what we're doing at our end but the response from government. I think it's important we move forward, I think, I say to the Leader from the Green Group's perspective you've got our support in what you're trying to do across the region and let's hope in the next couple of months we can move it further forward. Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter, Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. What the Leader omitted to inform Council is that the Sheffield City Region have virtually concluded their deal with the government, an announcement was made today that the four Council Leaders in South Yorkshire and the Mayor of Sheffield and Doncaster is it, no Rotherham, have now agreed a path forward for a South Yorkshire City Region deal there's more detail available on that if people want to search for it which means that, is that good for us. In some ways probably yes

and in other ways probably no. They are now firmly in front of us which is not good in my view so I know that and you all know that the West Yorkshire Leaders or Labour Leaders have been discussing a West Yorkshire only deal that is not a Leeds City Region deal. My concern is that a West Yorkshire only deal sells Leeds short because it doesn't represent our economic footprint and we're still back to the same problem of North Yorkshire. The government are committed to publishing a White Paper this year on devolution and they are committed to devolution full stop and made that extremely clear in our manifesto. Meaning increased powers and funding, more democratic responsibility and accountability and they remain committed to the Northern Powerhouse, to Midlands Engine and Western Gateway strategies along with a lot else and we are committed to that sort of devolution too. We need to now move at pace to find out what the government is prepared to include in a White Paper, are they prepared to move in front of a White Paper as regards our particular area but speed is now of the essence because it seems to me that the Sheffield City Region will qualify for a lot of funding and we need to make sure that we qualify on the same basis for a large amount of funding so a lot needs to be done but the results of the General Election has cleared minds in all sorts of directions, not just Brexit but devolution as well. We now know roughly the direction of travel in terms of of devolution and with a bit of good will we might actually get there and achieve it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks Lord Mayor. Well the people of Yorkshire have a direction of travel for devolution and unfortunately the government just wasn't interested in listening to it and now it's back to the same old arguments about what geography should be there, is it West Yorkshire, is it Leeds City Region. All this talk about stuff like the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse no one knows where one starts and the other one finishes, it's absolutely ridiculous and actually for the public out there I'm surprised they don't switch off actually which is a shame because everything that we've been discussing today is all about how we best make sure that we make decisions that suit the needs of the people that we represent and devolution is our best way of achieving that at pace. One of the things I think we can all agree on I think is the word speed, we've all talked about speed this afternoon in terms of what we want back. The document that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has produced I found very little to fault it, I'm a bit like Craig Revel Horwood when it comes to Council documents but on this one it was just gorgeous and it did actually put everything that we want in plain simple language that everyone can understand and actually more importantly that the government can understand and they were very simple asks and especially around the issues of transport mass transit. We had everyone and and they're mate turning up saying oh we must have mass transit in Leeds during the election campaign, only how can Leeds be the only city in Western Europe without a mass transit system and I was pointing at the television going you, you're the reason why we haven't got the mass transit system, your the people who've been making decisions for the past decade or so. So the ask in here in particular for £20m for us to say all right then you give us the resources for us to actually put together a mass transit system that we think suits

our needs, great that's a really good gesture from the centre that they are serious about releasing the resource that we do need to have a decent transport system in this area and let's see what comes back from that because at the moment all we've had so far is the £4.2b that was announced while they were traipsing the streets of Pudsey and then we discovered that this was a general fund that lots of people can bid into and we're really sick and tired of the municipal beauty parade that has to happen when you have to bid into a pot of money that they say is hundreds of millions and then you find out the only qualify for about sixty of it especially at a time when other areas are already benefiting from Mayoral Devolution deals and if they are serious as representatives of communities in the Yorkshire area of listening and knowing that people have lent them their vote then they should listen to the aspirations of the people of Yorkshire, they should have delivered a Yorkshire Devolution deal but if they think they've got a better idea that delivers solutions more quickly then let them get on with it to let us get on with it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. We're big fans of devolution we certainly believe that decisions and the cash should be passed down to the most local level it is part of our essential political DNA. What we would say in terms of this particular report is that HS2, a bullet needs to be put in the brain of this white elephant at this particular point and I hope the government have the strength to come to that particular conclusion. We are big fans of HS3 Morley directly benefits from HS3 and I think you can see the economic benefits of HS3.

Most of it is directed at our Conservative colleagues over there. You and Wakefield and Morley, you and Dewsbury are a blue collar Tory voter and their expectations are that you will spend more money in, you will spend more money in the North and start to make sure that things work more appropriately whether that's the railways, whether that's the roads, whether that's the bus service and ultimately they've lent you their vote for a five year period and expect you to actually deliver on it. So at the end of the day we don't want to be sat here in eighteen months, two years time with absolutely nothing changing when we're still bickering about who should or shouldn't be in charge of what happens locally.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor and while we wait for devolution we still have to go and jump through the hoops, sorry, of bidding for money so we've just recently submitted a bid for half a billion from the Transforming Cities fund. We've tried to meet all the criterias that the government wanted, there's some excellent schemes in there, what will it deliver. If Boris is true to his word and he wants to invest in the North then he could do it as early as February or March by announcing the half a billion for two new bus park and rides, six new and improved bus stations, eight hundred cycle parking spaces, six

key priority bus routes, improvements to seven rail stations and one new station in Leeds along with high quality routes for cycling. We've truly heard that we are successful in Transforming Cities bid but I don't hold my breath. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you. I think all of the issues that you've raised are ones that we discussed at the Yorkshire Leaders Board and I think there is a real, real disappointment, dissatisfaction you know regardless of political affiliation I think you know we've made a very strong case for Yorkshire, it makes sense, it gets away from all of these issues that Councillor Carter raised about geography and about which bit goes where and having to come up with different arrangements so that we keep the integrity of the financial basis of Leeds City Region which has proved to be very successful including Harrogate, Craven, Selby and indeed York so I'm more than happy to continue those conversations with you and obviously you've got former colleagues back in Westminster and that could be an interesting shift in dynamic as well because we know that the reason we lost the Leeds City Region deal before was because the certain MPs in West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire went to George Osborne and just said over our dead bodies, we're just not going to entertain a Leeds City Region footprint so more than happy to pick those up.

And thanks to Councillor Groves for all the work that you've done on the the bid for transforming communities and this is the really galling thing because it is a competitive bid so we have absolutely no idea what we're going to get out of it, we know there's a finite pot and that we will be up against schemes from around the country and that just doesn't give us the certainty we need, what we need is exactly as you say we need to know how much money we have got coming into our area or how we're are going to spend and by when and we don't have that certainty and it is that insult really of telling us that you know that the decisions been made on the basis of your deprivation is worse than our deprivation and all of those things that we've just got to move on from this and come up with a really mature way of funding the really big projects that we need to see, we know the difference that investing in those transport schemes will make to our communities to the people in our region and you know Robert all I'll say to you is don't sell us short, we need it all. The minute anything falls over on our system victorian antiquated rail system, the whole lot grinds to a halt. We need investment in new rail and I believe we need the HS2 coming up linking with Northern Powerhouse Rail, the engineering it's all integrated and then freeing up the capacity and making sure that we get the services we need running on across the network. There reason rail is falling over at the moment is too many trains are being forced onto two narrow tracks there just isn't the capacity there and we need to deliver it and we need to deliver it quickly.

(Applause)

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

## **ITEM 11 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – TRANSPORT IN THE CITY**

THE LORD MAYOR: We move on to Item 11 that's the first White Paper motion in Transport in our City in the name of Councillor Carter. Councillor Carter

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Well since we were here last time a number of things have changed. The first thing is of course we have a Conservative government with a thumping majority ...

(Cheers and applause)

and to coin a phrase the people have been well and truly turned off by the Liberal Democrats.

(Background talking)

One thing is certain there is now a singular opportunity for the first time in a long time for us to have an imaginative and integrated transport system in this city and in this city region that bring brings us into the twenty first century. Surely we are all agreed on that. Councillor Golton, his history is very faulty I have to say. He goes on about the reasons we didn't get mass transit before, well let me remind you. We first of all we'd Supertram which we inherited from Keith Wakefield, your former colleague and I which we brought to the brink of delivery when I went to visit the Secretary of State, one Alistair Darling, who said sorry we're not giving you the money, go away and think of a bus scheme. I tried to point out that we needed modal shift. He wasn't listening. Unfortunately his ear had been bent by the then Chief Executive of First Bus. So then we came back and we started on NGT. My view all along was that should start from scratch but I was dissuaded as was Councillor Wakefield, came up with NGT and went to a Public Inquiry with thousands of objectors, there was never a hope in hell that it would be agreed by a Transport Inspector. So we lost again. First a Labour Secretary of State then a Labour Council. Well now we have a major opportunity. What has this government done. Pledge £4.2b for transport schemes in the North but more than that and most importantly they have changed Treasury rules, not before time. Blair didn't do it, Brown didn't do it, Cameron and Clegg didn't do it, May didn't do it, Boris has said he will and I'll say hear and now he'd better because it simply isn't right that gross value added is used to look at the viability of schemes and there is no consideration as to whether those schemes would close the gap economically between North and South and with the new system that should be taken into account and I hope it will and if that's the case that the £100m that's been pledged for infrastructure over the next five years is a massive amount of money. Yes I want to see us come forward on a West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire basis with a mass transit system, I want to see a modern twenty first century system, I want to see it linking all parts of the Leeds City Region economy because that's essential but it has to be integrated and that means there has to be thought given, we're fairly critical in the White Paper of a bus only system. I'm very critical of it I'll tell you now I think we're squandering a large amount of the £173m that the Conservative government gave to us in lieu of the collapsed NGT, it has to be something a lot more ambitious.

Just to turn to rail I agree with you Judith but you know we enlarged the car park at New Pudsey station, it was full the minute it was enlarged We got a new station Apperley Bridge, the state the car park's full again. What have we done at Calverley and Rodley where we used to have an excellent station, we sold off the piece of land, you sold off the piece of land that could have been the park and ride for another railway station yet it's time for some joined up strategic thinking that links us, mass transit and train and until we do that we're not going to have a fully integrated transport system but now is the opportunity with money available for an ambitious programme but let's do it all together not just piecemeal, pick up the big issues that are facing this city and the rest of the city region. I move the resolution  
Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley to second.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, thank you Lord Mayor and in seconding this motion let's just remind ourselves what Leeds is and some facts and figures about the place that we live. It's nearly 800,000 people, there are three million people in the city region, two million people extra people in West Yorkshire and Leeds is the powerhouse of the city region and the West Yorkshire and it's the most successful free enterprise city in England outside London. Modern industries and it's got a great workforce these are all givens and it's all good news. But Leeds is the biggest city in Western Europe without a mass transit transit scheme and it regularly succumbs to this situation of gridlock. I remember this well the recent, the latest one because on the 22nd November I was on New Station Street I wanted to leave there at five o'clock and I got home at seven and it had just involved two minor accidents and some poor soul had fallen from a bridge. Well it just is frail, the system is frail and therefore it fails us and as Councillor Carter has said buses alone cannot cope with this and they cannot deliver alone what people actually want. Now the £250m or whatever the final figure will be that's been spent on bus lanes and cycle lanes and lord knows what. It's all to the good, some of it will do good but it smacks a little bit of make do and mend, you know if we're talking, that side wants to talk about austerity all the time well let's have another wartime phrase make do and mend and outside London, outside London bus usage is going down and despite what Councillor Illingworth goes on and on about there is no comparison between Leeds and London because they are ten times the size. It's a totally different situation and at least, at least one of our so called bus partners is about to ride off into the sunset personal agreement or no personal agreement and let's not forget that this city is beset by air quality problems and has declared a climate emergency.

Now as we've just heard there is £4.2b which has been declared but it will end up been much more than that, lots of figures have been talked about this could well end up been £100b. OK it might be across the North of England, it might include other places, it will be an awful lot of money and it's quite right, I've just forgotten now who mentioned this but the former Labour seats who've lent us their votes, well yes they have these are our new heartlands this is the new blue wall and we intend to actually sort out the transport system on their behalf. So this White Paper urges the administration to grasp this nettle and move on from

make do and mend and stop reinforcing failure that's one of the phrases I learnt early on in my business career, somebody said to me when I was doing some, don't reinforce failure and the buses in many respects are just that. You might be able to level them off, you might be able to make it not go down in terms of patronage, you're not going to do much more than that.

So this city needs to produce the plans may be in conjunction with WYCA and so on and then say to the government give us the money and we will do the job.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I move the amendment in my name. Basically while I was always sceptical about Supertram as Councillor Carter knows when we were in the cabinet together. It is not, I was not entirely against, it was that it was not a system for the whole city and I believe and always have believed that we need some kind of system for the whole city but to make it work, if you look at Manchester and their tram system why did that work, because it was based on infrastructure that was disused or hardly used and they took over and if you look at the rapid transit system they built in Tyne and Wear probably forty odd years ago now which incidentally and it's a bit like déjà vu if you've gone to county council meeting when it was first born in the seventies there was an actual plan to take all that infrastructure and actually build the West Yorkshire Rapid Transport System but unfortunately there was a change of power but I won't mention who got in as a result of that.

But the fact is we've got to use that infrastructure. Sadly a lot of its gone, the most obvious place where you need something is the old Wetherby railwayline. That's where the East Leeds extension is. Unfortunately we've taken railway bridges out, we've built houses in the way, but surely somehow or other we can use some of that infrastructure to actually deliver something and by doing that deliver it a lot cheaper than we would do starting from scratch. So basically that's why put I the amendment in to do that. What we have to do is we have to use what infrastructure we can, we've got to think things through, we've got to take people with us which Supertram and the Trolleybus never did do and we've got to build, we've got to put the structures in there where it's going to do some good and to quote somebody who was here earlier on today, Tom Leadley, it's got to go from somewhere to somewhere. So it's like Leeds to Bradford or Leeds to York or Leeds to Harrogate, that's what it's got to do and it's got to deliver on that.

So I can give an undertaking that if something goes forward on this basis we in the Green Group will support it but what we will not support is if a report comes back and it is Supertram mark three because that was a disaster. It takes so long to do this in fact to actually put this into operation will take us beyond our climate change targets so it's something for the long term future really not for the next ten years. But the thing is if we're going to do it let's do it, let's do it right and let's do it the right way and if we do that I can support that. I will ask you to

support me, support my amendment in that what that does is that does take in to consider a commitment that we will use that disused infrastructure. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Forsaith to second.

COUNCILLOR FORSAITH: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am speaking in support of the amendment. There seems little point in continuing to bemoan the fact that Leeds does not have a mass transit system. We are where we are in the middle of a climate emergency with a large part of our population still accepting as normal, sitting in their car in traffic queues each and every day and using their cars as their first transport choice. Transport contributes 36% to the carbon emissions in the city therefore we need to decarbonise the transport system and to decarbonise very quickly but West Yorkshire Combined Authority is only now starting to develop a mass transit system. The mass transit systems have a very long leading time as we've heard and current plans would not deliver this in time to reach the 2030 zero carbon target for our city therefore all possible interim options have got to be considered and several implanted and quickly. But currently the West Yorkshire Transport Plan aims to deliver a 15% decrease in car use which is massively short as a reduction in car use that is needed. This figure is also in stark contrast to what the recent Citizens Jury said in the first of its twelve recommendations that extensive positive action is taken to make the use of private cars a last resort for transportation. The Citizens Jury was a diverse group made up of twenty five people that was reduced to twenty one, some left, carefully chosen to be representative of all sections of the Leeds population. They also recommended that Leeds City Council stopped support for Leeds Bradford Airport expansion and in the climate emergency update report we've also got with respect to aviation the Council accepts that aviation growth that meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible. So the main argument in favour of airport expansion and many other things is flawed, economic growth itself is not compatible with tackling climate change. Therefore the continuous et mantra of economic growth however we might like to dress it up must be challenged if we are serious about tackling the climate chaos at increasingly upon us. Circular economies yes, growth economies no. So we don't need a station to serve as the airport and the new employment hub there, we need to sort out our travel problems in this city right now. As an initial solution we should open railway stations close to where people currently live and work and where they will use them, ie along existing or disused lines. Whilst electric vehicles seem to be the solution private electric cars will not solve the congestion problems and it's an equality issue as well as most people can't afford to switch.

A major part of the solution however is behaviour change. Several members of the Citizens Jury told us at the launch in November of changes that they made in their lives since they'd found out about how serious the problem of climate change is. So in closing I will say climate emergency again. A term barely heard a year ago. Emergencies require immediate action this motion as amended does give some sense of urgency to the matter. The WYCA communication to the Prime Minister says in regards to the climate emergency that we need to go further and faster, secure the funding in the next ten years. I

trust that the proposers of this motion will use all possible influence with the government to secure the funding for the mass transit solutions that are needed here in Leeds. Please support this amendment.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley to move the second.

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor and I am proposing the second amendment of this White Paper. I think looking at the White Paper and looking at the three amendments as general agreement I think. People would say why wouldn't we want a mass transit system, we all know and experience congestion and the problems it's caused not just in the city but you get one accident or one breakdown or something in the city and the consequences move right outside it, they move up the Harrogate Road up the Otley Road etc. So I think there's acceptance there and the impact of poor air quality is now recognised, it is recognised widely that congestion causing poor air quality causing health inequality etc. It's taken a long time for the government and for this administration to come round to doing something about that but we are doing about it now and mass transit, a mass transit scheme is part of the solution so I don't think anyone is disagreeing with that at all after the reasons we've often rehearsed. But we all know that even if all of Councillor Carter's optimism is fulfilled and all of Boris Johnson's promises are delivered we're not going to get a mass transit system any time soon.

Councillor Blackburn mentioned it as well. You know we're talking about this being delivered well outside the scope of when we have the real consequences of climate emergency. We know the examples of delays with these big ticket schemes, HS2, Crossrail, Heathrow Terminal 5 they all take much longer and cost a lot more than was originally anticipated and unless you abandon things like public consultation, planning laws and all that sort of thing and make it a real emergency with emergency powers it's going to take a long time and climate change won't wait. So we need to be doing other things as well, not instead of but as well as, things that are quicker to implement, under our control where we don't have to necessarily go to Whitehall for the money and relatively inexpensive to implement and there are some things that mass transit won't address. The problems caused by the school run in terms of congestion in terms of air quality, a mass transit system probably won't address that but we could take some imaginative short term, easily deliverable hard decisions when you're dealing with parents at school but that's what climate budgets should be leading to. More park and ride, again we probably have more control of that and something that a lot of, well many councils are now looking at is keeping traffic out of the city to a workplace parking levy and it produces immediate revenue and employers who provide parking spaces for their employees pay a levy effectively at Council Tax on the parking space that is ring fenced and it goes into public transport, could go into some of the short term measures whilst we wait for the mass transit system to come along. Nottingham has a scheme like this, it generated £25m over the first three years. Birmingham is just promoting a scheme it's just gone to their Executive Board I think and they are looking at something like five or six million pounds a year to be generated by that. I'm not

saying that's going to be the answer but it is something we have got to be looking at in conjunction with long term issue. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton to second.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. It's difficult to actually instill what you want to discuss in this White Paper and what you might want to discuss in the next White Paper but I would say that the next White Paper is far more concerned with buses. But buses are pertinent to this imaginative scheme that Councillor Carter is putting forward. One of the things that I find frustrating is Councillor Carter is critical of other schemes that have gone before where we've all actually got behind them because that was the scheme that was at hand and was available to us and that government was wanting to talk to us about at the time but the imaginative scheme that's the alternative that you think is supposed to there you don't really know what it looks like other than it needs to be integrated which we all want but it needs to involve trains, it needs to involve buses and the other thing which is the mass transit but we don't know it looks like and this is part of the problem and also the mass transit system, we always think they're going to be the solution to traffic and as Councillor Bentley has pointed out already people make lots of smaller journeys and their entire lives aren't spent just going in and out of town. They actually might want to go to another part of town at some point and they have relatives that are more dispersed these days than they used to and they need to keep in touch and the problem with our transport system is its very hub and bespoke and we need to have a few more concentric circles like the London system has in terms of the circle line and maybe some of that cross, like crossrail making sure people get from one side to the other without actually going through the middle.

All of the things that we, also is key about mass transit systems is without the devolution and the flexibility offered to us by central government when we're looking at what we want and our version. We are going to end up with a system which potentially is elitist because a lot of the language in the past has always been how do we get middle class people out of their cars because you know they won't want to mix on normal transport with normal people and mass transit needs to be really posh and you know sleek and that's how you get modal shift. Well actually if we want modal shift one of the things we need is that whatever system is introduced it's not about how sleek it is it's about how frequent is and it's about how affordable it is and that involves very serious public enterprise Councillor Buckley, I know you were talking about Leeds being a free enterprise city well I'm not sure where your measurement comes from but public enterprise is what is needed if we're going to get something serious to enable free enterprise to happen because if we can make our workforce spend less of their money on their transport then actually they'll feel free about consuming some of those activities that are there in the wider economy. So I think that's that's one of the key issues and the problem for us at the moment is with the privatised bus transport system that we've got, especially in areas like mine, we know that they're going, they say well you haven't got enough mass in mass transit to actually make us give you cheaper tickets so actually we'll offer them somewhere else where there's a bit

more competition but you your monopoly we'll charge you what you like and actually in terms of frequency of the buses going through your area we won't give you many of them either, so tough but we'll stick loads on the on the Headingley run because there's plenty of students on there and they'll pay the money. So what we need is a little bit more fairness in that and you don't get that through the current unregulated privatised service and as for the integration that Councillor Carter wants, we do want to be integrated with railways but we want railways that actually work and I can assure you no amount of integration into the Woodlesford station in my ward is going to make that service any more palatable and get anybody out of their car.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to move the third amendment.

THE LORD MAYOR: Yes I think I agree with the others that trying to discuss everything we need to do in four minutes is just an impossibility but we do have the opportunity to go over into the next White Paper and I'm sure some of the issues that have been raised will be picked up in that. I found it extraordinary listening to Andrew Carter actually on this subject because I think you have a fairly selective memory in terms of what happened but I'm just intrigued actually as to what you've been told, what money are we expecting, you seem very confident that we're going to get some money. What we know is that we've been promised so many things before time and time again, money schemes, things going to be up and running, you only have to look at the electrification of the transpennine line for example still waiting for that, the investment in Leeds City Station running way behind time, the new platform, extending the platforms you know it's fine talking about opening new stations, new rail halts which I think we'd all agree with where we can where things haven't been sold off but actually there's no capacity at Leeds City Station. Leeds station is the busiest station in the North of England well over thirty million passengers a year go through and the reckoning is if we don't address this the way that the services are expanding it isn't going to be functionally able to operate within six years. That is no time at all so we need to make sure that all of the elements of the transport department are working together to get the infrastructure improvements in place. There's no point allowing, encouraging train operators to have longer trains if we don't have the platforms that can accommodate them for example. But I'm just intrigued by the comparison with London which bit of privatisation do you not understand here Councillor Buckley you know transport for the Transport for London the buses are regulated and they own all of the tube network. Bring it on, that's what I say bring it on that's what we would love to see. You know in terms of of devolution, in terms of what we're going to talk about next, in terms of taking back ownership of the buses providing what we always talk about, services, bus services they should be there for the needs of the people that use them at the moment that is so far from the truth and integration all the way through is the thing.

What none of us have discussed yet is how do we really remove the need for people to get into a car in the first place at all because at the evidence suggests once people get in a car they're less likely to get out if it's pouring down with rain, if there's any problems if they're listening to something on the radio, now

people talk on their phones if there already in the car what we need to do is have a revolution in terms of local schemes out in our communities getting people into forms of transport that will then get them to the transport hubs that can help them to move about and I think the thing that we haven't emphasised enough that we need to do much more of is active travel, cycling, walking etc.

We recognise the YP campaign. Actually I think it's a really important campaign. What we do know is that public opinion wasn't with us on NGT or Supertram. We have to get out and perhaps talking to Councillor Mulherin, Councillor Walshaw about how we could use a similar approach with the Citizens Jury on the climate emergency for a specific one on how we can change the public, you know the way they move about what will they do to actually get out of cars and stop relying on their cars. That is the absolute thing but mass transit is one thing but the congestions figures from the National Infrastructure Committee actually congestion is worse in Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: And Nottingham they have all got trams, congestion is worse there than it is here in Leeds so we have to have a much bigger think about the transport needs of our City. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm happy to second Councillor Blake's amendment. We're all agreed in this Chamber that Leeds needs to see a transformation in public transport provision. After repeated cancellations of mass transit proposals by national government we're finally seeing work to improve the reliability of the public transport we have across the city giving buses priority on main road routes and the creation of park and ride facilities alongside the opening and development of new rail stations. We've been given a very narrow window of opportunity in which to invest the funding that the Leader of Council managed to secure for the city following the cancellation of the trolleybus scheme and that has intensified the period of disruption that comes with any major infrastructure change.

I'd like to thank everyone who has been affected by delays over recent weeks for their patience and understanding whilst the work that is underway to produce medium and longer term benefits for the city is carried out. It's wrong to call for change without acknowledging that it will have short term impacts on all of our lives. It's important to remember that there are reasons we are doing this and those reasons are to improve the connectivity of our city for everyone alongside improving the quality of air that we breathe and helping to meet the commitments we've made to tackle the climate emergency. We want to take citizens in Leeds with us on that journey and I think it's an absolutely great idea from Councillor Blake that we actually take the Citizens Jury approach into how we actually work with the citizens of Leeds about the sorts of transformation that they would like to see.

We've made some great strides in recent years when it comes to transport projects which in no way are wholly reliant on the bus. We've seen the rail station open at Kirkstall Forge, Leeds Station Southern entrance open and we're working with the Combined Authority on proposals for three more rail stations in Leeds. To have the step change we need in rail connectivity we need the government to fully commit to HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail together. Whilst also finally making line improvements that were promised years ago and the transformation of Leeds City Station as well with the platform improvements we need as the Leader has already said to enable the services that we want to see provided across our city to actually have to stop and take on and let off passengers in the centre of the city to address the capacity issues we currently have. We're working together with partners to deliver more cycle super highways and segregated cycling routes as well as planning for even more so that in future there is no part of the city you can't safely reach on a bike. We're looking into detailed plans for how we can support people making shorter journeys on foot and how we can make places more people focused. Part of that is making our public spaces more pleasant and greener and pedestrianising more visitor centre which will also help to increase our cities tree coverage.

It's important however that we acknowledge that the buses are very important to Leeds, they are important in any public transport future for the city. They have to be an affordable, sustainable and reliable service that anyone can use. Unfortunately we do not have that here in Leeds at the present and it's doubtful we will until we have a service that is brought back into public ownership. In the meantime we are working with the bus operators and striving to improve the network through changes to road layouts and junctions that enable buses to cut through traffic. We've introduced park and ride sites at Elland Road and Temple Green both of which have been so successful they have been extended already. We're out on site delivering a new park and ride at Stourton along with corridor improvements to help existing services improve reliability. We've also consulted on proposals for park and ride in the north of the city in Alwoodley and have plans for park and ride facility at the proposed rail halt in North West Leeds and at Thorpe Park in East Leeds.

My Lord Mayor these works are not for the benefit of any private company but for the benefits of the travelling public. Until the government commits to both resource and support us to deliver the long overdue mass transit system at the heart of an integrated transport network for the city that this city both needs and deserves we are committed to doing everything we can with the resources we have at present to ensure the movement of people across our city improves. I second the amendment and call upon the government to put its money where ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: The Prime Minister's mouth was before, during and since the General Election and enable us ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: To deliver the mass transit system we need here in Leeds.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hutchins, Hutchinson.

(Laughter and background talking)

COUNCILLOR HUTCHISON: Thank you my Lord Mayor. At least once maybe twice a week I have the unenviable task of attending the big smoke or London town. Now my company is a little tight they don't like to spend the £200 return journey ticket on a train so at a 30% cost we normally drive down. But as soon as we do get down there we like to hit the TFL network and knowing that I was going to speaking today when I was there last week I made a conscious effort to make note of the waiting times when you're on the TFL network. You don't probably wait more than three minutes for the next tube, the next bus, the next overground, the next DLR and it works really really well, it works like clockwork and I did some calculations of other areas whereby you can get from Pratts Bottom in Kent to Boggy Bottom in Hertfordshire. You can also get from Crotch Crescent in Oxford to Golden Balls in Oxford.

(Background talking)

Well this next one you can get, you can get from Cockbush Avenue to Percy's Passage in Soho ...

(Laughter)

Quicker than you can the 7.3 mile journey from Drighlington to Leeds.

(Laughter)

A typical commute for somebody from Drighlington would be to leave home at 7.40 get the Drighlington bus into Morley at 8 o'clock, get into (inaudible) around 8.20 you then have a nice walk from Morley Town Centre to the train station because there's no link in between the two, but not to worry you've got a thirty five minute wait anyway for the train to get along and then a nice nine minute train drive into Leeds and then a nice brisk walk to the Civic Hall, you get here about 9.20 which is about an hour and forty minutes. But there is a quicker way, there is, you can leave again at 7.40 you can get the bus straight down Whitehall Road and you can probably be in the Civic for about 9.13 which is a seven minute shorter period, excellent. But there is an even more quicker journey which is in about 18 minutes you can drive. Now if you're going to return home on the same public transport if you do get the train into Morley and you're either disabled or have a pram or a pushchair you'll be deserted on a platform with no disabled access to be able to get back to civilisation. So again more is needed on that. In a world where time is money I fear that people will continue to resort to

cars adding to the congestion, adding to the pollution until such time as we have a good public transport system. Therefore we fully support the White Papers and the amendments. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Scopes.

COUNCILLOR SCOPES: My Lord Mayor I am speaking in support of the amendment in the name of Judith Blake. In Councillor Carter's White Paper he talks about £4.2b of new funding made for transport projects outside of London and Leeds if we're lucky we're going to get a share of that. £4.2b it sounds like a lot of money everywhere outside London but when you put it in context of over £40b expected to spend on Crossrail two alone it doesn't seem quite so big.

I've brought some props today and I've got special permission from my son to bring one of his Christmas presents to full Council. I want you to imagine that one of these which is called Flexible Glow Track represents approximately £1b pounds worth of infrastructure spend. London Crossrail one, £18b, oh that's nice. Crossrail two, £40b, well that looks amazing but outside London, which I have to say is quite a big geographical area for ...

(Laughter)

And I look at that and I think maybe it's not quite as good and not quite something to be showy off about as you might think otherwise. When the Crossrail project keeps growing it's said, oh it's still for for London's growth, it's important we have to crack on but when HS2's cost is expected to increase its a Northern leg that's downgraded. We can have an argument about whether HS2 is a good project or not but the principle is about the investment here and another thing just spoken about earlier in Council, Councillor Blake the Leader said earlier how we needed £25.7m extra for Flood Alleviation Scheme. Can you imagine a £25.7m problem not being solved if it was a London problem.

There is a universal truth that the North has always had the short end of the stick when it comes to funding and that needs to change. We don't need to be told to do more with less, we need to have a fair funding package for Leeds and I hope will see that in the upcoming budget. The most recent spending differences for different areas published by the Treasury shows that Londoners receive £903 per head compared to £276 per head in Yorkshire and Humber. It's a point that's been made many many times before and I fear it's one we're going to keep making in the future and indeed that's why I keep making it even in this speech that I'm giving today. Public transport is so important to achieving so many of our ambitions as a city, we've talked about this already but we know it's important for the air quality in our city which we all breathe, we know it's important to reduce congestion and that would be a big contribute to our carbon zero target. It supports our Inclusive Growth and our Health and Wellbeing Plan by providing social inclusion for disadvantaged groups. Even in my own ward in Cottingley and Holbeck the infrastructure currently doesn't support easy access to town, just as Councillor Hutchison's it doesn't support your constituent members in

Drighlington. It supports the jobless with access to work and the young people in our city with access to education and training opportunities. Further it supports good growth of the city and is crucial to providing new housing and insustainable locations. I could go on and on. We are doing great work with the money we have and thanks to this administration, the Leader and Councillor Kim Groves but we still need more to realise our ambitions fully so as I said earlier I hope that we see this funding come through in the March Budget so that we have a world class transports system that this city deserves. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter, Councillor Carter it's now time for you.

(Laughter)

THE LORD MAYOR: Your welcome.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Do you wonder sometimes why you've put a resolution down for debate. I've listened with great interest everything that's been said and it just seems to me that what we're saying to the people of Leeds is we're peddling the politics of despair. Either the world's coming to an end so we can't do this that and the other, the government will never give us enough money, well will ever ever any government ever give us the money that we want. The city station is at capacity my goodness so we don't know if we're having new trains or new carriages because the stations full. I think the people of this city expect something a bit more positive to be frank ...

COUNCILLOR: Here here.

And to be fair Councillor Bentley was right. I would characterise what he was saying as a jigsaw and mass transit is a part of that jigsaw, the railways are a part of that jigsaw, yes and the buses are a part of that jigsaw and yes actually the private car is part of that jigsaw and the different geographic parts of the city are all parts of the jigsaw all underlining one thing, we need an integrated system because your right no one's pretending that tomorrow we will deliver or anybody will deliver a mass transit system but it doesn't stop us from strategic thinking and making sure all the measures we take will link in to a bigger idea, dare I say it, further down the line.

The stairs to the station, what are we going to do then Judith if the station's full. Has anybody thought, has anybody thought about whether, you've spoken already I'm just answering you, whether we ...

(Laughter)

Whether we need. Judith, Judith it's like safeguarding its complicated you clearly don't understand that either.

(Laughter, applause and background talking)

Yeah well one day you might when it's too late. Plenty of things you can do about bringing trains into Leeds think outside of the box, interesting we talk about the airport, the station is too far from the terminal what happened this week the airport announced moving the terminal towards the station. Heavens above did nobody ever think of that was it always going to be moving a railway, still not near enough let me tell you but that's by the by.

Please please please let's have some positive thought about what we can achieve incrementally. We all know London has had far too much and all of us know and it's happened for years under any government I can think of and it is time to shift investment to the North but let's be positive about it and let's try and come forward with some sensible integrated transport ideas, the people of this city deserve it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we'll go for a vote. The first vote in the name of Councillor David Blackburn. *(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.

The third amendment in the name of Councillor Blake. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

And the vote motion in the substantive motion of Councillor Blake. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

## **ITEM 12 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

THE LORD MAYOR: Public Transport in the name of Councillor Blackburn. Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. Back to the similar subject of public transport. When I decided to put this White Paper forward which was roughly just before the General Election and I'd thought oh well we keep getting promised things so let's get something in there and get chasing it. I was surprised immediately I put it in everything went off and papers have been full with public transport so I've got to say it isn't opportunism on my part, it might have been opportunism from a General Election point of view but not on that. But and quite honestly probably if I'd put it in a bit later I might have actually worded it differently but the issue is simple I mean we have a bus company in Leeds, First Bus, or in West Yorkshire who to put it bluntly are appalling, they are hopeless. You only use them because you have to use them and I can understand people who have got cars not using the bus when you might, I come here to a meeting on a morning and I've got to set off an hour earlier than I would do I had a car to guarantee I get here on time because you can't guarantee on the bus services. They are absolutely hopeless, I accept some of that's caused by congestion but a

lot of that's caused by the management of the company and the number of drivers and how they keep their buses as well and my view is simple, this has just got worse since privatisation and deregulation. I am not saying that all, Councillor Buckley if your there, I'm not saying all buses should be nationalised what I am saying is even if you've got regulation you need a strong public sector company there because if you put services out to tender you are not certain to get bus companies coming forward. So effectively we can affect the market, we can move it forward and that is why I believe that as a Council we should be allowed to take back what we once owned before and that is the bus routes of First Bus and as I say and that would be within a regulatory process as well. It's not going to make things perfect, anybody who'se ever used public transport in an area where the main operators are like a Council bus owned like Reading or Blackpool for instance. They have the same problems but I've got to say it doesn't happen as much as it does with First Bus and the way to deal with it is in much a different way. They are a public service, they are not a business and that's the difference.

On the second part of my motion which deals with rail infrastructure and all stations. I know the Leader says Leeds City Station hasn't got capacity for more trains, well the thing is if you look at it Councillor Carter mentioned Calverley Station, I remember that been open and the thing is we sold it off. Going through the middle of Pudsey we used to have the old branch line, we had Lowtown and the Greenside Station and what's happened over years we've sold that land off. We used to have another station in centre of Leeds, Central Station, and actually taking those lines out of there and taking those lines that were on the front of the old, that came in from the west on one side of the station away is actually the thing that's caused the congestion in the city station. So what we have is, we have got a station that, or a set of stations that effectively dealt with far more traffic than it does now and we've reduced those options. We've also a line that goes over the viaduct that's closed that originally took the London traffic that came into city station when Central closed and now all that goes through Copley Hill Junction and everything comes in to there and that's what holds it up. Well there's ways of dealing it we've got the Wortley curve that used to give the direct route to Bradford to London. Let's bring some of these back into operation, let's get serious about it, that's how we're going to solve the problems and the thing is is we can't turn the clock back if you built something in the way well what we've got to do is we've got to use a bit of savvy here and say right we can use this bit of the route but how can we continue it and I think that's where we need to go and not put obstacles in the way. But the first thing we need to do on the short term ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: On the short term is get control of First Bus. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I wish to second this paper in the name Councillor David Blackburn. I think we all know

that these days that the car still rules. We also know that we're about six years from the climate having a disastrous affect so we've got to start really thinking about what we can do, yes we want some money from Boris and we hope that he delivers on that but we can think of other things, we've got to do. The one thing, yes you get, people can walk, people can use bicycles, people can go on the bus, people can go on the train but we've got to look at if we can get some of these local stations that we used to have or where the infrastructure is there maybe putting the station on the existing infrastructure to get people as I said out of cars onto trains and also do something about the buses to make them more people friendly. Now if we really want to do it anybody can come here and say we can't do this we can't do that and we need to do this before we can do that. We've got about six years, my colleague Councillor Forsaith here the other Ann, has kept mentioning climate change umpteen times today over various things but we can't forget that it's there whether we want to ignore it or not it's there so let's start looking at what we can do, yes First Bus we know is a problem, yes I'm sure those that use First Bus particularly or have constituents that use First Bus will moan about it not turning up and the problems that you have with it that is why we need to look to taking ownership over because we know there's problems with our bus services we do not believe that buses should be run by the likes of First Bus that puts profit before people and that we should have a publicly owned bus service which puts passengers first. This is the way to start to get people out of their cars and that is what we have to do. Nothing against walking, I mean I walk all over the place you know and bicycles that's good, that's good no problem but we've got to remember people many a time have to get from A to B and we want to get them on buses and trains. So let's think how we can do that, this is the start, don't stick your head in the sand and say oh no we've got to, we can only do everything where the cars concerned. You've no need to if you don't want to and the time's going to come, not that long now as I said six years, where really if we don't do something now we going to really be in stuck quite frankly and what about your children and your grandchildren, hey aren't we going to think about them. So let us start and do something, we can do if we want and you know get Boris, yeah we need the money from Boris I admit. Let's all work together to get the money from Boris and start. Thank you

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Howley. Can I remind Members that this will be Councillor Howley's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR HOWLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to start and take this opportunity by saying I'm proud of Leeds, I'm proud of its achievements, I'm proud that it continues to create jobs and opportunities for people and therefore I am proud that more and more people want to come into Leeds and need to come into Leeds and of course as we've been talking much length today we all agree there is a transport problem. The amendments, my amendment today accepts the fact that we do need to work positively an incremently and take the opportunities that we do have and are readily available to us and I'd like to give you an example of that which one of the examples that has not come up so far today and that is Horsforth railway station. Horsforth railway station is not fit for purpose. The parking problem that creates overflows onto surrounding streets

and has got to the stage where roads are blocked and the already poor bus service that we all admit we now have the buses have to be diverted and yet we do have a readily available opportunity with Woodside Quarry. It is land earmarked, set aside ready to be developed which would alleviate the problem at Horsforth, could create a park and ride and encourage more drivers from their cars and onto public transport, could help us with in a very small way our climate change problem.

Councillor Golton, Councillor Ann Forsaith have both referred to the fact that we need a bus service that is fit for passengers, serves passengers and not the bus companies. I recently was told that it is more advantageous for First Bus to cancel a bus than to run it late because that way it doesn't appear on their statistics and therefore I am not in the slightest bit surprised that in my short time as a Councillor I have been inundated with complaints, yes obviously about cancelled buses, but buses that don't serve the areas the places that people need to go to at the times and the place that they need to go to.

So to sum up very briefly there are opportunities available to us, they are readily available, they are affordable, we need to take control in a positive way about our transport problem. Maybe we do need help for wholesale change but we do have readily available easy opportunities to seize and we need to do that.  
Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm seconding the amendment by Councillor Howley and also bringing to light, I mean many years ago I was Chairman of Metro and we had the problems then and we tried to take control of the buses etc but government wouldn't let us and there was the problem, the legal side of things and we saw Nexus try to do it and fail and have all the legal challenges there. We still need to do something about it and First have continued to give the worst service possible to Leeds. Our local MP recently lobbied them to improve bus services to our Ward to Otley and Yeadon and they responded by cutting the thirty four bus by reducing the frequency so that shows how much they listen.

(Background talking)

No, well how much influence do any of us have and the point is we're the people that should have the influence, we are the people that are here representing the public whereas First Bus are representing the shareholders, a point that's already been made that such a valid point this is public service, public transport, it is not there for shareholders. We need a system that delivers the services we want, we need to be able to put on additional services to get people out of cars because at the moment it is so much easier to drive into Leeds. It effectively if you've got a car it's cheaper to drive. If you've got the car and you want to, you know I live next to a bus stop I can come into Leeds by bus or I can come into Leeds by car. At the moment it's quicker by car and actually on my fuel

bill it's cheaper and so if I've got a series of meetings to do I'll do that. Where's the reason to get out of it I do use the bus and I do use a bus a lot and I help subsidise the buses up into the Dales to access the Dales and I use those but if for somebody like me that loves using public transport at the moment the systems broken, it's absolutely broken and it needs fixing and we're the people that should be there to fix it that's within our remit and we've recently seen in Otley the school buses have become commercialised and we're seeing a system now where parents are having to pay for their children to go to school and Mcards are an issue not been accepted and the whole system as I say is broken and it's too much commercialisation, I've got no problems in one sense with private companies operating but they are doing so as share holder benefit they should be doing so for the benefit of the public and if they can't do that then they shouldn't be doing it, we need to take back control and deliver a service that is fit for the twenty first century ...

COUNCILLOR LAY: (inaudible) that is. I've heard that.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Take back control.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Yeah.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Why don't we, why don't we yeah.

(Laughter)

I don't know, all I know is we need to be encouraging people to use public transport and to just nip back to the previous debate if we had mass transport that will help to take people out of cars and I've been all over Europe with other transport systems and you get different people using different types, some people prefer a tram, some people prefer a bus and they will go to different places also if you have a rapid transport system it needn't go into the city station it can go outside of the city station to another hub which is very near which would then free up capacity for trains, for example one of the things we were looking at with the Supertram some of that was bring it down in through Burley Road and therefore if you come off the viaduct there and in you wouldn't actually come into the station you'd stop outside freeing capacity. So that's how you deliver more people with a rapid transport system we need everything in place and we need to be in control and that's what hopefully we can now do and as I say this debate is all about taking control from First Bus let's do it. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley to move.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you Lord Mayor and yes well we agree actually with the main thrust of Councillor Blackburn's motion. 95% of what's in here we can absolutely identify with no problem with whatsoever. It is this ownership obsession, this public ownership, ownership obsession and it's not control because you could actually have control over something without actually physically owning it because if you think about it, let's just say First Bus was

publicly owned tomorrow by the city the drivers would be the same, the managers would be the same, the Directors would be different that's true but they'd be no shareholders. Three cheers somebody says but where would the capital requirements come from, where would the investment actually come from, it could only fall on the taxpayer so I'll come back to this ...

(Background talking)

I will come back to this in a few moments but to move into Councillor Blackburn's comments about railway, lines absolutely right and if you could bring back the Wortley's, the Armley's and all these lines which were abolished in the nineteen sixties absolutely great as he says and a lot of speakers. Lots of them have been built over and so on so they are irredeemable but could be brought round in some way or other but also with links to the Wetherby's, the Harrogate's, the York's and places on the way to those because that is a major part of the city region. Railways are expensive of course, very expensive to build but the funding could be there and one of his phrases was, I'll just miss out one word, vibrant bus services run in the interests of the public yes absolutely I agree consistent with the climate emergency of course and buses are actually less green than trains of course.

Now just to go back to the point about the ownership of the buses. If it was completely a public responsibility losses would be a local liability so Leeds people would be on the hook for any loss making buses, capital expenditure and potentially pension liabilities. Has anybody thought about that. £300m that's a big figure but we do bring, we do support bringing back the old and new railway stations absolutely and yes we would support greater public influence, not ownership, but influence over the buses in Leeds. Franchising and other methods of control or influence could potentially be the way forward so we do substantially agree with Councillor Blackburn's motion except for that one exception but this is another opportunity to come up with a plan notwithstanding the ownership model and push for any funds which are available and get a credible plan working to improve the situation. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Smith.

COUNCILLOR SMITH: My Lord Mayor I'm pleased to second the amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. There are a number of areas where we agree with the Green motion and certainly the thrust of wanting to improve the city's transport is something we strongly support. As you've heard in the debate on the first White Paper Councillor Buckley's amendment retains a lot of what is in Councillor Blackburn's original motion though there are of course some very important differences. Firstly we cannot support the call for buses to be brought into public ownership. It's not just the fact that as the amendment points out there would be serious financial implications of such an approach but also that we are sceptical that this offers a kind of silver-bullet solution to all our city's transport problems that is sometimes presented at us. There are certain intrinsic structural geographical problems within our current transport network that

I think we're all well aware of and which can't be resolved by letting West Yorkshire Combined Authority run the buses. If a bus is stuck in traffic it doesn't really matter who owns the bus it still won't get its passengers to their destination on time. Then there are the legal obstacles to this approach notwithstanding the work commissioned by WYCA it is hard to see how these can ever be overcome even if it were desirable to do so. We are of course open to the Council and the WYCA having more influence over who does run the bus services. The government has moved to help facilitate this by offering pathways for Local Authorities to establish franchising and partnership schemes. Sensible proposals along these lines would be something we would be very happy to consider. Thank you. Much of this might end up been tinkering at the edges without one important element.

As others have pointed out it is outrageous that a city like Leeds is without mass transit. Something that has been recognised right at the very top of government yet the administration in Leeds so disappointingly been dragging their feet on this issue for many years. Now with the government keen to drive investment in infrastructure in the North we have to be ready to seize the opportunities that come our way and get a good deal for Leeds and our region. Of course we want to see Northern Powerhouse Rail but in particular it is the £4.2b of Local Public Transport Fund that could offer the start of something transformational here for us in Leeds. As a Pudsey Councillor I was delighted to see Pudsey mentioned as one of the areas that could benefit from a new metro or light rail for West Yorkshire as part of the government's plans. This would be fantastic news for our residents and people right across the city.

My Lord Mayor Councillor Blackburn's motion mentions the opportunity to bring back into operation issues rail infrastructure such as unused track and the reopening of many of the former local railway stations. We would be keen to see proposals for this. A significant number of stations including Calverley and Rodley, Wetherby, Thorner, Pudsey Greenside, Pudsey Lowtown their all amongst our lost stations. Stations that the city did once have. Hereto the signs from government are encouraging, there is talk of £500m been on offer to help reopen rail lines. Again in Leeds we need to make sure we're at the forefront of discussions in this area attracting the investment and strategic change we need to make the improvements that the people of Leeds deserve. My Lord Mayor I second the amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves to move a third amendment.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm happy to move this amendment. The reason we have public transport is explained in its name. It is transport for everyone regardless of circumstances. We need to make sure that the public transport is working for the public and unfortunately we know that it currently isn't and I know that on a daily basis I can assure you. We know there are fundamental problems with the bus network across the country, we know there are fundamental need for change and this is big change and part of that is involving Local Authorities in the bus network. I'm pleased that West Yorkshire

Combined Authority has commissioned work on possible options to participate in the sale of First Bus service. Work is still ongoing looking into the model that can help increase patronage and through that secure the wider goals of inclusivity and carbon reduction that we need to see in the Leeds and wider region. We do need to consider this agenda within the wider context of the continued conversations around the devolution deal for this region. It is important that we receive the powers and funding to make real change, substantial decisions here so that we can use our local knowledge to make the right choices for the people that live and work here.

Although a devolution deal for the region is long overdue there is a silver lining. We can also use lessons learned from our colleagues in Greater Manchester and Merseyside as they have been progressing their franchising plan alongside the work commission to inform the options to take part in the sale of First to develop the best approach to secure the bus services for the region.

We've also been doing lots of work and if we think of a blank canvas, if we think of mass transit, we have to have a model for the bus to work towards that actually meets the demands so therefore we've undertaken some work to understand future demands of the bus network so that we can plan for the future. We've identified bus services with the destination they serve is a key element of this and a project is underway to provide a colour coded map, wayfinding system which would be available through digital and print media and visible on the streets. That work is nearly completed, it has taken over a year to go to every district and complete that work.

Regarding rail investment we continue to call on the government to invest in the North to provide extra capacity. We continue to support the major projects such as HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail, Transpennine Route Upgrade and investment in the East Coast Main Line whilst also seeking shorter term investment particularly around Leeds. The Combined Authority is also developing a business case for four new railway stations, three of which are in Leeds. Further devolution of funding and powers would enable local areas to specify what we want from the rail network including services and which new communities would be best served by rail in the future as opposed to other forms of public transport. To inform our position we have been working with Transport for the North and advisers supported by Network Rail and Department for Transport to develop an evidence led rail connectivity vision to establish a shared vision for the region's national, regional and local rail connectivity needs.

The West Yorkshire Leaders have already written to the Prime Minister setting out our ambitions for transport and what we need from government in brief they've asked for a greater control of the regional rail network in order to have increased local accountability to (inaudible) high commitments and improvements for passengers are delivered and additional funding through a multi year capital and revenue transport budget allowing us to shape our strategic approach to improve connectivity across the region including a joint approach with government, to deliver a mass transit solution for this region.

It is more important than ever that Leeds and the City region have a distinct voice and the powers to make the voice acted on ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Yeah I will finish. It will need support from central government, it will need funding from central government and I hope we see it soon and for those of said we didn't have a plan ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: I think I've clearly outlined it.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carlill.

COUNCILLOR CARLILL: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I am happy to second this amendment and maybe I can help you Councillor Carter some of that positive vision for the city all be with it with a healthy dose of pessimism, alright call it realism thrown in. We're a growing city, growing not just in terms of population but economically and culturally as well. Included with this growth comes with a need for increased travel around the city. This increase in journeys balances out any improvements we're seeing from new fuel efficiencies even if all new car sales are electric by 2030 it will still be necessary for car mileage to be at least 20% lower in 2030 than for now in order for us to stay within allowable emissions. If we want to reach carbon net zero we must be bold and I'm pleased to say that in Leeds we feel we're being just that. Our ambition is to be a city where you don't need a car, a vision for transport that would allow people to choose the most suitable way to travel for every journey be that bus, walk, train or cycle on a comprehensive integrated network. With fewer cars on the road congestion will be cut and we can look to return space to the public currently given over to cars and we're looking into how this can be defined in a new transport strategy for consultation this year.

Greater control of our public transport is crucial to achieving that ambition. A bus service that is locally owned that can be run for local betterment, that can get people where they need to be affordably and reduce the number of cars on the road. On rail more stations and more track mean we can cater for the growing travel demand whilst also reducing emissions. However it is the sad fact is that here's that realism, that at the moment we don't have the powers to do this nor the funding and I would echo the calls we've had already today to see this finally given to Leeds. To meet our ambition to tackle crime emergency we also need the government to do its bit to introduce new standards and policy to help drive the change we need. In the short term we must therefore look at where we can make positive changes locally to help people to make more sustainable travel choices. One area we aim to bring big improvements is cycling. It offers an affordable sustainable way to travel and we're looking to increase cycling across the city by 300%. Our cycling network is continuously expanding and we have a

big ambition to see 500 miles of cycle routes covering the city to create a fully linked up and accessible Leeds Cycle Network.

We must also adopt new technologies and new ways of thinking that will help this new transport vision for the city, for example the Climate Innovation District is creating high density low carbon homes in the city centre a short walk or cycle ride from the train station in a community that is consciously designed to be car free. It's just one vision for what the future could look like. When we consider how technology can help our city we always come back to mass transit. It does remain a missing part of the jigsaw, I'm starting to sound like Councillor Carter now, when we talk about carbon reduction and transport as a whole in Leeds. Many people have spoken today about the kind of rapid transit system we need and it's important that we just don't get caught in the expectations of the past. New technology gives us new opportunities to get the right solution. Discussions are currently ongoing around mass transit and will continue to work with WYCA and other partners to push for the bold and ambitious outcome we need. If we're going to fundamentally change how transport in this city looks we will need powers, funding and support from government without these no amount of ambition will be enough. During the election there were a great deal of promises made supporting a bold ambitious vision for Leeds, when we come back with exactly that I hope those promises will be kept. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I once had a conversation with Jacob Rees Mogg about how the bus service and the ...

(Background talking and laughter)

Train service might run more efficiently. Poor old Jacob despite his best efforts could not see beyond an ideological issue here at this particular point and what I was looking for was for practical solutions to the problems and the challenges that we face and unfortunately he had none. Although I perhaps don't look it I was a teenager in the seventies reliant on a bus service at that particular point.

(Laughter)

I know I look too young, I know I look too young. I accept what you're saying I'm ageing well. But I was reliant on the bus service as a teenager at that particular point before the buses were deregulated and certainly they were frequent and affordable and reliable and it's trying to take the ideology out of this and look for practical solutions to the problems that we actually face and that's what we're interested in and I think we all have to accept that the deregulation of buses in the late eighties has failed miserably. At that particular point the idea was you'd have more competition and that would bring fares down and you'd have a more reliable service and a regular service and it'd all be fabulous and that clearly has not worked in which case we need to go back and figure out how we

actually have a service that is frequent and affordable and reliable and it has to be about reregulating the bus service and we've been saying this for year after year after year for many many years because whatever's been tried before has failed and to a degree we've had Labour governments and we've had Tory governments and we've had coalition governments and all of them have failed to actually address this issue and come up with any practical solution to the problem that we've got.

So we're very supportive of our Green colleagues position on this particular one and we don't see that there are any reasons other than ideological opposition to such a proposal that would mean the Council couldn't make a better job of running buses. Now we would say that we have been mass transit system sceptics for years all the way through from 2000 onwards. Councillor Leadley indeed has sat here and will remind this Council that it has blown the best part of £50m on failed Supertram and failed NGT. So we'd need some convincing that this is the way ahead and we would also say and we have some sympathy, I know the Labour Party may be surprised at this in terms of renationalising the rail service at this particular point. Network Rail is owned by the government so it is by its very nature already under national control. I think we all accept that franchising hasn't worked. What we would do is at a point of caution in as much as those of us who do remember British Rail when it was nationalised do realise that that was not a panacea and that was not always the most pleasurable of journeys but we do need a new approach, we do think reregulating the buses and even the council running the service is probably a positive, we do like the idea of making the train service run better and opening stations that could be reopened at this particular point. We think it's time to look at a practical solution rather than get bogged down with too much political ideology. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Garner.

COUNCILLOR GARNER: My Lord Mayor this country's rail service has never recovered from the double whammy of the Beeching cuts and the introduction of franchising. One strip local communities have no link to the rail network leaving them isolated and unconnected. The (inaudible) removed any control and the ability to hold services to account from the hands of passengers. I can only agree with the sentiment that we need to reopen stations that were closed in short sightedness and recommission routes for track that have since been pulled up. However without a dedicated and reliable services these new stations, these new lines will be left to wither on the vine that's why I'm speaking in support of the amendment in Councillor Grove's name. Unfortunately we know that the operators we have serving Leeds are not up to running a competent service on the existing network never mind an expanded one. It's a problem that affects local and national services alike and sees private companies degrade services and impact people's lives. Too often we see companies turn a profitable venture into a disaster only to be bailed out by government such as that in 2015 when Virgin Trains East Coast took a publicly run service that had been turning a profit after the last great Labour government put it back into public hands only to shut down three years earlier at a £2b loss to the public purse and hand the

franchise back. South Western Railway down south can't guarantee it won't go bust this year amid a failing service that leaves people angry and abandoned. In Leeds it's our local services run by Northern and Transpennine Express that let us down day in day out. In fact the only thing reliable and regular about the service is that passengers know that every day it will be neither of those things. Since taking on the franchises both companies are failing to deliver the improvements they promised years ago, they've even failed to deliver the status quo barely one in two Northern trains run on time, when they do turn up too often their short formed forcing passengers to cram into trains in unpleasant and unsafe conditions and too many that turn up are still the old outdated pacers that should have been scrapped years ago on both safety and accessibility grounds. Transpennine Express are no better with nearly as many trains running late and even more been short formed. It's right that Northern is stripped of its franchise and the way Transpennine is run it's hard to agree it should be treated any differently. Of course some of this is due to meddling far away in Westminster by the Conservative government such as writing into franchise agreements for Northern and South Western trains demands on removing guards from trains, demands which have been rightly blocked by the trade unions have caused chaos.

This government and I say again far away in Westminster has also sat on a decision for several years to agree to expand platforms and tracks around Manchester Piccadilly station which is a recognised bottleneck of the rail network across the North affecting many services in Leeds. My Lord Mayor locally we know where people need to travel to and from, we know where the station should be and we know what lines we need to build. Just listen to the ideas from everyone in here today, positivity. One station that could be reopened is East Ardsley station on the East Coast mainline in my own ward and I know Councillor Dawson has exciting ideas about reusing the old line between Beeston and Batley for the Tingley Mass Rapid Transit Route that we've just been debating. It's vital the government recognises this as we clearly recognise today and gives us the powers and the funding we need to have the infrastructure and the services the people of Leeds deserve. Thank you.

(Applause)

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

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you Lord Mayor. I've got to say I think most of us, with one exception over there, are talking from effectively same hymn sheet while I am not going to accept any of the amendments, either the Liberal Democrat one or the Labour one become the substantive we will support that then because as say I think what we are we vote all three parties have got the same aims. I've got to say I just can't understand Conservatives on this on buses. I mean the thing is from god knows when till 1974 Leeds City Council had its own bus company so did Bradford and then from 1974 when County Council was formed we had County Council running buses up until the late eighties when they were privatised and deregulated and I've got to say as a person that's used buses all my life, that, particularly that bit when County Council were running it was great. We still had problems but we're going have problems, we're gonna have congestion anyway but it ran for public and it ran well and a joined up fare

structure and it joined up with railways on a fare structure as well. So why we changed that there is no logic to at all and what we put in place is something that's far far inferior and all we're saying is let's take a step back, let's go there. I am not talking about nationalising every bus and as I said to you the other day when we had our slight debate, the fact is that's not the point, it's a mixture, it's some run by us and some run by private companies but all of them regulated together so we can influence the market but the market can do some things that maybe we can't do and that is all we're asking for in this and I just cannot understand it. I mean, I think, well I think we're all at one possibly about use of redundant railway stock and that and certainly if at some point whatever happens we can start and take that forward to the government but as I say on the bus things without us having some ownership we are not, we are banging our head against the wall. Thank you, so will you support my motion please. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: We'll now go to a vote. The first amendment in the name of Councillor Howley. *(A vote was taken)*. That's LOST.

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

The third amendment in the name of Councillor Groves. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

We'll go to the vote in the substantive motion of Councillor Groves. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been CARRIED.

### **ITEM 13 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – FUNDING FOR SERVICES**

We go on to the third White Paper in the name of Councillor Charlwood.  
Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you Lord Mayor. After all that about transport and buses and trains I'm quite enjoying getting to speak about social care funding and local authority funding and in general and it's been mentioned today during various speeches about how proud we are as a Labour administration of our record in delivering high quality public services for the people of Leeds despite ten years coming up of austerity. We've got outstanding Children's Services rated by Ofsted, we've made consistent improvements I'm very proud of this. In the proportions of our Adult Social Care services rated good and outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. We've a strong record on providing affordable housing and school places in spite of the government's policies seemingly designed to make our job harder and lessen our role. All of these improvements have been made by the impressive efforts of hardworking Council officers over many many years in collaboration with ourselves and our partners in the city and we deliver through partnership more and more and they've been made in the face of years of cuts to our central funding as a Tory government continues to treat Local Authorities sadly with contempt and I say that

advisedly because if I was running to be Leader of the Labour Party I would be saying that we should put Local Authorities at the centre of a reformed public offering. Local Authorities have done so much in the last ten years to protect, transform services for the people of our country and I think we really do get underplayed by the Tory government who've cut our funding almost by 50% and think we've done a really good job.

So we've had to do more with less, we've got on with it and we've made some great improvements for residents in Leeds. What more could we do now that we are fighting fit delivering for our people. If we hadn't had to endure the savage cuts to our budget every year for almost a decade think of the further improvements we could make to Social Care Services in Leeds if the Prime Minister actually provided the sustainable funding solution he has promised and their previous Conservative Prime Ministers have promised for years now, for years.

In my role in Adult Social Care I'll focus on. In the ten years of austerity £7b has been taken out of our funding resulting in less spending on those with all levels of care needs as well as services that prevent future care needs which makes no economic sense. Prevention, early intervention, vitally important and if we could fund that more we could do so much to reduce the needs going forward. This goes alongside the 10% reduction in the government grant for public health since 2015/16 which again makes no sense. Age UK nationally calculate that there are now 1.5m older people with some unmet need for care and they report on the emergence of care deserts. There are simply no social care available in some parts of the country based on a market system. We're now at a point where 94% of Directors of Adult Social Services have little to no confidence that they will be able to reasonably deliver on their statutory responsibilities because remember much of what we do is enshrined in law that we have to deliver for certain parts of our community and that's the care market sustainability in their view that's really at threat and we're heading for another crisis in our sector if we're not really careful and if we're not already there.

The previous Tory government announced in March 2017 that it would publish a Green Paper on Adult Social Care. We've spoken about this many times in this Chamber we are still waiting. It was very exciting to see Boris Johnson on the steps to Downing Street say we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all and with a clear plan we have prepared to give every older person the dignity and security they deserve. They had it prepared where is it. Just last month during the election when she was asked if the paper actually exists Liz Truss said not as far as I'm aware. Where is it. It's about eight times now it's been delayed this Green Paper. It was reflected in the Queen's speech, what was the clear plan that they had prepared, a vague promise to seek cross party agreement, it's really disappointing having said so many times that it was either prepared or coming very soon, we've been waiting two and a half years, it's a mirage of a Green Paper. We've got to get some future certainty in social care, the people in Leeds and across the United Kingdom deserve to live in a country where social care services, school buildings and housing levels are prioritised by government and the role of Local Authorities is really boosted with extra funding and more certainty and it isn't about annual bunds of money with a winter grant or

whatever we need a fundamental long term certainty of funding, long term reform so we can plan services for the long term and a plan for adult social care that really delivers on the promises they've made. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryor to second.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you Lord Mayor. I am delighted to second Councillor Charlwood's White Paper as I believe the government has treated and continues to treat the children and young people of this country with utter contempt. One of the areas this White Paper focuses on is the astonishing lack of investment in our school buildings. This is an issue across the country but one which we have direct experience of here in Leeds and I have spoken about the urgent need for investment in some of our school buildings and the staggering lack of response from government here before. I've repeatedly written to whoever happens to be the Secretary of State at the time to outline the scale of the issues we are facing in the city and to request a meeting to discuss how working together we can ensure the children and young people of Leeds received the best possible education. It took nine months for a meeting to actually take place with DFE officials where we described three schools and I should point out these are three schools in opposition wards you know this was not a partisan issue this was looking at where exactly the need was, all in desperate need of a rebuild and this is on top of an additional £100m maintenance backlog. A backlog for the £100m which we received £6.1m a year and the response the DFE gave us, they advised us to share the £6.1m out equally and they said they could help us with that if we wanted. So you will be aware that we managed to find the funding to rebuild Benton Park that involved using a lot of different pots, some prudential borrowing, basically everything we had at our disposal but the fact remains that we simply don't have the money to do that with every school that needs the help. We'd hoped that the government would be prepared to offer assistance and in the run up to the General Election surprisingly there were a few slightly more positive noises however since December 12th it's all gone very quiet again. We still find ourselves in the situation where schools are telling us that there will reach a point where they may be forced to close on health and safety grounds, this is completely unacceptable. But we shouldn't be surprised, let's not forget that when the government announced £400m for school building repairs last October it was only available to academies, a real kick in the teeth to everybody else it seems the government care more about political ideology than the education of all young people.

(Applause)

Aside from who is able to bid for the money there was the amount itself, £400m. Now this sounds a lot until you realise that back in 2017 the National Audit Office said that it would cost £6.7b to return England Schools to a satisfactory condition or better and suddenly that £400m sounds very small and then there was the £500 million cut to funding for School buildings hidden in last year's spending review. Too many examples to mention but essentially all leading to the same point, children and young people across the country attending school

sometimes in Victorian conditions under a government that seems like it couldn't care less. I would really urge you all to support this White Paper as our children really do deserve more. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you My Lord Mayor. You'd think to hear the side opposite that December 12th/13th never happened. Let me, I'm quite astonished really that Councillor Charlwood has brought this White Paper phrased in the way that it is criticising the Queen's speech and let me just tell you the commitments in the Queen's speech, a health commitment to lock in £33.9b of Health spending over the next four years, forty new hospitals, new nurses and new doctors, Education school funding. To remind you, you just lost an election, all this guff you keep coming out with, so listen to what's really going to happen.

(Applause)

Just try and get it for once. A school funding guarantee to areas that have lost out in the past, a commitment on crime for tougher sentencing to ensure serious offenders are not released early, extra police officers twenty thousand and to include a bill on trespass laws. On housing new homes pledge that will see a million new homes created over the new parliament, support for first time buyers through a local discount to enable more home ownership, additional protection for those in rented properties and the building of rented properties as well. I'll come to Social Care in a moment. On business rates additional discounts for small businesses to support local high streets, that will happen throughout Leeds as well as £3b the town centres refurbishment and regeneration project which hopefully some towns in Leeds will benefit from. Capital spending commitments, commitments on Devolution.

Now then Adult Social Care. Throughout the General Election campaign there was one guiding theme, a commitment from the government and the Conservative Party for all party talks to find a way through. Don't raise your eyebrows, your like Corbyn, he refused over and over again and shall I tell you why because he wants division and he wants political argument. Elderly people ...

(Background talking)

You lost, remember you lost. Elderly people don't care about the politics, they want some certainty about the funding for their care packages and they want guarantees that they won't lose their homes. I hope somebody in your party one of your myriad of Leadership contenders might say yes we will wholeheartedly and with an open mind join all party talks so that Boris Johnson, as he said only this week, can bring forward proposals this year. My Lord Mayor the Queen's speech was a people's Queen's speech ...

(Laughter, cheers and applause)

From a people's government.

(Applause)

You once pretended you were the People's Party once a long time ago. Ask the people of Blythe Valley and all the other areas that have voted Conservative for a government that will speak up for them.

(Applause and cheers)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Caroline Anderson to second.

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm pleased to speak in support of Councillor Carter's White Paper amendment. I don't think the party opposite have been listening to what our new Prime Minister has been saying and the funding commitments ...

(Background talking)

The funding commitments that are been made. He has set out a number of spending promises not just the areas highlighted by Councillor Carter in the White Paper but also in primary healthcare, business rates and tackling crime to name but a few others. What I can never understand about the party opposite is why do you not bring White Papers to this Council about moving this city forward instead of trotting out party HQ mantra.

(Laughter and background talking)

You could actually look at what you might do with all of the investment that's coming to the city instead of being like, Lord Mayor ...

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

COUNCILLOR C ANDERSON: You could actually look at what you might do with all of the investment ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson. Just a minute. Could we please be quiet and let Councillor Anderson. You've got a few more minutes, seconds on your speech Councillor.

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: You could actually be innovative and look at what you might do with all of this funding that's coming instead of being like Oliver and always wanting more.

(Background talking)

Even if you put every single penny of taxation into the NHS and Social Care it would not be enough because there are so many different aspects to it all and it's not realistic.

In terms of Social Services the Executive Member should be aware that the LGA which is all party has worked with the government Equalities Office to develop a national programme to help fill social work vacancies. The government are investing in returners to work and have highlighted carers who may not be carers now and they finished their caring duties to return to work, give them the opportunity to refresh and grow their skills. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement will see councils across England receive a share of £49.1b in government funding for 2021 including an extra billion for social care. There is also a further addition of £780m to the high needs block of Dedicated Schools Grant to fund the rising costs of Special Educational Needs. Importantly the LGA and again this is cross party, I should be reminding you has backed a pledge to seek cross party support on long term reform of social care which I think we would all welcome. There is not a person in this Chamber, I hope, who would not agree with Ministers in the Queen's speech who said they would ensure that the social care system provides everyone with the dignity and security they deserve and no one who needs care has to sell their home to pay for it.

I would urge you to lobby you're LGA representatives to take part in these cross party discussions and find a way forward to get to government Green Paper stage as a first step. As you may be aware the LGA has already published its own Green Paper quite some time ago. With one and a half million more over seventy fives expected in the next ten years we have to find a way of caring for them. Because care costs are so high it can make it difficult for people to prepare for this expense. Around one in ten people will have care costs paid for by the state or the individual of more than hundred thousand before accommodation costs, while around one in four will have no cost at all. Unfortunately there is no way to predict a person's future care costs. It's a basic compassionate Conservative belief that we should care for those in need helping those who cannot help themselves. Because this is a long term problem that will affect so many people any solution has to be able to survive long term. This is why it is vital that cross party buy in is achieved. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you Lord Mayor. Sorry you found me doing some last minute research after I had a look at the Tory amendment here.

You'll note that the Liberal Democrat amendment to the Labour party motion merely finesses what was intended I'm sure by Councillor Charwood in that she talked about this Council and we just want to emphasise the fact that all Councillors in the Council through the work that the Council does offer their own part even if they're not in the administration, but part of Scrutiny or opposition to make sure that what we are doing is fit for purpose for the communities we represent.

I noticed that there are three areas that the main motion points out which is of course Social Care funding, School buildings funding and Housing and I note that actually the Tory Party manifesto list that has been put forward actually only refers to one of those areas and ignores the other two and then puts in other things that you want to talk about like crime. Well let's just talk about the Housing element of the Tory amendment because you've got a thing down here which says on Housing, a new homes pledge will see one million new homes created over the next parliament and I just thought, didn't I hear a headline recently about homes that were promised by the Conservatives but didn't actually get delivered and it was to do with 200,000 thousand new homes for first time buyers which was announced in 2014 and you were so effective at this target of these new homes for everybody that how many got built everybody, how many got built of these 200,000 a year ...

(Background talking)

Not one single house got built so your pledge to build a million new houses when your depending on your mates in these volume house builders in terms of delivering them we have no confidence in you whatsoever. However I will make some criticism of the main motion in that on Housing the reason why the Council has been able to deliver the quantum that it has in terms of social housing is because of the coalition actually agreeing to give you back the Housing Revenue account moneys that actually the previous Labour government had held onto especially to do with things like Council house sales. So actually we've delivered more Council housing, we criticise the way that you've delivered them in terms of not putting as many as you should do in outlying districts but actually you have delivered the quantum.

On the issue of school buildings though, Lord Mayor, this is perhaps the worst example of how Conservative governments promise much but deliver very little because they always insist on adding an ideological the near to every single policy that they introduce and one of them of course is to do with school buildings and the only way you get any kind of investment, Lord Mayor, as a school is if you fulfil the requirements and the prejudices of the Conservative Party that you are either part of an academy chain or you are a free school and that meant, and I'm allowed to do it now Lord Mayor aren't I because the election isn't on, while I was campaigning in the constituency in Elmet and Rothwell we had the two schools in Leeds which are in the worst condition in terms of their school fabric and they are Royd's School where I am a governor and Wetherby School and none of these solutions which are coming forward from this new all listening Northern centric Conservative government has any solution whatsoever to those schools actually getting the money that they require and to say that their bills which come to around £20m apiece can actually be covered by the £6m you give for the entire city to Councillor Pryor to distribute is just not reasonable and Lord Mayor I will just say, just listen please to the rest of your colleagues in the Chamber and don't come back with answers that are about things that are different to the subject matter that we're raising and please listen about social care which can't wait till the end of the year before ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Boris Johnson comes up with his own magic solution.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you Lord Mayor. I suppose as somebody who's grown old and weary in the service of the Council I was rather hoping that Councillor Charlwood, when she got up, would paint a bright new future for me to walk towards in relation to social care, unfortunately you seem to pick up on the theme that's gone through much of the afternoon which is Boris needs to give us some money. Now I have to say to you that's not a new theme because it's just been the same reference to you know you can put in the name of whatever Prime Minister you like David Cameron should give us more money and that seems to be a standard speech and I was rather hoping that you would actually be indicating how as a Council, because as Stewart says, as a Council we all want to improve these services across the board. There's no party, I was going to say a hierarchy in that, we all want to do this and I was hoping that you were going to come forward with some positive suggestions that we as a Council could do. Sadly that didn't happen.

Councillor Pryor touched on the issue of school maintenance, this has been an issue for the last forty years, there isn't one government to blame for this, all of them are because none of them have provided enough funding I think to fulfil our requirements on school repairs.

And then affordable housing. Now actually the Council in some ways has been affected but in other ways it's been extremely ineffective because the facilities that the Council have through the planning system to require developers to produce affordable housing is quite extensive and yet in fact it's happening tomorrow, those of us who's going to a Plans Panel tomorrow. There is a recommendation coming to Plans Panel tomorrow for a housing development which will not provide affordable housing and that's been a theme through your build under any cost regime that came to an end with the SHLAA but we have missed out on thousands of affordable housing for citizens of Leeds.

And then I was much entertained by Andrew's speech. Actually again if your somewhat older and longer in the tooth you can recall that actually this is fairly standard, you young ones won't remember this, but I can remember in the past when the Conservative Party had won quite substantial majorities I have to be honest on that and the speeches have been very similar and interestingly enough, interestingly enough the promises have been very very , though in those days it wasn't Ryan who would leap up and shout in support of the government it was Peter Gruen who's sadly not here.

(Laughter)

But you know, sorry about that ..

(Background talking)

I mean I could pull apart your comment about the forty new hospitals, we all know that's not true. I could pull apart the thing about fifty thousand new nurses, that's not true, we know that. The six thousand doctors, that's a failed promise from two years ago, you know come on. I'm assuming that, well who knows what will happen, I can't predict it, I couldn't predict it before and Andrew can't predict it because he couldn't predict it with Mrs Thatcher. One thing that was very clear throughout the whole of the election campaign is very very few ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: very very few. Thank you final sentence, very very. No political party, no political party committed to supporting local government with extra funding and that's what we need.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

Thank you Lord Mayor. Thank you Lord Mayor. For the second time this afternoon or this evening I have some sympathy with a Labour Party White Paper this is perhaps a whole new era that we're entering at this particular point. I would have more sympathy for this if your parliamentary party hadn't spent the last three years trying to prevent Brexit instead of dealing with the concerns of the country.

I'd have more sympathy with you if you didn't have thirteen years to try and do something about some of these issues and failed as miserably to deal with that.

I'd have more sympathy if you hadn't used PFI both in Schools and the NHS making sure that you negotiated deals that were so expensive that the money that needs to be spent on Education and on the NHS is spent lining the pockets of wealthy people who run the PFI schemes.

So my sympathy to a degree is somewhat limited, you had thirteen years to do something about Adult Social Care but I could point to every political party here and successive governments have had opportunities to deal with Adult Social Care to put it on a solid financial basis and have chosen not to do so at this particular point.

And the last thing that I would say is the electorate don't trust you, the electorate don't trust you, the electorate have put their faith in you and it will be down to you to deliver on the basis of additional finance that does go in to deal with Education, to deal with the NHS, to deal with Affordable Homes, to deal with Law and Order and all those other issues and that is something that you need to seriously reflect upon, people have lent you their votes, you'd better make sure that you don't let them down. Thank you Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Barry Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm speaking in support of Councillor Carter's amendment. Just to point out I want to talk about the housing side of things. We've already heard about how within the Queen's speech about the measures we're going to do to improve ownership. There's going to be a 30% discount for key workers, surely even you will recognise that that is something that will help this city. There's going to be an Affordable Homes Programme, there's going to be a renewed shared ownership model. Altogether there are twelve measures in the Queen's speech about Housing either somebody can't count in the Labour Party or you're trying to forget ...

(Background talking)

Well that's true, that's true, that is true. There's also been an annual net addition in England, this is additional houses, reached over 241,000 in the years 18/19. That's quite a lot of housing, it's the highest for over thirty years so when you were in power you were pathetic compared with what's just happened last year so why don't you recognise it and at least acknowledge that the government have gone in the right direction. Since 2010 we've delivered over 464,000 new affordable housing nationally of which 331,800 were for rent. Again you should be applauding, if you're not getting it in the city don't blame anybody from here round, blame yourselves and the direction that you've taken this Council in, only you've done that nobody else has forced you. You as a Council have made a disgrace of it in terms of the way you run the Planning system and the way that you have tried to dictate and meet politically motivated decisions to shoot yourself the whole time.

(Background talking)

Now you keep telling us what the government want to do but what more can you do. We could start building the houses that we need in the correct location rather than your politically motivated locations where they are not all needed in the volumes that you've got. You should be striking up partnerships with developers but you've got this hatred of the private sector, but these partners will come forward with initiatives for you. You came up with a policy in the Exec Board of using a housing company. Where's the development and the investment coming through, where's the announcement that you're going to use than that. We over a number of years have been pushing that particular point.

(Background talking)

I know it's coming but you've just, you've just said that you don't believe what Boris Johnson says so are we just to ignore Boris Johnson but just believe you all the time. Utter rubbish, utter rubbish, utter rubbish.

(Background talking)

You could look at trying to buy back some of the homes that are not successful in this city, you could work with and against some of the developers that are not delivering in this city. When was the last time you hauled the

developers in, the major developers in and tell them that they are not delivering for this city. Stop dragging your feet, stop blaming everybody else, you're in control, you've got to decide what's happening, don't blame everybody else you can't just keep having taxpayers' money whenever it suits you you've got to show innovation, thoughts and how you can work things together.

(Background talking)

But one final thing, one final thing. I've been asked, one final thing I've been asked to point out ...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you be quiet please.

(inaudible) that Stewart, that Councillor Golton made. The Councillors in Elmete would like to thank Councillor Golton for the time he spent in Wetherby during the General Election because it ensured that we have in Councillor Linda Richards the Councillor with the highest majority in this city. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wray.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to ...

(Background talking)

COUNCILLOR R GRAHAME: Point of Order here Lord Mayor. (inaudible). To be part of that political motivated decision so neither does my colleagues who are on the Planning Committee meeting.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Grahame it's OK it's not a point of order topic so it's OK.

(Background talking)

THE LORD MAYOR: It's not a point of order. But could I please ask Members to be quiet, Primary Schools are already closed, this is not a school ground. Listen to the individual. Councillor Wray, sorry.

COUNCILLOR WRAY: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'll try not to rise their passions so we're all good pupils. I'd like to speak in support of the motion put forward by Councillor Charlwood and focus on that housing issue because actually it is about what you deliver and it is about those promises and one thing we find ourselves in a position where we're desperate for affordable housing in this city, were desperate to make sure those vague promises from the government that's now being elected are actually delivered and let's be frank over the last ten years you've promised much and delivered quite frankly pretty much nothing. So why would we expect in 2020 a miracle renewal of faith in national

government when it hasn't delivered pretty much anything on housing of any merit or value. Now when we look at this we do have to be thankful we have got control of the Housing Revenue account again that will obviously help us. But we have a record of actually delivering a proud record of delivering in this city. Now we've delivered 764 confirmed new homes which broken down equates to 188 extra care, 560 general needs, 16 working age adult bungalows, actually addressing the needs in a variety of types of houses we actually need in this city, not just fake promises, actual delivery. Imagine what we could actually do with proper powers and money and support from central government, what we could actually do for the people of this Leeds which the last, this current government, which seems to want to forget the last ten years of its existence and seems to want to create them as a new government wildly forgetting it's wild promises which have probably been given by a variety of Conservative governments before I was probably even born and I'm thirty three now, I might of got a bit of grey but you know there's decades of failed promises from eighties onwards. Now Mr Johnson has promised us lots, I'm not going to call him Boris because he doesn't deserve to be called by his first name for the things he's failed to do for the people of this city in this country, he's promised us lots and I hope he honours those promises because it will mean that we'll deliver for the people of this city but do I have faith he'll deliver those new homes for new first time buyers, no. Do I have faith he'll deliver the funding we need to bring truly affordable rents to the people of this city like we have done as a Council, truly affordable to the people of this city that need to rent, not particularly. Frustratingly we seem to be going through another election campaign after we've just finished another one and it's nice to see that the propaganda is already rolling out full steam to the Local Elections and it's very kind of bold to say that this side is taking from party HQ when apparently we can actually think for ourselves and you have to go from the propaganda from your central party yourselves. It's this Council that has formed policies, it is this Council that has delivered for the people of city, it is this Council that has again and again shown that it cares about the people's housing in this this city despite a Conservative government which has failed to deliver, despite a Conservative government which has cut our budget and it is this Council that will continue to serve and support the people of this city and if Mr Johnson wants to help with a bit of cash so be it cos I'm not ashamed to say give us the money mate, time we did the right things properly in this city by helping us do that for the people of this city.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Arif.

COUNCILLOR ARIF: Thank you Lord Mayor. I'm very happy to speak in support of Councillor Charlwood White Paper. This paper allows us to speak on behalf of those who are unable to speak for themselves and talking about the children in our city who find themselves in the social care system. Some of our most vulnerable young people who deserve to have their voices heard by government. Figures released just last week showed that the number of children in care has risen by 28% in the last decade with the LGA describing the Children's Social Care system as reaching breaking point. Local Authorities across the country are struggling to keep up with demand and overspend on their Children's Social Care budgets by £770m in 2018 and 2019. This is in spite of them

budgeting £514m more than the previous year. In Leeds we believe passionately in the importance of early intervention helping families resolve problems before they reach crisis point, helping children to remain living at home not just for the better outcomes for children and families but also as we believe in the invest to Save model. This is right we have continued to invest in our restorative Early Support Teams and Early Help Hubs. It was also behind the political decision to maintain our Children's Centres and our Youth Services. However nationally we have seen funding for early intervention grant cut by almost £600m since 2013 and it is expected to fall by a further £100m.

Between 2010 and 2020 Councils will have lost £15b in core central government funding. That's 60p out of every £1 the government provides for services. The result of these savage cuts is that Councils are having to refocus what remaining funding they have on urgent child protection and support. Moving away from early intervention work that we know makes such a huge difference to the lives of children and their families. Lord Mayor we are in a situation where a child is now referred to Children's Services every forty nine seconds. By the time I'm sat down four children will have been referred. This simple truth is that Councils are struggling to keep up with increasing demand.

The review of Children's Social Care announced by the government is an opportunity that cannot be missed. It is absolutely vital that the review recognises the need to secure financial sustainability. If this does not happen and if there is no solid commitment to those long term resources and Councils across the country will be unable to continue to protect the most vulnerable children and young people. Children's Social Care is in crisis and the government needs to act now before thousands of children and their lives and futures are real. Council I request you all support this White Paper to ensure that our vulnerable children are not missed out. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood to sum up.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Well that was an emotional rollercoaster and quite telling that the Conservative Group got so animated and defensive frankly and the temerity to say that it was from Party HQ when yours, your White Paper is a list of manifesto pledges straight out of your Tory Party HQ, I'd literally written it down before you even, somebody you know accused us of that. Absolutely ridiculous. I'd like to just do a little test. How many Conservative Members of this Council on the Conservative benches think that this Council gets enough money to provide the services that we have. How many...

(Background talking)

How many, how many, hands up, it's one of your tricks Councillor Stephenson. Come on hands up if you think we get enough. Clearly none of you, none of you think we have enough money to deliver on the services that we need to do. We have every right and it is absolutely right as an administration of this Council to do our job which is to ask and demand the money and the resources

that we need to do the job we are here to do for the people of this city and that is why we're bringing this White Paper regardless of General Elections and who's running the country. It is absolutely right to say that we do a good job with our hands tied behind our back and if you can't recognise that then there is something seriously wrong with your analysis.

On your White Paper and the Conservative Party, they're saying we're going to have fifty thousand new nurses and we know that that was debunked.

Nicky Morgan got a peerage for coming out and repeatedly saying it is fifty thousand even though nineteen thousand of them is already there, so it's not fifty thousand new nurses or more nurses. You know others have gone through this list and it's absolutely right they are just manifesto pledges. We don't have any actual you know funding to say here it is this is what we're doing and great £33.9b of health spending, of course we welcome that but let's see it. After 10 years of your government we've got children lying on the floor in A&E, waiting times been missed and targets been missed all the time, we got full hospitals still year after year of Conservative government so you know this is just the reality of what we're dealing with and if I'm not meant to stand here and say that that is what is happening then what are we here for, that is our job right, that is exactly what we're meant to do.

In your in your manifesto, in your manifesto you're saying that you've got a commitment to invest an additional £1b in each year for Social Care. We get piecemeal funding in Social Care, the winter grant, we cannot plan with that it get's given to us once every year and then or not and then we can't say well let's build a care home with that or provide a new service with that because we don't know whether we're going to get it the following year so we're asking for that certainty, that is the right thing for us to do. That £1b which you didn't mention really and go into at all it's actually for Children's and Adults. We've got a huge funding gap in Adult Social Care alone and Children's Social Care is also at breaking point as has been has been described. Your economic model is about austerity, pulling back and then letting people fend for themselves. After ten years we are in a position where all of the problems that come with that mean that people need crisis level services, that is why it doesn't work, it's not a long term strategy. You need to fund early intervention, you need to fund prevention, good Social Care services get people out of hospital. You should be backing us on this and not spouting your manifesto pledges as if it's all absolutely fine, it isn't, it really isn't so I think you should support our White Paper.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: OK we'll go to a vote. The first amendment in the name of Councillor Carter. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been LOST.

The second White Paper in the name, sorry second amendment in the name of Councillor Golton.

(Background talking)

It's already started.

(Background talking)

Councillor Golton it is already started. We can do in this (inaudible) way if you want. *(A vote was taken)*. That's been LOST.

Somebody would like a recorded vote please. So we need a seconder is there anyone to second. OK.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay are you intending to vote.

Yes 60, abstention, abstain 2, no 3. So that, 23 sorry. That's been CARRIED.

So we have come to the end of the meeting. We have made it and Members do see why we don't give sugar when it's full Council. They'll be no scones, no sugar for your tea for next Full Council, too much energy.

(Laughter)

These young lads have too much energy, there's a football match coming on and I expect you to be on the pitch.

(Background talking)

No sugar I was going to treat you.

*(The meeting closed at 7.30pm)*