

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

Meeting to be held remotely on
Thursday 25 February 2021 at 10.30 am

(A pre-meeting will take place for all Members of the Board at 10.00 a.m.)

MEMBERSHIP

B Anderson (Chair)	- Adel and Wharfedale;
J Akhtar	- Little London and Woodhouse;
J Bentley	- Weetwood;
A Blackburn	- Farnley and Wortley;
K Brooks	- Little London and Woodhouse
D Collins	- Horsforth;
M Dobson	- Garforth and Swillington
A Gabriel	- Beeston and Holbeck;
P Grahame	- Cross Gates and Whinmoor;
P Gruen	- Cross Gates and Whinmoor;
M Harland	- Kippax and Methley
A Khan	- Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
N Sharpe	- Temple Newsam;
T Smith	- Pudsey;

Note to observers of the meeting: To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Webcast' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

[25 March 2021: Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board](#)

Principal Scrutiny Adviser:
Rebecca Atherton
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A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25* of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(* In accordance with Procedure Rule 25, notice of an appeal must be received in writing by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting).</p>	
2			<p>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report. 2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information. 3. If so, to formally pass the following resolution:- <p>RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:</p> <p>No exempt items have been identified.</p>	

3

LATE ITEMS

To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.

(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)

4

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 13-16 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2021

5 - 10

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021.

7

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING - UPDATE

11 - 20

To receive an update from the Director of Resources and Housing on the Council's interventions in the private rented sector which aim to improve the quality of such accommodation in the city.

8

CLIMATE EMERGENCY: ANNUAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORT & CEAC UPDATE

21 - 78

To consider the Annual Climate Emergency Report and an update on the activity of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

9

WORK SCHEDULE

79 - 108

To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2020/21 municipal year.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next public meeting of the Board will take place on 25 March 2021 at 10.30am. There will be a pre-meeting for Board members at 10am.

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, J Bentley,
A Blackburn, D Collins, A Gabriel,
P Grahame, A Khan, P Gruen, M Harland,
N Sharpe, K Brooks and T Smith

70 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

71 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

72 Late Items

There were no late items.

73 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

74 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies of absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor M Dobson.

75 Minutes - 12 November 2020 and 2 December 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held 12th November 2020 and 2nd December 2020, be confirmed as an accurate record.

76 Reducing Poverty and Improving Financial Inclusion

The report of the Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare, provided the Board with an update on work undertaken by Leeds City Council and partners to reduce poverty and improve financial inclusion, with the particular focus on the implementation and impact of Universal Credit.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- James Rogers, Director Communities and Environment
- Lee Hemsworth, Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare
- Jo Rowlands, Financial Inclusion Manager
- Kevin Bruce, Service Manager
- Nick Hart, Deputy Head Customer Contact

- Simon Betts, DWP
- Rebecca Owens, DWP
- Dianne Lyons & Marilyn Bannister, Leeds CAB
- Nick Morgan, Chapeltown CAB
- Saleem Shafi & Sylvia Simpson, Money Buddies
- Chris Smyth, Leeds Credit Union

The Chief Officer (Customer Access & Welfare) introduced the report and delivered a PowerPoint presentation alongside the Partnership Manager (DWP), Service Manager (LCC), and the Chief Executive (Leeds CAB) which provided an overview of:

- Key statistics relating to poverty in Leeds prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, and since March 2020, with initial increase in inequalities across communities;
- COVID-19 Response including the establishment of partnerships and a snapshot of key activities including the Covid-19 Helpline, LWSS Food and Warehouse, Council Tax Hardship Payments, Leeds Credit Union Branch accessibility and Leeds Money Information Centre website;
- DWP national and local update and key changes to the service during the pandemic;
- Housing Leeds update including key statistics relating to Leeds Housing tenants moving into UC full service, the co-location arrangements with DWP to establish strong relationships, the 3 tier service Housing Leeds use to provide support to tenants during the early stages of a UC claim and an overview of the DWP Landlord portal;
- Citizens Advice Partner update including the impact of Covid-19 and the additional pressures on low income households, key data in relation to the types of enquiries with an initial rise in enquiries related to Welfare Benefits and UC. Issues in terms of financial hardship, digital exclusion, unemployment and the impact of temporary interventions coming to an end;
- Key issues that still remain in terms of the capacity to access benefits, the 5 week wait for UC payment, the need for wider support, claimants having fluctuating financial circumstances as a result of the pandemic and claimants being wrongly advised to claim for UC rather than legacy benefits.

Representatives from Money Buddies provided Members with an insight into the experience of UC claimants, particularly those impacted by Covid-19. Members heard there had been no barriers with partnership working across the city, and Money Buddies are now providing emergency debt advice. Concerns were raised in relation to mental health, the demand on services and the level of debt for clients has increased by 20% in comparison to 2019.

A representative from the Leeds Credit Union informed the Board that 4 branches across Leeds had remained open and services continued, noting a large increase in emergency welfare payments. It was noted that an online banking application had been introduced without the need for people to visit the branches.

Members' discussed a number of matters, including:

- New claimants waiting 5 weeks for their first UC payment. Members identified issues relating to long term finances and mental health challenges. In responding, the Partnership Manager (DWP) explained that there were no proposals to reduce the waiting time. Although, payment options were in place in terms of advanced lending and 2 weekly payments instead of 4;
- Covid-19 helpline. In response to a query, Members were advised that the LWSS do not operate on weekends and although this had been trialled in November 2020, this was not a requirement. It was noted that a number of Volunteer Care Hubs remain open to operate on weekends;
- Clarity on the role of Work Coaches. Members were informed that frontline support is provided to customers upon making their claim to benefit and every customer will be allocated a work coach for the duration of their claim. Additional support is provided to individuals to explore training opportunities and to sustain support during employment;
- Covid-19 recovery. Members were informed of the support available to communities including the services provided on behalf of Money Buddies to help people form positive financial habits and the support provided with the uptake of UC;
- Clarity on UC sanctions. Members heard that temporary suspension on overpayment and deductions had now resumed, although it was confirmed that sanctions are applied in a small number of cases. Members were informed that a strict process is in place when considering referrals, and that a sanction had not been referred throughout the pandemic. Additionally, Safeguarding Senior Leaders had been appointed across the Country.

External Partners from the CAB highlighted their positive experience of partnerships across the city, whilst acknowledging the importance of lobbying Government on the changes with the £20/week uplift in UC payment ending in April 2021. Their concerns with Covid-19 recovery and the impact on health and wellbeing in the city had also been outlined.

The Executive Member for Communities, summarised by praising the partnership work in the city, and with the Local Authority. Key issues highlighted included the £20 UC payment being frozen, the 5 week wait for UC payments and long term debt issues in relation to high street lending and early re-payments. The importance of continued lobbying to Government on these changes had been reiterated.

The Chair thanked all for their attendance.

RESOLVED:

- a) To note the contents of the report and verbal updates received during the meeting;

- b) To note the work being undertaken to address financial inclusion and the impact of Universal Credit;
- c) To continue monitoring activity in relation to this agenda.

77 Best Council Plan Performance Report Quarter 2 2020/21

The report of the Director of Resources and Housing and the Director of Communities and Environment, provided the Board with a summary of 2020/21 Quarter 2 performance data and provides an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the Best Council Plan 2020 to 2025. The report provides the Board with an overview of the relevant Environment, Housing and Communities performance relating to the Best Council Plan, enabling the Board to consider and challenge the council's performance.

Appended to the report included a summary of:

- o Quarter 2 performance data relating to Housing priorities (Appendix 1)
- o Indicators relating to Community Safety (Appendix 2)
- o Indicators relating to Waste and Environmental priorities (Appendix 3)

The following were in attendance for this item:

- o Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- o Councillor Rafique, Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles
- o James Rogers, Director of Communities and Environment
- o Neil Evans, Director of Resources and Housing
- o Gerard Tinsdale, Chief Officer Housing

The Board discussed the exploration of free parking in the city centre, discounted private parking, and public transport services; considerations around encouraging footfall and revenue into the city centre. The Director of Communities and Environment confirmed that parking was constantly under review and explained that free parking was initially introduced to support NHS and Social Care staff to undertake their duties effectively. It was confirmed that a permit scheme for those workers had now been implemented, and there would be a number of factors to take into account if we were to consider free parking for everybody, the key challenges being congestion in the city centre, and budgetary implications.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report, as well as Appendices 1 – 3

78 Initial Budget Proposals & Financial Health Monitoring

The report of the Head of Democratic Services provided the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) with the Executive Board's initial budget proposals for 2021/22 for consideration, review and comment on matters and proposals relating to service areas that fall within the Scrutiny Board's remit.

The Executive Board's initial budget proposals report for 2021/22, considered at its meeting on 16 December 2020, had been appended to the report for

consideration. The report set out the initial budget proposals for 2021/22, within the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Spending Review 2020, and proposed budget savings reports. The report details a further 5.2m of potential savings that were approved at Executive Board in December, and subsequently submitted for wider consultation with stakeholders.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- James Roger, Director of Communities and Environment
- Neil Evans, Director of Resources and Housing
- Michal Everitt, Head of Finance
- Kevin Mulvaney, Head of Finance

The Board discussed the following matters:

- Activities such as bowls being recognised by Get Set Leeds – a Member recognised bowls as a competitive sport, and engaged elderly people as well as other age groups. It was noted that consultation ‘phase 2’ was ongoing and comments in relation to this sport had been noted and would be fed into the consultation;
- Concerns around the design and wording of the consultation document – it was noted that people are provided with the opportunity to put forward their broader comments and opinions, and these would be considered.

The Director of Resources and Housing explained that a settlement from Government had been received prior to Christmas, and had reduced the gap by 27 million. Of that 27 million, 9.9 million related to the ability to raise an Adult Social Care precept through Council Tax, thus increasing the amount of local funding used to fund Adult Social Care. Additionally, a series of asset sales would be considered. A shortfall of a few million in the previous budget had been presented to tackle before the February budget.

The Chair thanked officers for their contributions and also acknowledged the ongoing work to agree various budget proposals.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report and relevant information contained within the appended Executive Board report.

79 Work Schedule

The report of the Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that invited Members to consider the Board’s Work Schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year. Copies of the Board’s draft work schedule were appended to the report, the remote minutes of the Executive Board meetings held on 18 November, 24 November and 16 December 2020.

The Principle Scrutiny Adviser introduced the report and highlighted the possibility of an additional meeting in April 2021.

Members discussed the items on the upcoming work schedule, including:

- To include an update on high-rise buildings when considering the item on Fuel Poverty / Energy Efficiency in Council Housing Stock / Carbon reduction in the Private Rented Sector;
- An upcoming working group which will further explore the anti-social use of fireworks locally and regionally.

RESOLVED – That the work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year be noted.

80 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To note the date and time of the next meeting as 25 February 2021 at 10.30 am.

(The meeting concluded at 12:35 pm.)

Report of Director of Housing and Resources

Report to Environment Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 25th February 2021

Subject: Private Sector Housing - update

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	Yes x No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No

Summary

1. Main Issues

- The report provides an update to the Environment Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board on the Councils interventions in the private rented sector in order to improve the quality of accommodation in the sector across the city

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The interventions have contributed to providing homes of the right quality, type and affordability in the right places and minimising homelessness.
- This way of working contributes to keeping people safe from harm and promotes community respect and resilience.
- Contributes to tackling poverty, helping everyone reach their full potential and benefit from the economy.
- Helps to reduce health inequalities and supporting active lifestyles.

3. Resource Implications

- There are no resources issues in relation to delivery of the service

- Both selective licensing schemes in Beeston and Harehills and mandatory HMO licensing in the city generate fee income which is ring fenced to the delivery of the schemes

Recommendations

- a) The Environment Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board are requested to note the content of the report.

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Board on the Council's interventions to address housing conditions and the quality of accommodation in the private rented sector

2. Background Information

- 2.1 In 2017 the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey estimated that there were 70,000 privately rented properties in the city, representing 20% of the accommodation provided within the city. This figure has continued to increase over the last few years generally at the expense of the owner occupation market.
- 2.2 There is no single privately rented market but different markets which serve the needs of different families and individuals. The largest market in the city is the student sector mainly in the inner north west of the city, but the lower rental markets in the inner city areas have seen a significant increase in the last decade. Areas such as Beeston and Harehills have seen an increase over the last ten years of a sector representing 10/20% of the market to over 50% of the housing in the areas.
- 2.3 It must be recognised that most of the sector is self-regulating and provides accommodation which in general does not require intervention by the Council. The poorest accommodation in the sector is mainly found in the lower rental markets, found within the inner city areas of the city. These areas have seen a significant increase in the number of privately rented sector properties so in most it is now the main tenure type. These changes have led to some areas having issues with transient populations, community cohesion, new communities migrating into an area and an increase in the level of inadequate and unacceptably managed accommodation provided by poor landlords.
- 2.4 With the issue of a shortage of affordable homes, including new build, the loss of social homes and the availability of mortgages, the private rented sector is increasing and becoming the only option or even the tenure of choice for a large number of individuals and families.
- 2.5 Overall the private rented sector is generally of poorer quality than either the owner/occupation or social sector. Whilst it is recognised that there is no single private rental market in the city, with a variety of quality accommodation on offer, it should still be noted that most of the sector still offers quality homes above the legal minimum standards.
- 2.6 The majority of the private rental sector is contained within the pre 1919 stock. One in four of the private rented sector has at least one or more category 1 hazards present in their property. The main hazards found in the sector are excess cold,

falls, disrepair, fire safety and damp/mould. Again the highest level of properties with hazards are within the inner areas of the city.

- 2.7 Unfortunately the most vulnerable, the young and elderly who tend to be on low income are generally found in the poorest quality privately rented homes in the city.
- 2.8 The Council has a duty under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 to address standards and remove any hazards which are found to be classified as category one. The Act along with the more recent Housing and Planning Act 2016 provides the Council with powers to address standards including the ability to take formal legal action in the form of court action or civil penalties of up to £30k of any offences or issues.
- 2.9 In 2016 the Executive Board set out the way in which the Council would address standards in the sector.
- 2.10 The approach is to look to support the good landlords who provide good quality well managed accommodation which is essential to a city such as Leeds in order to continue to be prosperous and continue to grow its economy.
- 2.11 However for poor, rogue or criminal landlords, the approach is to target resources to ensure that they do comply with their legal duties or face the full action of the Council and partners. The Council has a more robust approach to the sector which supports this approach. The National and local Landlord Associations are fully supportive of this approach to the regulation of the sector, as it helps to create a level and fair market for all by targeting those in the sector who have a disregard for their legal duties and create a bad reputation for landlords in the city.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 In a normal 12 month period the service receives around 4000 requests for service, serves up to 2000 legal notices, undertakes up to 2500 inspections and improves the homes of at least 4000 individuals. With COVID and the restricted ability to inspect properties the ability of the service to address conditions and standards has been limited. However the service has still managed to continue to deliver some services given the restrictions it has faced. The service has not undertaken any proactive inspections to determine housing conditions or licence breaches since March 2020. As well as addressing housing standards the service has also supported wider Council priorities during the pandemic, helping to deliver food to those in need and the wider COVID reduction initiatives.

Reactive Service

- 3.2 The service receives a considerable number of requests for help each year. Normally requests are subject to a triage duty officer process to determine action required. COVID has restricted the ability of the service deliver this function as we have followed both Government guidance and risk assessments over the last few months to ensure that we provide the service required and support the sector during these difficult times. Initially during the first lockdown only emergency inspections with the appropriate protections in place were undertaken. Currently the service is still trying to resolve requests remotely where possible, but with the appropriate risk assessments in place we are now visiting more and more properties where we can control the environment and keep all parties safe.
- 3.3 Since March 2020 the whole service has still managed to undertake 1032 inspections, serve 795 notices, remove 815 hazards by both formal and informal means and improve the properties of 1800 residents by its actions.

Leeds Rental Standard

- 3.4 As part of the support for the good landlords the Council continues to support the Leeds Rental Standard. This is a means by which the good landlords are able to self-regulate, signing up to good property and management conditions and having a robust complaints and disciplinary process to ensure high standards. The scheme is administered by a board with representatives from the sector including the Council. The aim is to drive up standards and work with landlords to improve their businesses and the homes offered and allow good landlords to self-regulate their businesses allowing the Council to put resources into addressing poor and criminal landlords.

Rogue Landlord Unit

- 3.5 The Rogue Landlord Unit has been working closely with the Police, HMRC and others to target criminal landlords, especially based on the intelligence gathered from Beeston and Harehills due to selective licensing. This has resulted in number of successful raids with the police linked to cannabis farms and human trafficking. This work is ongoing and the Unit are now activity targeting criminals who use the sector as part of their business models rather than simply poor or rogue landlords who just provide poor accommodation. The aim of the Unit is to disrupt the businesses by working with partners and taking whatever legal actions we can take against the landlords as part of a holistic approach to dealing with organised criminal gangs and criminal individuals.
- 3.6 Activity has been limited due to officers being unable to control inspections to ensure they were carried out in a COVID safe way. However the Unit has still managed to undertake 55 property standards inspections, visited a further 68 premises to obtain intelligence and served 35 enforcement notices including, improvement notices and emergency prohibition orders due to unsafe premises and notices exercising powers of entry.
- 3.7 The Unit is also using intelligence from Beeston and Harehills to support the selective licensing schemes to target landlords who have failed to apply for a licence. This has resulted in excess of 80 current investigations into a number of landlords with larger portfolios who have failed to comply with their legal requirement to licence. This is being supported by landlords who have applied for their licence(s) and want us to target those who have not done so. This is likely to result in a number of prosecutions and civil penalties being commenced. Intelligence suggests that potentially up to a 1000 properties may be operating without a licence across both selective licensing areas.

HMO activity

- 3.8 The city continues to have one of the highest levels of licenced HMO's in the country. Currently there are 3201 licensed properties in the city, mainly in the inner north west of the city and student market. The recent change in legislation in October 2018 has removed the criteria for the number of stories but retained the 5 or more people, 2 or more households. This has seen further properties becoming licensable in the city. The service has been restricted during COVID as it has not been able to undertake its normal proactive checking of licence conditions and investigations for non-compliance with Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004. However whenever possible it has continued to investigate those licensable properties which are operating without a licence and take the appropriate action.
- 3.9 A significant number of HMO do not fall within the criteria for a HMO licensing. In recent years the Council has seen an increase in smaller overdeveloped HMO's

across the city. These tend to be occupied by some of the more vulnerable in our society. To target these properties the service has a proactive HMO team which targets such homes. These are targeted based on intelligence, complaints and referrals from partners. They tend to be overdeveloped previously family homes with limited space available to a tenant. Officers will proactively target such homes and address standards.

- 3.10 Space is a real issue in these properties and the Council has worked with colleagues in Planning, Lord Best and others to try and address space standards in such homes. This has resulted in a number of successful cases which has set precedents for space standards in the private rented sector, changes in the permitted development scheme to include space standards and work with RIAMS to develop new space standard examples to support Councils across the country in addressing space as a hazard.
- 3.11 The Council will be publishing guidance for landlords which has been produced in consultation with national and local landlords associations, and colleagues in Planning and Legal. In addition Planning colleagues are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document for space standards which will also help to improve standards in the city.

Landlord Letting Scheme (LLS)

- 3.12 The service continues to support the homelessness agenda and improve homes via the LLS. It allows individuals and families facing housing concerns to access the private rented sector and with close engagement with landlords, it provides support into taking those vulnerable tenants who may have found access to this market difficult. This has been achieved through a range of financial incentives, affordability assessments and both landlord and tenant support schemes to provide stable and sustainable homes.
- 3.13 The service continues to work with colleagues in LHO through inspection of prospective property to ensure that they meet suitability criteria, being safe and compliant and also support marketing campaigns to increase supply of private rented property from property owners, landlords and agents.
- 3.14 During the lockdown officers have continued to work with colleagues in LHO and the sector to provide homes for those in need. This has been critical to the support to rehouse those in the hotels due to COVID as well as others in need and helping to prevent homelessness by providing good quality privately rented accommodation to those in need. Since the start of March to December 2020, 493 properties have been sourced via the scheme providing much needed accommodation for those looking for a home.

Leeds Neighbourhood Approach (LNA)

- 3.15 The LNA has continued to proactively target properties in Holbeck as part of the Locality Approach adopted by the Council to target resources to the neighbourhoods most in need. By crossing the threshold of properties where the most vulnerable live, it has enabled the team to not only improve their homes, but also make a difference to their lives, through enabling partners who the team are working with to target their resources more intensely to those individuals who need them most making a bigger difference to their lives. Due to the nature of the work undertaken by the team and its partners, COVID has restricted activity since March, unfortunately including the closure of the pop up hub which partners supported to provide a place for the community to access support for jobs, training, financial support, benefit checks, and help with their health needs.

- 3.16 The team have targeted 1070 homes in the Holbeck area with 136 left to inspect. They are also focusing on returning long term empty homes back into use in three other areas (in addition to Holbeck) namely, Beeston, Armley and Harehills. Despite limitations due to COVID, over 180 property inspections have taken place, 50 long term empty homes have been returned to use, 222 external inspections and 60 visits to homes have been carried out. 20 enforcement notices have been served including, improvement notices due to unsafe premises and notices exercising powers of entry. The team have also recovered over £50K in relation civil penalty fines relating to failure to comply with enforcement notices served.
- 3.17 The officers in the LNA are currently working towards an exit from Holbeck, ensuring works identified on properties are completed, taking appropriate enforcement action to secure these improvements where needed. An exit plan is to be agreed prior to exit which will include a reduced officer presence, to ensure improvements are maintained as part of a wider partnership approach. The team will then be working in Beeston and Harehills to support selective licensing in these areas, adopting a similar model of supporting residents via crossing the threshold. The team will deal with conditions and aspects of housing which cannot be covered by the selective licensing schemes, namely Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004, as well as working with partners to address individual needs as per the work in Holbeck.

Selective Licensing – Beeston and Harehills

- 3.18 The Council has designated Beeston and Harehills as areas subject to selective licensing. Both areas come into force as of the 6th January 2020. As of that date, all private landlords will be required to have a licence (or applied for one) to operate their rental property. The licence is subject to a fee which will cover the cost of the scheme. The fee income cannot be used to support any other activity by the Council including the enforcement of Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004.
- 3.19 The Council has received two pre-action letters from landlords with the potential for judicial reviews. Both have been robustly responded to and no further action has been instigated against the Council in either case.
- 3.20 Recruitment to the two teams was completed by the beginning of October 2020 with all posts now filled.
- 3.21 Since the commencement of the scheme the Council has received 5434 licence applications, 2054 for Beeston and 3380 for Harehills by December 2020. All application have now been imputed to allow the processing of licences. Unfortunately due to COVID this had to be done remotely which impacted on delivery as it had to done under IG considerations which had not been anticipated at the commencement of the scheme and a different way to the one initially planned.
- 3.22 As part of the support for the sector the Council delayed requests for the payment of any licence fees from March to September 2020.. This has resulted in a delay in processing and issuing licences as payment of the fee is part of a full and valid application. Of the applications received by December 2020 the Council has received 4,704 initial licence fees, 1,779 for Beeston and 2,925 for Harehills. This equates to 86% of all licences received (86% for Beeston and 86% for Harehills). So far 10% of applications have not had a fee payment made and landlords are currently subject to formal investigation with a view, subject to the evidential and public interest test, formal proceedings
- 3.23 Currently the two teams are in the process of validating licence applications and processing via the draft licence to the full licence stage. This requires a checking

that all information is current, valid ID documents have been attached and undertaking the draft licence consultations with all interested parties.

- 3.24 The next step will be to commence the property visits as soon as the pandemic allows us to do so safely for all parties involved. This will allow us to ensure compliance with the licence conditions, address any breaches, continue to target those landlords who fail to ensure that they hold a valid licence or ensure minimum property standards, support the good landlords and working with partners address individual and neighbourhood issues.

Empty Homes

- 3.25 Addressing empty homes remains a priority for the Council and the service. Everyone is a potential home for someone and prevents the need to build a new one. Between 2012 and 2017 as part of the Core Planning Strategy the Council reduced the number of empty homes by 2000 to 3776. Since then the Council has continued to work with partners in the Community Led Housing field and Empty Homes Doctor to maintain the level below this figure as of the end of each financial year. As of March 2020 the level of empty homes in the city was 3545.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation and engagement is embedded within the individual policies and areas of activity. This is particularly important in the areas where a large proportion of landlords and residents could be the BAME communities.
- 4.1.2 Officers are actively engaged in working groups with MHCLG over the implementation of various parts of the legislation including producing guidance to support its implementation.
- 4.1.3 Officers are actively engaged with various regional and national working groups to develop best practise working with other Councils, Local Government Association and Landlord Representatives on issues and policy proposals.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Assessments are undertaken for each of the various different interventions and policies.

4.3 Council Policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 By working with the sector and targeting some of the poorest housing and most deprived communities, the interventions contribute too many of the Council's key priorities. The initiatives contribute to the compassionate city agenda, improving housing and health, providing employment and training opportunities as well as improving the neighbourhoods as well as improving housing standards in general.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 A significant challenge for the reduction in the city's carbon footprint is housing. The private rented where the current influence of the council is small, is a challenge for the Council.
- 4.3.3 By intervening in the private rented sector the Council have and will continue to help with issues affecting the climate:
- Better quality homes and standards will help to reduce energy consumption.
 - Education of both residents/tenants and landlords to help reduce waste and improve recycling.
 - Better engagement with landlords to improve education specifically around the changing energy legislation requirements which affect the sector.
 - Improve the EPC rating of the property to EPC B/C helps contribute to the carbon saving target of properties by 2030.
 - Improving the life span of the existing housing stock so preventing the carbon footprint of demolition and new build.
 - Work with the Government on proposals to address energy efficiency and carbon reduction in the sector

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 The service evaluates on an individual basis the activities it undertakes
- 4.4.2 The licence fee income for both selective and HMO licencing can only be spent on the administration of the schemes and must be cost neutral or subsidised by the Council. The Council cannot be seen to make a surplus
- 4.4.3 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduced the provision to use civil penalties as an alternative to prosecutions. Any income generated must be retained and used solely for private sector housing enforcement activity.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information, and Call-In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications with the report. The report contains no exempt or confidential information.
- 4.5.2 In addressing standards and issues within the private sector all legal implications and consideration are taken into account by the service.
- 4.5.3 The licence fee income generated for both mandatory HMO licensing and selective licensing schemes is ring fenced to the administration of those schemes only.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Each element of the service, policy or activity has its own risk assessment as well as consideration of how it impacts on the service as a whole.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The report covers the issues identified by the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board meeting in relation to the private sector housing.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Scrutiny Board is requested to note the content of the report

7. Background Documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 25 February 2021

Subject: Climate Emergency - update

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this item is to provide the Scrutiny Board with an update about the work of the Council’s Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and to provide an opportunity to explore the Annual Climate Emergency report.

2. Background information

2.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency; Executive Board in April 2019 further considered the implications of this resolution. In May 2019, the Leader of Council reviewed the Executive arrangements for the authority to reflect the Council’s policy objectives in this area, and the Climate Change Advisory Committee was established.

2.2 The first meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee was held on 2 July 2019. The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) received an update on the Board’s function and work priorities at its meeting on [12 September 2019](#). At that meeting members requested that the Scrutiny Board be kept updated on the progress of CEAC given the Scrutiny Board’s remit incorporates oversight of decision making relating to climate change, sustainable energy and carbon reduction.

2.3 Also attached to this item is the [Annual Climate Emergency Report](#), which was provided to the Executive Board on [10 February](#) and sets out in particular detail the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on emissions in the city. The report further outlines how action to tackle to the climate emergency links to wider issues that are of interest

for this Scrutiny Board including reducing fuel poverty and delivering new jobs through the green economy.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was introduced following the declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2019. It is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change and sustainability.
- 3.2 The attached annual report sets out the progress made by the main CEAC committee and each of its three current working groups. Those working groups have explored issues relating to biodiversity, planning and transport. The report further sets out the priorities for work programming within the committee and these working groups.
- 3.3 The report highlights the way in which CEAC has contributed to increasing public engagement and interest in citywide activity to tackle climate change. Particular attention is drawn to the open forum section of CEAC committee meetings and further information about the issues raised through this mechanism is set out in the appendix to the main annual report.
- 3.4 The Annual Climate Emergency Report highlights the complex effect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on emissions in the city and the ways in which recent progress can be consolidated as the city seeks to enter a long-term recovery.
- 3.5 Resourcing is noted as a specific ongoing challenge with the report also highlighting examples of successful funding to enable local investment and activity.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 This report provides the opportunity to engage with the Scrutiny Board in relation to ongoing work of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and progress towards emission reduction targets.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency and the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was established to reflect the Council's policy objectives in this area.
- 4.3.2 The Scrutiny Board retains a significant interest in this agenda, which includes Best City and Best Council key performance indicators such as reduced carbon emission and the number of households in fuel poverty.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 This item is entirely related to the Council's response to the declared climate emergency and progress towards associated priorities within the Best Council Plan.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications as a result of this report.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5 Conclusions

5.1 At the request of the Scrutiny Board, this report provides an opportunity to discuss the Annual Climate Emergency Report and to receive an update on the activity of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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Report of Director of Resources and Housing
Report to Executive Board
Date: 10th February 2021
Subject: Annual Report on the Climate Emergency

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- 2021 is a key year in the fight against the climate emergency.
- The pandemic has had complex effects on emissions but with an estimated overall reduction of 13% from 2019 to 2020. It has significantly reduced emissions from the private car as traffic levels across the city drop by up to 40%. The impact of the covid-19 pandemic has also reduced the use of public transport and we have seen greater prioritisation of walking and cycling. Schemes such as the district heating and transport schemes have been able to progress more quickly due to the reduced traffic levels but others have been slowed down due to the impact on staffing level and/or the ability to complete works within private residences.
- As we start to emerge from the pandemic, we must focus on consolidating the trends that have supported this rapid reduction in emissions such as increased home working and buying more locally, and we must look to rebuild the economy with a focus on long term sustainability.
- At a council level, the pandemic has had a number of impacts that will support our ambition to reduce our emissions by 50% by 2025:
 - grey fleet mileage has been reduced by 46%, with some services adopting new ways of working on a permanent basis;
 - it has accelerated our estate rationalisation programme due to the high level of people that are working from home;

- we have secured funding to support the retrofit of some of our buildings through the public sector decarbonisation fund that forms part of the government's green recovery package.
- In November, the UK will host the United Nations Global Climate Summit COP 26 in Glasgow and the spotlight will be on the progress that the UK has made.
- On 9 December 2020 the UK Climate Change Committee released its Sixth Carbon Budget report, including a specific local authority report. This reflects that there is a disconnect between the differing tiers of Government and the ability to act on climate change in seeking to achieve net zero. Government policy at a national level does not always connect to the plans, powers and ambitions otherwise sitting at a Combined Authority, Local Authority or indeed Town and Parish level.
- At the end of 2020 we saw a number of key policy changes such as the ban on the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2030 and we also saw the government increasing its targeted reduction by 2030 from 57% to 68%. Although all of these announcements are encouraging, they still do not reflect the required urgency and the speed of change that is needed to restrict climate change to 1.5°C. Therefore there is a key role for the council to continue to engage its citizens on this agenda and to work with government to bring about the policy changes that are required.
- The updated roadmap produced by the Leeds Climate Commission demonstrates the rate at which the various measures such as heat pumps, solar panels etc. need to be installed to meet the emissions reductions pathway.
- Funding continues to be a key barrier to the pace of change that is required. By the end of 2020 the council had secured more than £15 million of grant to support additional energy efficiency work across both the domestic and public estate sectors, with the outcomes of a number of other funding bids still awaited. Although this funding is testament to the focus and the resource that the council has continued to place on the climate emergency, it is still only a tiny fraction of what will be required across the city.
- The city has also been successful in securing 60,000 Euros to develop an investment portfolio, which will provide the foundations to start to attract more of the private funding required to move at pace.
- The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee has also played a key role in 2020, helping to provide a place for the voice of our residents, young people and businesses to be heard. It has also ensured that a large number of councillors have had the benefit of hearing from external speakers on a number of climate related topics, helping to improve the understanding of our decision makers.
- Building on the success of the Leeds Climate Commission (a model that has already been replicated in many cities across the country), the creation of the new Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission was recently announced, with a formal launch in March 2021. Leaders from councils, businesses, utilities, unions and environmental groups from across Yorkshire and Humber are coming together to tackle the climate crisis head on through an ambitious new partnership. It will be the biggest regional commission of its kind and will provide the region with a united voice to call for the changes and support required at a national level. A key focus of the commission will be ensuring that the transition to a net zero economy is a just transition and to ensure that green jobs and skills are developed across the region.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The climate emergency is one of the three key priorities of the council, alongside inclusive growth and health and wellbeing. Much of the work described in this report supports not just the climate emergency agenda but also the other two key priorities by bringing people out of fuel poverty, encouraging exercise through active transport and tree planting, supporting inward investment in green technologies and helping to develop green jobs

3. Resource Implications

- Despite the significant impacts of covid-19 the council has continued to prioritise the climate emergency, dedicating resource to maximise the money secured through the different recovery schemes proposed by government.
- The council has already secured over £15.5 million of funding through the government's green recovery schemes for completing energy efficiency works in both the domestic sector and public sector estate as well through the Heat Network Investment Programme. This will complement the £24 million that had already been secured from European funding and will improve over 5,000 domestic properties as well as all of our city centre estate and will support the extension of our district heating network.
- As funding is a key challenge, securing 60,000 Euros to develop an investment portfolio for the city provides a fantastic opportunity to identify practical ways to secure the required investment. Coupled with our on-going engagement in national groups to explore how appropriate levels of funding can be secured, this is fundamental to meeting the challenging targets.

Recommendations

- a) Note the intention to report on the council's scope 3 emissions in the next annual report, in line with the climate commission's proposed approach for the city
- b) Note the intention to bring a domestic energy strategy to executive board in summer 2021

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress towards reducing emissions at both a national and local level, setting out key actions that have been undertaken. It will also reflect on the impact of the pandemic on both emissions and how the road to recovery can be founded in the green economy.

2. Background information

- 2.1 A carbon footprint measures the impact of activities on global warming through their greenhouse gas emissions. Where organisations are concerned, greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three different groups or 'scopes' and are usually referred to as 'direct' or 'indirect' emissions. Scope 1 emissions cover the direct emissions from an organisation's owned sources that can be controlled by that organisation, for example company vehicles and heating sources. Scope 2

emissions are the indirect emissions from the energy that is purchased and used by an organisation. This includes the emissions created in energy production and how the energy is subsequently used by an organisation. Examples of scope 2 emissions include the electricity used to power office appliances. Scope 3 emissions include all the indirect emissions that occur within an organisation's supply chain and are outside an organisation's direct control.

2.2 In January 2020 a climate emergency update paper was brought to Executive board that made a number of commitments at a council level. The table below shows that council intends to halve its scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2025.

	Tonnes CO₂e 2018	Tonnes CO₂e 2025
Streetlighting	13,821	0
Buildings (gas)	28,618	20,600
Buildings (electricity)	18,107	1,405
Fleet	10,274	9,000
Total	70,820	31,005

2.3 This will be delivered by a commitment to move towards low emissions vehicles, removing payments for staff using diesel or petrol cars post 2025 and a transition towards 100% green electricity.

2.4 The global covid-19 pandemic has shocked social and economic systems around the world. The first lockdown brought Britain to a near standstill, with road travel plummeting by as much as 73%, to levels not seen since 1955. However, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen strongly to a new peak this year, despite the impact of the global effects of the coronavirus crisis. The sudden fall in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants recorded during covid-19 lockdowns will only have a negligible impact on global temperature change. Researchers forecast that, even with some lockdown measures staying in place to the end of 2021, global temperatures will only be around 0.01°C lower than expected by 2030. However, the international study, led by the University of Leeds, also found that economic recovery plans with strong green stimuli and climate policies could prevent more than half of the additional warming expected by 2050. This would provide a good chance of global temperatures staying below the Paris Agreement's aspirational 1.5°C target, according to the researchers, avoiding 0.3°C of extra warming and the associated severe impacts and risks.

2.5 The past decade was the hottest ever recorded globally, with 2019 either the second or third warmest year on record, as the climate crisis accelerated temperatures upwards worldwide, scientists have confirmed. Every decade since 1980 has been warmer than the preceding decade, with the period between 2010 and 2019 the hottest yet since worldwide temperature records began in the 19th century. The increase in average global temperature is rapidly gathering pace, with the last decade up to 0.39°C warmer than the long-term average, compared with a 0.07°C average increase per decade stretching back to 1880. The past seven years, 2014 to 2020, have been the warmest since global records began, a period

that has included enormous heatwaves in the US, Europe and India, abnormally hot temperatures in the Arctic, and deadly wildfires from Australia to California to Greece. 2019 was either the second hottest year ever recorded, according to Nasa and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the third hottest year, as recorded by the UK Met Office. Overall, the world has heated up by about 1°C on average since the pre-industrial era.

- 2.6 The UK set four high temperature records in 2019 as climate change continued to have a clear impact on the country's weather, according to the Met Office. Its sixth State of the UK Climate report outlines how an all-time record of 38.7° C was set last July, along with a winter high of 21.2°C in February, and temperatures of 18.7°C and 13.9°C in December and February respectively. No national low-temperature records were set during 2019, which the Met Office said was the twelfth warmest year since 1884, and one of the least snowy. Most of the UK received above average rainfall.
- 2.7 Nevertheless, the trend of falling UK greenhouse gas emissions has continued with a drop of 2.1% in 2018 compared with the previous year, according to the latest statistics published by BEIS, and greenhouse gas emissions in 2018 are estimated to be 43.1% lower than they were in 1990.
- 2.8 Parliament arranged the UK's first ever Citizens' Climate Assembly during 2020. The assembly was made up of 108 people from diverse backgrounds, who took part in meetings to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A final report of the assembly said recovering from covid-19 should be used as an opportunity to achieve net zero carbon emissions and pursue different lifestyles to help tackle the climate crisis, including a frequent flyers tax and a reduction in meat and dairy consumption. A large majority, 79% of the assembly, either strongly agreed or agreed that economic recovery after the pandemic must be designed to help drive the country to its 2050 net zero target, which was enshrined in legislation last year.
- 2.9 The UK will be hosting the delayed United Nations global climate summit COP 26 (Convention of the Parties) in Glasgow (between 1 and 12 November 2021). Leeds is working with other UK Core Cities to demonstrate local authority action on climate change. This has included Leeds' endorsement of the Net Zero Local Leadership pledge through our participation in the UK100 network. The pledge commits the Council to bring the organisation's emissions to Net Zero by 2030 (as set out in the January 2020 Executive Board report) and to work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with net zero as soon as possible (and by 2045 at the latest). Similarly Leeds has also endorsed the European Covenant of Mayors pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050, although it is hoped that Leeds will achieve this target by a much earlier date (our local ambition set out in the January 2020 Executive Board report is for the city to be net-zero by 2030). The pledge was signed by a total of 27 European cities including Barcelona, Prague and Stockholm.
- 2.10 2020 has also seen a flurry of national policy announcements:
 - The Chancellor set out how the government intends to deliver £100bn capital expenditure in roads, rail, housing, schools and hospitals, underpinned by a new infrastructure strategy and bank. The infrastructure investment is underpinned by

a new National Infrastructure Strategy, which centres around three goals: economic recovery, the levelling up agenda, and meeting the UK's net zero emissions target by 2050.

- The Prime Minister announced a 10-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and also set out a proposed new carbon target. This proposes a reduction of 68% in annual carbon emissions by 2030, compared with 1990 levels, a significant increase on the current target of about 57% reductions.
- Increased national ambition was reinforced by the recent publication of the Energy White Paper setting the direction of travel for energy policy as the sector decarbonises over the next three decades. The paper proposes a number of initiatives including:
 - A refreshed greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme for large emitters to replace the current system once the UK leaves the European Union;
 - Further development of nuclear power, and long term ambitions for nuclear fusion;
 - Decarbonisation of the power sector with a significant expansion of offshore wind capacity and the gradual phase out of coal generation by October 2024;
 - £1bn investment in carbon capture and storage at four industrial clusters by 2030;
 - Significant investment in hydrogen production;
 - BEIS says all newly-installed heating systems should be low-carbon by the mid-2030s. Gas supplies to homes would either be converted to hydrogen, where available, or domestic heating would have to move to heat pumps instead. A consultation will open on ending gas connections to new homes from 2025.
 - £1.3bn investment in electric vehicle charging as sales of fossil fuelled cars and vans are ended by 2030;
 - Extension of the Warm Homes Discount Scheme and Green Homes Grant (announced earlier during the summer economic update).

2.11 The Heat and Buildings Strategy, Hydrogen Strategy, Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan are all due next year, culminating in the Net Zero Hydrogen Strategy ahead of COP26.

2.12 On 9 December 2020 the UK Climate Change Committee released its Sixth Carbon Budget report, including a specific local authority report. This reflects that there is a disconnection between the differing tiers of Government and the ability to act on climate change in seeking to achieve net zero. Government policy at a national level does not always connect to the plans, powers and ambitions otherwise sitting at a Combined Authority, Local Authority or indeed Town and Parish level. It notes that

this is not fully the case in Scotland and Wales, where arguably there is much greater integration in climate change aims and ambitions.

- 2.13 The report identifies how local authorities can support the implementation of the Sixth Carbon Budget through influencing matters at a local level relating to buildings, transport, waste, electricity, land use, forestry and agriculture. Leeds' activities in these area were summarised in the January 2020 Executive Board report.
- 2.14 The Climate Change Committee report recommends that in order to enable local authorities to effectively deliver climate action in the UK, the Government will need to develop clear policy, including guidance on the role of local authorities in delivering Net Zero, and empower local authorities with appropriate levels of funding and support.

3. Main issues

3.1 Council's emissions - Data

- 3.1.1 The table below shows the council's carbon reductions from 2018 to 2019 across its scope 1 and 2 emissions.

	Tonnes CO₂e 2018	Tonnes CO₂e 2019	Improvement 2018 to 2019	2025 Target Tonnes CO₂e
Street lighting	13,821	12,258	-11%	0
Buildings (gas)	28,618	26,087	-9%	20,600
Buildings (electricity)	18,107	16,730	-8%	1,405
Fleet	10,274	10,324	0%	9,000
Total	70,820	65,399	-8%	31,005

- 3.1.2 To date we have primarily focused on reporting scope 1 and 2 emissions as there has been limited precedents available for reporting on scope 3 emissions. However, the climate commission has committed to providing a first estimate of the city's scope 3 emissions in the summer (Scope 3 emissions include the goods and services purchased by an organisation, investments, employee and business travel, transportation, and waste disposal) and as a council we will also endeavour to quantify our scope 3 emissions.
- 3.1.3 For some organisations, scope 3 emissions often represent the largest proportion of total emissions and it is therefore important that these emissions are identified and reported in carbon neutrality targets. In most cases, it has been reported that scope 3 accounts for 80% of an organisation's emissions and – for some organisations – can account for as much as 97% of total emissions.

Corporate Estate

- 3.1.4 The council has continued to work to reduce carbon emissions from its estate.

- 3.1.5 The scheme to transfer the city's street lighting to LEDs has continued to be rolled out, with over 25,000 lights now converted to LED, resulting in a 3.9 million kWh reduction in electricity consumption and a saving of 909 tonnes CO₂ each year. Moving forward, a further 1,900 lanterns per month will be replaced up until the planned completion of the roll-out in October 2023.
- 3.1.6 An interest free Government loan (via Salix Finance Ltd) was secured earlier in the year to the value of £241k to install LED lighting in the Woodhouse Lane car park, along with movement and lumen sensors. The purpose of the scheme was to reduce energy consumption both when the car park was being used and out-of-hours.
- 3.1.7 Leeds Building Services (LBS) were commissioned to undertake this work and completed the scheme in December 2020. Although data is not yet available to demonstrate the full impacts of the scheme, substantial reductions have already been observed, and energy consumption is expected to reduce by at least 50%, which would equate to a reduction of over 280,000 kWh and 65 tonnes CO_{2e} per annum.
- 3.1.8 In addition to this, the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) opened the £1 billion Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in autumn 2020, offering grant funding to support the decarbonisation of heat in non-domestic public sector buildings.
- 3.1.9 In anticipation of this opportunity, the Sustainable Energy & Air Quality team, LBS, Corporate Property Management and a range of other internal and external partners have been working together this year to carry out technical feasibility assessments and identify a range of viable schemes to submit to BEIS. A total of five bids to the grant scheme between October and December 2020.
- 3.1.10 The combined value of the proposals is £25.2m, with bids including the installation of air source heat pumps, connections to district heating network, solar PV, building energy management systems, LED lighting, double glazing, variable speed drives, metering and radiator upgrades.
- 3.1.11 A total of 43 sites are covered, including 9 leisure centres, 4 civic buildings, 12 primary schools and a further mix of offices, depots, children's centres and homes for older people
- 3.1.12 Timescales for delivery associated with the grant scheme are challenging. All works for which funding is received must be completed by the end of September 2021. If successful, the schemes would enable an estimated 3,145 tonnes CO_{2e} to be saved per year upon completion and would support the local green economy, safeguarding or creating an estimated 280 jobs.
- 3.1.13 Although the focus this year has been to maximise this new potential opportunity to secure PSDS grant funding, the existing Salix finance scheme will continue to be explored as a means of funding the further expansion of renewable generation and energy efficiency measures across the Council's buildings and schools.
- 3.1.14 Asset Management have continued to lead the programme of rationalisation of the council's estate, with the changes in ways of working resulting from covid-19

restrictions highlighting the scope for rationalisation of office space in particular, as well as exploring opportunities across the wider estate. 65 buildings remain closed and their future is being reconsidered. Properties no longer required for operational purposes will be sold via the Capital Receipt programme. A separate report elsewhere on this agenda provides an update on the Capital Receipt Programme.

- 3.1.15 The council also approved a target in January 2020 to move to 100% electricity provided from green sources through entering into a power purchase agreement, but with the ambition to continually move to more locally produced renewables over the next ten years. In light of the opportunity presented by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to accelerate the roll-out of renewable generation capacity across the council's own estate, the emphasis this year has been more on the latter part of this target. However, the council is still actively seeking opportunities to enter into a corporate agreement that will see all of its electricity demand met from renewable sources, but that will provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate the rapidly changing profile of its future energy requirements.
- 3.1.16 These measures combined will deliver substantial progress towards the commitment made in January 2020 to a rationalisation and energy efficiency programme which will reduce emissions from council buildings by a further 40% by 2025.

Fleet and Grey Fleet

- 3.1.17 The Corporate Fleet will benefit from the Electric Vehicle Trial Centre, with the trial fleet being absorbed into the corporate fleet at the end of the Trial Centre programme. The trial centre has a fleet of 45 vehicles currently, with the additional 18 larger vans providing 63 further electric vehicles (EV) to complement the existing fleet of 300 zero emission vehicles. The development of the charging infrastructure for fleet is ongoing with the roll out of new charge facilities at depot sites and officers' homes. This includes a significant charge hub installation at the Seacroft Ring Road site that will support the growing EV fleet used by Leeds Building Services. The fleet replacement programme is being developed with the internal target of all vehicles using alternative fuel where possible and to align with the city target of Carbon Neutrality by 2030.
- 3.1.18 Work has continued to promote sustainable alternatives to council staff for business related travel ('grey mileage') in support of the aim to remove payment of expenses for travel in staff petrol and diesel cars by 2025. However, covid-19 restrictions have unsurprisingly had a huge impact in reducing levels of staff business mileage this year, with expense claims for 2020 at 54% of the mileage claimed for 2019.
- 3.1.19 During covid-19 over 8000 staff worked from home. A survey carried out in June 2020 showed that there was significant support from staff to keep working from home the future.

52% of staff expressed a desire to remain working remotely for most or all of the time, and over 80% wishing to work from home for more than half of their week.

- In terms of the future office environment, **the tasks that staff would prioritise if they had limited time in the office in future** were: team meetings, collaboration with colleagues, training and development and personal social interaction.

- 3.1.20 Clearly, the promotion and expansion of sustainable travel alternatives for staff have also been impacted by covid-19 given the implications for use of public transport and initiatives such as car-sharing. However, the 'cycle to work' scheme has now been extended to allow the purchase of bikes (including e bikes) up to a value of £3,000, and also repayments over 24 months in order to make the scheme more affordable. Since May 2020, over 300 bikes have been purchased through the scheme, more than for any of the last five years. The 'Car Club' pool car scheme has been adapted to ensure provision of covid secure vehicles, and is due to be re-procured by WYCA in 2021.
- 3.1.21 Although the availability of sustainable travel alternatives and a review of the expenses policy will remain central to achieving the council's aim to reduce grey mileage, consolidating new and more efficient ways of working that have emerged during this year will be of equal importance, and all services have been challenged to identify and realise these opportunities.
- 3.1.22 Housing Leeds represents an example of a major front-line service area which has seen substantial reductions in grey mileage since April. Housing have had to adapt the way in which services are provided in response to covid measures, but are now looking to maintain these new ways of working in order to secure efficiencies and reduce carbon emissions:

"When the lockdown happened in March, Housing Leeds adjusted service offers across all service areas, to managing almost all of its customer contact remotely, by telephone and digitally. A number of activities which have always traditionally been completed face-to-face, including housing needs assessments, annual home visits of Council tenants and tenant and community meetings are now being carried out differently – by phone, text, email or video communications.

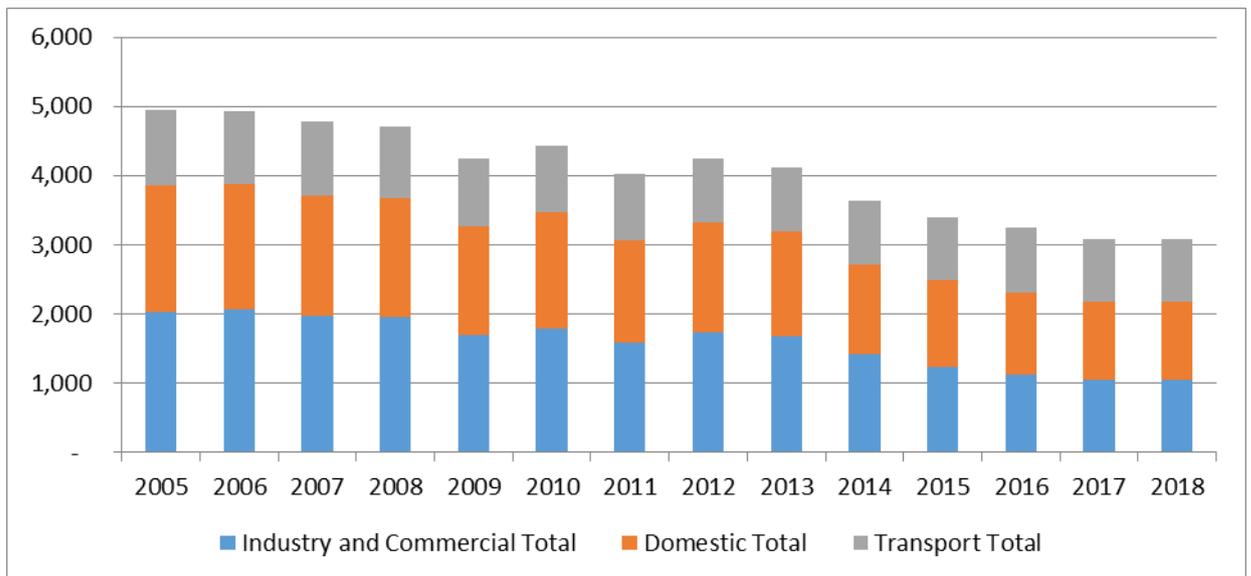
"Housing is trialling some software to support this approach, including a remote video tool allowing an officer to view inside a tenant's home via their smartphone in order to diagnose a repair issue and offer self-help guidance if appropriate, and also some engagement software to continue to seek tenant views on service delivery.

"Lessons learnt from lockdown and these pilots will be used to develop Housing's longer term service offers with a focus on delivering services in the most efficient and effective way. This is likely to incorporate a mixture of digital and telephone engagement, alongside direct face-to-face customer contact where this remains the most effective way of providing services. A key driver for developing Housing's service offers is to progress more efficient ways of working, but also to support achievement of the Council's carbon reduction targets."

3.2 City's Emissions

3.3 Data

- 3.3.1 The graph below shows the reduction in emissions at a city level since 2005 until 2018. This data is collated by BEIS. The values exclude emissions from large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land use.



3.3.2 The breakdown of this data against sub categories is detailed below:

	Mega (i.e. million) tonnes CO2
Industry and Commercial	1.052
Domestic	1.118
Transport	9.18
Total	3.088

3.3.3 Similar to the council’s own emissions, the focus to date has been on scope 1 and 2 emissions but as detailed above the Climate Commission has agreed to provide an estimate of the city’s scope 3 emissions in summer 2021.

3.4 Transport

3.4.1 During lockdown traffic levels in the city reduced by over 40% with a corresponding reduction in emissions. With the reduced traffic levels planned improvements in the city for walking, cycling and bus priority have been fast tracked and additional trial measures brought forward with Emergency Active Travel Funding. Over £200m of transport infrastructure works are being delivered across the city including Regent Street Bridge replacement, 2 Park & Ride site expansions and a new site at Stourton, major changes to pedestrian and bus facilities the city centre on the Headrow, Park Row and Infirmary Street, bus lanes on the A647 and A639 and 100km of segregated cycle lanes across the city.

Transport Strategy

3.4.2 In December 2020 the draft Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy was presented to Executive Board with the intention of starting public consultation in early 2021. The report can be found [here](#). A few key extracts relating to the climate emergency can be found at 3.26 and 3.27 of the report.

3.4.3 The overarching Connecting Leeds vision is for “Leeds to be a city where you don’t need a car”. Achieving this vision of moving our transport system away from

personal car ownership, towards more efficient, low carbon, shared, active and public transport based system will:

- Allow individuals to choose the most suitable transport option for each journey.
- Dramatically reduce the number of vehicles needed.
- This efficiency will translate into reduced cost of travel for all.
- Reduce congestion by making more efficient use of the road space available.
- Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
- Allow more efficient use of land, with less space needed for parking.

3.4.4 Tackling Climate Change and meeting our City pledge for carbon neutrality by 2030 is one of the greatest challenges we face. The way we manage transport over the next decade has important implications for our streets, public places, our future growth as a city and future generations in terms of addressing the climate emergency. Motorised traffic makes a significant contribution to environmental challenges we face as a city To begin to resolve these problems, Leeds must become a city where walking, cycling and green public transport become the most appealing and practical choices for many more journeys. Every journey matters and our aim is to change the transport mix and reduce the number of car journeys. Therefore we need to:

- Reduce the need for travel and the number of car journeys
- Shift people from cars to public transport and active travel
- Improve the efficiency of the transport network through public transport investment to make best use of our road space and tackle congestion

Electric Vehicles - National

3.4.5 The office for low emission vehicles (OLEV) has rebranded as the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to reflect the changing priorities of government to focus on increasing zero emission vehicle uptake rather than ultra-low emission vehicles. Their stated focus remains on plug-in vehicles and supporting infrastructure at the present time. This change reflects the government's target to end the sale of conventional engine vehicles by 2030, therefore creating the need to ramp up support at a national level for uptake of plug in or hydrogen vehicles. The launch of green number plates is a further measure designed to raise awareness of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) as well as provide a way for ZEV owners to access Zero Carbon zones, or benefit from local schemes that support zero carbon vehicles. Green plates can be retrofitted to any vehicles that has zero-carbon emissions at the tailpipe.

Electric Vehicle Trial Centre

3.4.6 Leeds City Council's Electric Vehicle Trial Centre continues to support the uptake of ZEV's across businesses, the public sector and third sector organisations with all vehicles out on trials and with a fully booked forward plan for trials. The Trial Centre is also now licensed as an operator for private hire, with its fleet of Nissan Leaf cars licensed for use as private hire vehicles. This means that we can now also support private hire driver trials of ZEV's, which can be used as licensed vehicles. The first drivers will commence the trial process in January 2021.

- 3.4.7 As well as supporting organisations trialling electric vans and cars, it has also been providing e-bikes for trial and will be supporting trials of E-Cargo bikes in January 2021. Additionally the Centre will be adding 18 larger capacity vans that boast 75kW batteries – providing greater range through a Highways England funded procurement, with these newly available vehicles expected to be available for trials from May 2021. These will greatly increase the opportunities for businesses to switch to EV as the additional payload capacity and range makes the vehicles suitable for duties that the smaller existing vans may not be able to deliver.
- 3.4.8 Feedback to the Trial Centre has been overwhelmingly positive, the van scheme has had 100% satisfaction feedback from completed trials, with 75% reporting that the scheme had positively changed their opinion towards EV's and 67% stating they are already looking to purchase or lease their own EV following the scheme. This feedback has been similarly reflected in the E-Bike scheme.

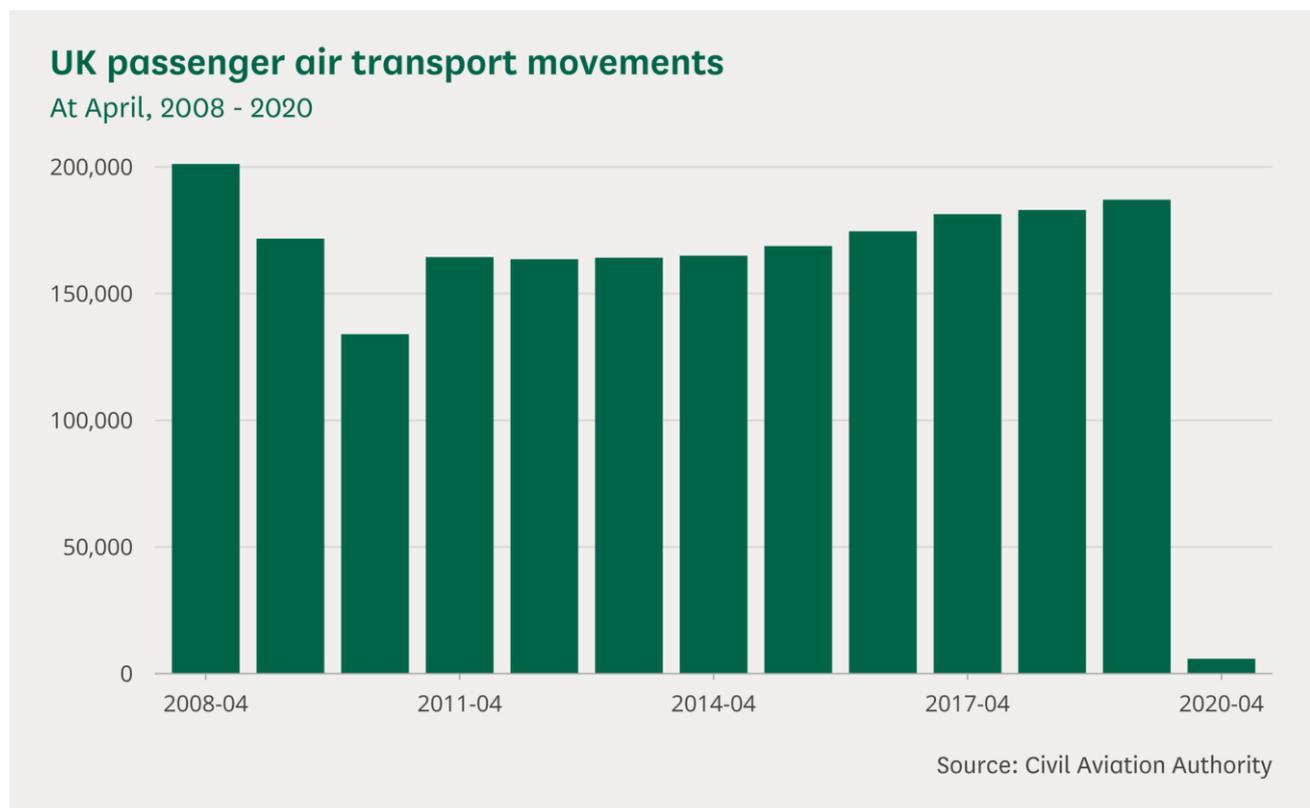
Electric Vehicle Charging Network

- 3.4.9 The council is continuing to work to support the expansion of the charge network across the city and beyond. Working on a regional project with WYCA and Engie there have been 17 dual bay rapid chargers now installed in Leeds. These provide both 50kW DC Rapid or 22kW AC fast charging and service two bays, one for public use and one for taxi & private hire use. A minimum of 30 units will be installed by spring 2021, with this network remaining free to use until 29th October 2021. There have been over 26,000 charging sessions; an average of 7 events per day at each site, delivered across this network in Leeds alone (to 14th Dec 2020) providing 360,000 kWh of power to EV drivers. This equates to approximately 2.5million miles of zero-emission driving supported by this network.
- 3.4.10 Leeds has also successfully applied for funding from OZEV's On-street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) that enable local authorities to apply for up to £100k towards charge infrastructure in residential locations. The £97,500 award made to Leeds will support the delivery of charge points in residential areas in Leeds based on a community hub approach at off-street locations supporting areas characterised as lacking in off-street parking. The scheme is aiming to deliver of 15 dual 7kW or 22kW fast chargers (subject to site power capacity), with a contract being agreed with a charge point operator to supply, install, manage and maintain the network.
- 3.4.11 The development of the Stourton Park and Ride facility also includes significant provision of charging infrastructure. There is a procurement exercise in progress to appoint an operator to deliver 7kW long stay and 50kw Rapid chargers for the site to support both Park & Ride users and to provide a destination charge hub. 2 x 50kW and 12 x 7kW dual chargers are planned for when the facility opens. There is also preliminary ducting work included that will allow for the expansion of the infrastructure that will support the installation of over 100 long stay and 10 rapid chargers to be added to the site in line with increasing demand, with the addition of bus charging through provision of a 150kW supercharge install also included in plans.
- 3.4.12 An Alternative Fuel strategy has been drafted that outlines the role of Leeds City Council in the short to long term with regards supporting the uptake and development of alternative fuel infrastructure in the city. There is also ongoing work with the Highways and Transport service to develop an approach to further community hub charging provision for those householders without off street parking.

On street charging provision is being considered as a way to support the community hub approach; rather than committing the council to supporting the provision of individual charge points on the kerbside in front of residential properties. The focus is on supporting infrastructure that will deliver high-utilisation rates per unit rather than build expensive and expansive networks that typically provide lower utilisation, particularly as the increasing range of EV's means that charging is required less frequently.

3.4.13 Aviation

3.4.14 From the graph below, it is possible to see how dramatically the pandemic has impacted on air travel – reducing UK passenger air transport movements by 97%.



3.4.15 Aviation continues to be a key issue that has continued to attract a lot of attention over 2020. As the council has previously set out, it accepts that aviation growth and meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible until such time as new technologies are developed. The council believes that aviation targets need to be set at a national and international level rather than locally, reflecting the fact that more people from Leeds fly from other airports than Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA), and that any isolated actions could lead to displacement. The council will participate in national talks to come forward with targets which address the climate emergency and the economic rebalancing of the country. As the proposals at Leeds Bradford Airport are a live planning application, the council cannot provide comment on this.

3.5 Buildings

3.5.1 Planning

- 3.5.2 A range of activities has taken place under the Council's statutory planning remit over the last year to support the climate emergency agenda. These are detailed below.
- 3.5.3 Improved implementation of existing statutory policies. Firstly, through clarifications to the 2011 "Building for Tomorrow Today" and 2003 "Neighbourhoods for Living" Supplementary Planning Documents, which already provide guidance to developers for delivering quality sustainable developments. These have been refreshed on the web-site to note that the principles within them are highly relevant to help the council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, and further guidance is provided to help use the documents against an up to date planning framework. Secondly, training material has been agreed through the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee group and launched, initially for officers to re-inforce the climate, health & well-being and inclusive growth benefits of the existing planning policies, primarily around the theme of better place-making. A 2021 planning member training package will also be implemented, with specific training on trees already having been delivered.
- 3.5.4 Lobbying. The council responded in February 2020 to the Government's proposals for "A Future Homes Standard" and changes to Building Regulations for new dwellings. A joint letter to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government was co-signed by Leeds and the remaining core cities and the Mayor of London seeking a more ambitious approach to building fabric and for local authorities to be allowed to continue setting their own standards. The council also responded to the Government's Planning White Paper in October 2020 expressing concern that the White Paper lacked clarity on the purpose of the planning system and its role in preventing and adapting to Climate Change. The council also noted that the current means of ensuring sustainable development in plans and planning decisions is in danger of being weakened by proposals around cutting environmental red tape. The council expressed concern that its declared Climate Emergency and aim to be zero carbon by 2030 may be impeded by the changes to the planning system, including national development management policies that follow the Government's aim to be zero carbon by 2050. Finally the council noted that there was a need for a focus on place-making in national policy and that a continued lack of clarity on the importance of a fabric-first approach to carbon-savings in new homes and buildings and whether local authorities will legally be able to set their own standards was impeding delivery and progression to zero carbon.
- 3.5.5 Local Plan Update. The council through three papers to Development Plan Panel (in July and November 2020 and January 2021) has clarified the proposed scope of the Local Plan Update, which will amend and supersede policies in the current Local Plan that focus on the climate emergency (including on Carbon Emissions and Renewable Energy, Flood Risk & Drainage, Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity, Place-making and Infrastructure). Executive Board is scheduled to agree public consultation material at its meeting in March 2021.

3.6 Domestic Energy

- 3.6.1 Domestic energy efficiency improvements have been challenging to deliver this year, primarily due to covid-19 restrictions, but the team has made progress on a number of key projects.

- 3.6.2 Government has also prioritised 'green recovery' as a way to create jobs and mitigate the impact of covid-19 on unemployment. This has been focussed on the domestic sector, with £2bn of government funding being channelled through the Green Homes Grants. £1.5bn of this is available through a voucher scheme that all residents can apply for. This had a number of teething issues and is still slow to really take off, and has been extended by a year.
- 3.6.3 The other £500m is available for councils to bid for through the GHG Local Authority Delivery fund. In addition, the Ministry of Communities Housing and Local Government channelled over £50m through the LEP via the Getting Building Fund. The council has been very active in securing funds from these and other sources, with the following additional funding awarded in 2020. This has only been possible due to the level of resource that the council has dedicated to working on the climate emergency.
- 3.6.4 £2.97m from the Green Homes Grant LA Delivery Fund phase 1A to support 385 low income homes. The project includes external wall insulation for 160 private and 20 council system built homes in 3 estates; air source heat pumps for 80 council homes; non-standard cavity wall insulation for 100 private homes and support for 25 vulnerable households referred by Home Plus Leeds.
- 3.6.5 £2.65m from the Getting Building Fund to provide external wall insulation, room in roof insulation, new windows, doors, heating systems and repair work for 100 private homes in Holbeck. This builds on the successful Local Growth Fund investment in the Recreations in Holbeck and is expected to deliver similar results.
- 3.6.6 £4.1m from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund demonstrator to fund innovative whole house improvements to make 190 council homes net zero carbon. The homes involved will receive super insulation to walls and roofs, high performance windows and doors and renewable technologies such as air source heat pumps and solar PV. The contractor will focus on high quality detailing to minimise cold bridging and heat loss and will be carefully monitored to demonstrate the savings achieved.
- 3.6.7 In total, this funding is expected to create or sustain at least 150 jobs in the supply chain and safeguard a further 8 apprenticeships.
- 3.6.8 In addition to these three funded programmes, the council has bid for another £2.6 million of GHG LAD funding and expects to be allocated a further £4m from the regional GHG LAD funding pot. If secured, this will also be used to support major energy efficiency improvements within low income homes.
- 3.6.9 This will complement the £24 million of predominantly ERDF funding that is now being used to deliver energy efficiency within domestic properties. Key projects include using innovative external wall insulation on 750 council owned back to backs in priority neighbourhoods; a whole house insulation and solar PV approach to 250 council homes and a district heating clusters project which will install innovative low carbon heating solutions to 845 flats in 10 blocks.
- 3.6.10 In total we will improve over 5,000 low income homes that are currently the most inefficient and expensive to heat. Improvements include external and cavity wall insulation, fitting of smart technology and new heating via an air source heat pump or connection to district heating.

- 3.6.11 This work will not only benefit the individual occupiers who will benefit from warmer homes and lower fuel bills but it will also be invaluable in demonstrating what can be achieved via retrofit. The work will also start to normalise technologies such as heat pumps that are still quite rare across the domestic sector. The speed of roll out will need to be ramped up exponentially over the decade to meet the net zero target.
- 3.6.12 The council has also been involved in several industry led think tanks, including the UK Green Building Council's Accelerator Cities programme and the Green Finance Institute's Coalition for Energy Efficiency of Buildings and continues to work hard with Ministers and civil servants to ensure that our learning helps influence government policy and improves the delivery of grant schemes.
- 3.6.13 Over 2021 we will develop a domestic energy strategy working closely with the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, buildings and planning working group as well as with the housing panel that is being set up as part of Leeds Climate Commission.

3.7 District Heating Network

- 3.7.1 The council has now completed phase 1 of the district heating network (DHN) which has been successfully providing heat to Leeds Playhouse and council houses for well over a year.
- 3.7.2 Covid-19 has inevitably caused delays, with Vital Energi unable to work on council house connections in Lincoln Green during spring and summer, to minimise risks to tenants and staff. However, appropriate COVID secure measures have been put in place and good progress has been made recently, with a total of c.1,150 flats now connected, including the recent change from gas to DH for the existing Stoney Rock heat network. Final completion of all 1,983 flats (with the exception of properties where access cannot be safely secured) is now expected in early 2021.
- 3.7.3 Phase 2 of the network was under construction throughout much of 2020, providing a connection from phase 1 in Mabgate right through the city centre and into the 'Civic Quarter' to connect five key LCC buildings: Civic Hall, Town Hall, Leeds Museum, Art Gallery/Library and St George House. Construction commenced in September 2019, working closely with the Connecting Leeds Headrow reconfiguration. Although challenging to run two separate major infrastructure projects in the same area, an effective partnership with the Connecting Leeds project has helped to minimise overall disruption to residents and businesses. COVID once again provided its own challenges, but the cancellation of many summer events – coupled with quieter roads – enabled Vital to make good progress with pipe installation. Phase 2 has now completed construction and heat is available for customers. The council now intends to remove gas boilers from the five key LCC buildings in early 2021, and replace these with DHN heat exchangers.
- 3.7.4 The building connections have coincided with the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) launched recently by BEIS. The council has bid for grant funding for the DH heat exchangers and plant room modifications, as well as essential work to secondary systems (controls, radiators etc) in four of the five buildings to ensure each one is suitably modernised and efficient. This application also included c£570k to connect a new school, currently under construction close to St James' hospital.

- 3.7.5 The team has successfully supported a potential customer to secure PSDS funding for a DH connection, with the team now agreeing commercial terms to enable a connection to take place this summer. The team has also supported a number of other potential customers to apply for PSDS funding, and it is anticipated that, if successful, these new connections will almost double current heat sales. This will also help to provide confidence in the network to other potential customers, helping to grow the network further.
- 3.7.6 Although positive discussions have taken place with many other customers this year, covid-19 and Brexit have caused uncertainty and delays for many sectors, so few have progressed. We expect this position to improve in 2021.
- 3.7.7 However, the council was recently successful in another application for grant funding from the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) of c£2.4m to facilitate a 3rd phase into the South Bank, which will primarily connect into the major Aire Park scheme on the former Tetley Brewery site. This bid was helped by ongoing feasibility studies the council has commissioned, supported by the LEPs Energy Accelerator programme, with a second study now focussing on the west side of the South Bank. The ultimate ambition for the network once these branches are constructed is a wholly connected network of pipes with multiple low-carbon heat sources, providing a truly sustainable source of heat to the city.
- 3.7.8 Throughout the construction and development of the city's DHN, Leeds has become a national flagship for new heat networks. The profile of the city's network has been steadily rising, with the team having a growing presence in industry and government working groups as well as providing ongoing support to other local authorities looking to develop their own networks.

3.8 White Rose Forest Strategy

- 3.8.1 The White Rose Forest Strategy for Leeds was endorsed by Executive Board in December 2020 and aims to significantly increase tree cover from 17% to 33% across the District by 2050. This will be done in partnership with businesses, residents, institutions, communities, landowners and farmers. It will dramatically increase carbon capture and storage and by 2050 will have stored around 215,000 tonnes of carbon as well as providing greater access to woodland, supporting health and well-being and improving biodiversity.
- 3.8.2 The strategy provides a framework for where tree planting will take place, how it will be funded and how we will approach and engage different sectors of the community.
- 3.8.3 This will build on the substantial work that the council already carries out around the planting and management of trees and the commitment to plant 50 hectares trees across its own estate every year until 2050 amounting to 5.6 million trees.

3.9 Scope 3 Initiatives

3.9.1 Although we haven't measured scope 3 emissions to date, we have started to consider the key areas and actions that we can take to address these. More work will continue on this during 2021.

Food

3.9.2 A huge 25% of global emissions come from food and more than half of this comes from animal products. Meat, especially beef and lamb, has a higher carbon footprint because of the land, water, and energy used to feed and rear animals and the emissions produced by animals themselves. According to the NHS, there are also health benefits to reducing intake of red meat as it can reduce the risk of some types of cancer.

3.9.3 The pandemic has also illustrated how fragile our food supply chain can be and has increased interest locally in developing more resilient and local food supply chains.

3.9.4 In 2020 the council signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Commitment - a pledge by subnational governments to accelerate integrated food policies to help tackle climate change and a call on national governments to act. COP26 is a key opportunity for placing food and local action at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

3.9.5 Cllr Marshall-Katung has been appointed as the council's food champion in recognition of the importance of food, not just from an emissions perspective but also considering food in the context of health and poverty.

3.9.6 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee's food and biodiversity working group will also be looking at supporting the development of an action plan to reduce carbon emissions from food for the city.

3.9.7 In terms of actions that have already been taken, Catering Leeds provides approximately 32,000 school meals everyday across Leeds. The service has worked with the University of Leeds to calculate the carbon emissions of the school meals produced. A comparison of the menus showed a saving of over 36% - the old menu had a total Greenhouse gas emissions of 17.5kg CO₂e and the new 11.03kg CO₂e, a saving of 6.47 kg CO₂e.

3.9.8 As a result of the pandemic, the new menu developed for the spring term 2020 had to be put on hold and a revised emergency menu for consumption in classrooms developed. This started as a limited choice vegetarian grab bag menu but has now expanded to meet School Food Guidelines. Menus still include a non-meat day and vegetarian options daily.

3.9.9 The new menus are part of a bigger plan tackling areas such as food waste, packaging and recycling within the service. Other key actions to note:

- All suppliers are locally based in Leeds or county wide (Wakefield - West Yorkshire or Sheffield – South Yorkshire)
- Fruit and vegetable supplier uses Zero emission electric vehicles to deliver citywide
- Reduction in fresh produce packaging, recycled boxes used for deliveries
- All menus are Food for Life Bronze Served Here accredited – promote local fresh produce, working with a local butcher to supply UK farm assured / Red Tractor meat and poultry

- Supporting the provision of in season vegetables.

3.10 Waste

3.10.1 There has been an increase in overall waste collected over the last 12 months but the increase has been bigger for residual waste (11%) than recycling (3%). There have been a number of changes in the breakdown of recycling materials collected (see table below) - paper & cardboard and aluminium cans have increased whereas newspapers, plastics and textiles have decreased. Food trays have also increased, although this will be in part to the additional materials that only started to be accepted in green bins part way through 2019 so the figure is a comparison of a part year collection in 2019 versus a full year in 2020. The glass collection rates have also increased by 36%.

Material	2019 (t)	2020 (t)	Change from 2019 to 2020
Newspaper	7025.76	5159.64	-27%
Paper	10137.65	12155.40	20%
Cardboard	4655.61	5760.60	24%
Aluminium Cans	395.15	463.22	17%
Steel Cans	1559.60	1532.70	-2%
Mixed Carrier Bags	665.39	550.36	-17%
Clear PET	1743.64	1679.40	-4%
Natural HDPE	1083.92	858.17	-21%
Mixed Rigid Plastics	102.19	78.99	-23%
Textiles	58.76	50.83	-13%
Scrap Metal	144.48	126.42	-12%
Food trays	1327.67	1898.29	42%
Total	28899.81	30314.01	5%

3.10.2 Waste services commissioned Zero Waste Leeds to undertake behavioural change campaigns to try and get people to change habits during the pandemic, as well as helping to manage messages about how service changes due to Covid.

Uniform Recycling

3.10.3 Zero Waste Leeds launched a new project to make second hand school uniform the first choice in Leeds. The infographics below illustrate the importance of dealing with clothes as a source of emissions.

WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT



WASTE

4,000 tonnes of clothes end up in Leeds' black bins every year. School uniforms are contributing to this problem.

CARBON

122,000 KG CO₂e could be saved if every new school starter in Leeds this year had just one second-hand school shirt or blouse.

WATER

2,700 litres of water to make a T shirt - that's enough drinking water for one person for three years!

COST

£348.55 is the average spent on school uniform items every year

AFFORDABILITY

29,660 children under 16 living in low income families in Leeds

3.11 As part of the project the key actions undertaken were:

- Created a map of current uniform reuse projects including full details and how to access them.
- Identified gaps in uniform reuse schemes across the city, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- Produced an 'Inspiration Guide' detailing the different ways to run school uniform reuse project. Encouraging new schemes to set up by working with local organisations and parents.
- Set up a Facebook group to help people share their experiences, learn from and inspire each other to set up schemes, as well as to donate/acquire uniform.
- Continue to share the environmental impacts of school uniform and volumes of clothing currently wasted in our city via local media and on social media.

3.12 Over 90 schemes were added to the map, 12 new schemes were set up, two thirds of schools are now covered by a scheme and there is now a searchable database to enable the use of second hand uniform. There have been over 10,000 views of the map!

3.13 In just 10 weeks it is estimated that over 3000 items have been reused, saving roughly 600kg of textiles, 10,800kg of CO₂e, 8.1 million litres of water and over £50,000.

3.14 The full impact report can be found here:

https://issuu.com/zerowasteleeds/docs/impact_report_-_leeds_school_uniform_exchange

3.15 Communications and Engagement

- 3.15.1 Following on from the Big Leeds Climate Conversation consultation, Leeds City Council approved plans to more than halve our own emissions by 2025 and has continued to raise awareness of new sustainable policies and schemes. This includes promoting the climate emergency strategy to internal and external audiences and encouraging all staff to consider the climate emergency in decision making.
- 3.15.2 To directly engage Leeds residents in the journey to becoming carbon neutral, the council shares regular updates, opportunities and advice through the monthly #LeedsClimate newsletter and via social media. The newsletter is shared with over 5,300 residents and the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Twitter account has almost 2,500 followers. Since the start of the year, more than 600,000 people have been reached through the dedicated Twitter account.
- 3.15.3 The 'Leeds by Example' website was re-launched in January to encourage sustainable behaviour change from individuals across the city. This includes tips on how people can reduce their carbon footprint through 5 key themes: travel, home, food, biodiversity, and stuff. The council also supports national campaigns, such as Clean Air Day, and is one of the founding partners—amongst TED, Global Citizen, and WWF—of the global 'Count Us In' social media campaign.
- 3.15.4 The 'Count Us In' campaign aims to mobilise 1 billion people to take action on climate change through six categories (transport, food, lifestyle, wildlife, voice, and home) and is measured through a global aggregator which calculates the combined carbon savings of individual actions. To support the campaign at a local level and encourage even more residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, the council's Leeds by Example website will be updated in 2021 to reflect the Count Us In campaign's six themes. The new theme of 'voice' will be used to promote engaging with local councillors through the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, having climate conversations with peers, and volunteering opportunities in the local community.
- 3.15.5 Since January the council has published 24 climate change and air quality related press releases to promote schemes and initiatives that will help tackle the climate emergency, including the launch of our EV Trials schemes and updates on the District Heating Network. Media coverage about Leeds schemes has been featured in local, national and international publications including CNBC, Edie, BBC News, Yorkshire Evening Post, Leeds Live and dozens of other local and specialist news outlets.
- 3.15.6 To engage the city and discuss the climate emergency with diverse audiences, the council held a series of in-person events including the State of the City event, attended by 170 representatives from across the council, local businesses and the third sector, and the Leeds Youth Voice Summit, which was attended by 100 secondary school pupils, earlier this year. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the council has held regular public Climate Emergency Advisory Committee meetings online. Its 'open forum' slot has given members of the public an opportunity to raise sustainability issues, present ideas or ask a question to the committee. Five public meetings have been held this year with 11 Open Forum submissions.

- 3.15.7 Engaging with younger residents has also been an important focus of the council's climate emergency strategy. The Leeds Youth Voice Summit was attended by 100 secondary school and college students in February and welcomed attendees to pose their climate-related questions and recommendations to senior councillors. These recommendations have informed a climate emergency toolkit for young people which will host tips and guidance on how young people can make a difference at home, at school and in their communities. The toolkit will be added to the Leeds by Example website in 2021.
- 3.15.8 Engaging residents on climate-related issues has been a key focus of the council. The Woodland Creation Scheme works with residents, businesses and volunteers to create new woodlands through tree planting and seed collection. As part of the scheme, the council's Parks team has also created education packs for schools to raise awareness about the benefits trees have to the environment. To engage communities across Leeds on flood risk and resilience, the Flood Risk management team has facilitated digital engagement with residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes virtual resident meetings, newsletters, and an online consultation.
- 3.15.9 Where transport is concerned, Connecting Leeds has delivered a number of schemes to encourage active and sustainable travel. This includes communicating key projects such as the pop-up bike Hub at Kirkgate Market, school streets, Active Travel Neighbourhoods, working with City Connect on three new segregated cycle routes, and a trial of 'orca wands' along some of the city's busiest roads. The team has encouraged residents to have their say on transport infrastructure plans via the online Commonplace platform. Since May, there have been 24,000 contributions by over 4,500 residents to public consultation.
- 3.15.10 In addition to our own initiatives, Leeds City Council continues to promote and raise awareness of sustainable third sector and partner projects and initiatives. The council recently supported a successful National Lottery bid to establish community action hubs across the city and will continue to support the hubs to engage communities in tackling the climate emergency. Earlier this year, the council's Environmental Services team partnered with Zero Waste Leeds to engage residents as part of the 'Time to Recycle' campaign, which included a focus on live social media Q&A sessions. The council has also partnered with 'Green Great Systems' to offer discounted compost bins for local residents to provide more opportunities for managing food waste at home and to promote composting.
- 3.15.11 In addition to using communications to support many of the plans covered in this report, the council will continue to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the actions required to reduce the city's carbon footprint.
- 3.15.12 This year, the council's communications will place a renewed focus on promoting the co-benefits of actions to respond to the climate emergency among those not yet regularly engaged with environmental issues.
- We will deliver a comprehensive internal communications package including accredited Carbon Literacy training (delayed due to covid-19) and more resources to help every service understand how it can best support the net zero target.

- We will do more to engage residents at the hyperlocal level and support residents and organisations already leading by example to encourage peers in their community to do the same.
- We will work collaboratively with partners in the public, private and third sector to deliver a number of impactful and value-for-money campaigns that help us reach new audiences whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the city.
- Finally, we will continue to develop our owned channels—such as our newsletter, website, and Twitter account—and use these to showcase and signpost to all of the excellent work and opportunities to tackle the climate emergency taking place across the city.

3.16 Leeds Climate Commission

3.16.1 The Leeds Climate Commission have prepared an annual report which is appended to this report and has been signed off by the Commission’s Strategy Group in January 2021. The annual report will be published on the Leeds Climate Commission website <http://leeds.candocities.org/about-leeds-climate-commission>. It covers:-

- the refreshed net-zero carbon roadmap which takes into account the recommendations from the Leeds Climate Citizens Jury which was launched on 7 January 2021 alongside other roadmaps in the Place Based Carbon Action Networks (PCAN). The roadmap provides the scientific evidence for the Council’s ambition for the city to be net zero by 2030.
- the results from the Climate Action Readiness Assessment (CARA) process which maps how ready Leeds as a city is to take carbon reduction action in different economic sectors. As a city, Leeds has committed to delivering significant reductions in our carbon footprint in the next 10 years. The Commission has spent the summer assessing how ready the city is to deliver on this commitment. This will help to identify those areas where the city is ready to take/accelerate action now, and those areas where strategic interventions are needed to increase the city’s readiness to act. The CARA assessment will inform the steps that the Leeds Climate Commission will take to help to deliver these interventions.
- Highlights of city-wide climate action and future plans for a Yorkshire and Humber wide Commission with a focus on climate adaptation and ensuring a ‘just transition’ to a low carbon economy. A top priority in the first 6 months is to prepare a regional submission to the UN climate (COP) talks that will take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

3.17 Climate Emergency Community Action Programme (CECAP)

3.17.1 This programme is a partnership of local organisations including Our Future Leeds, Leeds Tidal and Voluntary Action Leeds who were successful in securing a £2.5m award from The National Lottery’s Climate Action Fund. The partnership is supported by a host of other Leeds community organisations as well as Leeds City Council. The partnership has a goal of creating a ‘zero carbon, socially-just and liveable city by 2030’, with the lottery funding going towards ‘supercharging climate and social justice action across the city’. The project will involve setting up **16**

community hubs specifically focused on supporting ideas to tackle the climate emergency in a positive and fair way. The project will also create over **40 local jobs**, with around **£400,000 of grants** to local community groups to be shared to help them take action on climate and social justice.

3.17.2 The CECAP team have completed the first quarter mobilisation period of activities through September to December as the commencement phase of their five year programme. Within this phase recruitment to the programme structure has commenced with two-thirds of the total 40 programme staff now in place.

3.17.3 The programme is working on branding and communication planning, with the immediate next steps in the first quarter of 2021 including activities to recruit the remaining staff required. This includes transition partners in sector areas (such as energy, housing, waste), who will form and develop sector hubs for the city. As well as the sector areas, a cross cutting Climate Justice Partner is to be appointed to the programme, with ongoing support being provided by Leeds University and Leeds City Council through the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality service.

3.17.4 Initial community based work has started through Together for Peace in 4 communities; Otley, Garforth, Beeston and Seacroft. Additionally planning for what the 'city centre hub' will look like as well as seeking potential locations to facilitate engagement activities is under way. Activities in early to mid-2021 also include work on the CECAP training programme and creation of a framework for their city plan. The first CECAP climate assembly will take place in early 2021 and the first roundtable in mid-2021.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 When the climate emergency was declared in March 2019, the scale of the challenge was recognised alongside the importance of public engagement to ensure that action was taken in every part of society.

4.1.2 To support this aim of public engagement the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was a public meeting, attracting audiences of up to 70 in the Civic Hall and when it moved on-line it received over 150 viewers on the YouTube channel.

4.1.3 Open forum was also introduced at the start of each meeting to provide members of the public an opportunity to set out their concerns, ideas or ambitions with speakers ranging from private individuals to representatives of organisations such as Our Future Leeds, GALBA and Youth Strikers.

4.1.4 In order to retain Open Forum during the pandemic, members of the public have been offered the opportunity to provide video recordings, enabling the public to still have its voice heard at virtual meetings. Digitising open forum has brought other advantages as it has enabled more people to participate as submissions can easily contain multiple people and be more creative. It also allows open forum to be more inclusive as you don't have to be free at the time of the meeting to participate.

4.1.5 One meeting was also dedicated to businesses and the Committee heard from Yorkshire Building Society, Yorkshire Design and Civic Engineers, explaining both what they had achieved to date, their future ambitions and plans as well as where they would like to see action from the council.

- 4.1.6 CEAC is just one strand of how we engage and communicate with the public. The council continues to promote the positive actions required to support the climate emergency through both its newsletters, social media and website as well as via press releases, presentations at conferences and events that it hosts.
- 4.1.7 Many other strands of work across the council also have the climate emergency at their heart such as the consultation on the Transport Strategy which began in January 2021 or the on-going engagement on the White Rose Forest Strategy.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 A specific equality screening has not been done for this paper but many of the projects described within have their own screenings such as the White Rose Forest, District Heating or Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. An Equality Impact Assessment will also be completed for any future projects.
- 4.2.2 In order to meet the net zero target for the city, it is imperative the whole city is engaged and takes action. Our communication and engagement approach uses many different channels to maximise its reach and will work closely with the Community Climate Hubs across the city as they are established as well as other third sector partners. As part of our on-going engagement we will attend the community committees once a year as well as the equality hubs.
- 4.2.3 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee has also become more accessible as it has moved on line, enabling all residents to have their voice heard without the need to travel. We will explore how the benefits that this can offer for equality will be maintained post lockdown.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 There are three Best City and one Best Council key performance indicators of direct relevance to this report. Performance information is reported regularly via the council's performance reporting framework and is used to inform project development and progress.
- Reduced carbon emissions across the city;
 - Number of households in fuel poverty;
 - Improved energy and thermal efficiency performance of houses;
 - Lower CO2 emissions from council buildings and operations.
- 4.3.2 The Best Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 maintains the council's long-term 'Best City' strategic focus on tackling poverty and inequalities through a combination of strengthening the economy and doing this in a way that is compassionate and caring, allowing us to support our most vulnerable children and adults. The projects described in this report contribute directly to the following Best City priorities:-

- Housing: The Domestic Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty Initiatives in the council's portfolio of cutting carbon projects improve housing quality and tackle fuel poverty in the city;
- Safe, strong communities: The Domestic Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty Initiatives in the council's portfolio of cutting carbon projects tackle fuel poverty in the city and help people out of financial poverty;
- Inclusive growth: The work of the Leeds Climate Commission in unlocking investment in the low carbon economy supports growth and investment, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential and supports businesses and residents to improve skills,
- Health and wellbeing: The Domestic Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty Initiatives in the council's portfolio of cutting carbon projects reduce the likelihood of residents experiencing cold-related illnesses and the focus on active transport and ambition to reduce car usage both bring health benefits through both the physical activity and the improved air quality;
- 21st Century infrastructure: The District Heating and Corporate Energy Projects in the council's portfolio of cutting carbon projects promote the low carbon economy in the city.

Climate Emergency

4.3.3 As the Climate Emergency is at the heart of the report there is nothing further to add here.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 In terms of capital expenditure flowing from successful applications to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to install renewables or energy efficiency measures in or on council buildings, since it is exclusively grant funding being sought, with no match funding requirements, there will be no capital cost implications for the council. Consultancy, management, internal staffing and reasonable enabling and ancillary works costs can also be included within applications. As regards value for money, this therefore represents a unique opportunity to accelerate the decarbonisation of the council's estate, with a series of bids having been submitted for schemes with a combined value of over £25m, and the first bid for c£3m now approved.
- 4.4.2 Although there will be a requirement for ongoing maintenance of the assets which will not be covered by the grant funding, the council (or individual school) will retain the expected savings in energy costs, a proportion of which will need to be ring-fenced in order to cover these costs. To do otherwise would only mean that energy savings or renewables income (as well as carbon savings) would be lost as a result of not maintaining the assets appropriately.
- 4.4.3 The council has also secured grant funding from the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) of c£2.4m to facilitate a third phase into the South Bank.
- 4.4.4 In terms of domestic properties, as also noted earlier the Government is prioritising 'green recovery', focussed on this sector, with £2bn of government funding being channelled through the Green Homes Grants, plus over £50m through the LEP via

the 'Getting Building' Fund. The council has secured the following additional funding in 2020 for domestic energy efficiency/ decarbonisation measures:

- £2.97m from the Green Homes Grant LA Delivery Fund to support 385 low income homes;
- £2.65m from the Getting Building Fund to provide external wall insulation, room in roof insulation, new windows, doors, heating systems and repair work for 100 private homes in Holbeck.
- £4.1m from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund demonstrator to fund innovative whole house improvements to make 190 council homes net zero carbon.

4.4.5 The procurement strategy for the above is to use the internal provider to deliver schemes, or elements of schemes, for which it has the necessary capacity and expertise, with existing contracts and frameworks to be used for the remainder. Procurement and Commercial Services have been engaged in advising on the use of these contracts and frameworks to ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations and internal Contract Procedure Rules.

4.4.6 The council, in partnership with the Climate commission has secured 60,000 Euros to develop an investment portfolio, which will start to set out the opportunities for sustainable investment across the city.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 The council's Climate Change Emergency Declaration in March 2019 and identified steps to tackle climate change are supplementary to the legally binding UK climate change target set by the Climate Change Act 2008. The actions identified in this report aim to both meet and exceed the targets set by the climate change act 2008 through the various work streams with partners/stakeholders identified in the report and alongside asking the government to make further changes to meeting the climate change objectives.

4.5.2 There are no issues concerning Access to Information Procedure Rules.

4.5.3 As a report to Executive Board, the report is eligible for Call In.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Achieving net zero for the city is dependent on a number of key policy areas outside of the council's control, for example, the decarbonisation of heat and investment in transport.

4.6.2 To achieve the vision and targets set out in this report will require significant investment beyond current programmes and we will continue to work with WYCA and call on national government for the support, powers and funding to on our ambitions.

4.6.3 Reductions have to be rapid and sharp in order to stay within the council's carbon budget so speed of delivery is a key risk to success, especially when persuasion rather than enforcement has to be used to change behaviours.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The pandemic has had complex effects on emissions. For example it has significantly reduced emissions from the private car as traffic levels across the city dropped but it has also significantly reduced the use of public transport. Schemes such as the district heating and transport schemes have been able to progress more quickly due to the reduced traffic levels but others have been slowed down due to the impact on staffing level and/or the ability to complete works within private residences. As we start to emerge from the pandemic, we must focus on consolidating the trends that have supported such a rapid reduction in emissions such as increased home working and we must look to rebuild the economy with a focus on long term sustainability.
- 5.2 The council welcomes some of the recent national policy changes and funding opportunities but still recognises that these need to be much more comprehensive to enable the city to deliver on the required net zero by 2030 ambition and stay within 1.5°C temperature.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Note the intention to report on the council's scope 3 emissions in the next annual report, in line with the climate commission's proposed approach for the city
- 6.2 Note the intention to bring a domestic energy strategy to executive board in summer 2021

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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LEEDS CLIMATE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Leeds Climate Commission Annual Report

To be published on the Leeds Climate Commission website: <https://leedsclimate.org.uk>

2019 ROUND UP

Leeds Climate Commission did not prepare an annual report for 2019 as we were busy joint hosting the [Big Leeds Climate Conversation](#) with Leeds City Council, much of which was reported in Leeds City Council's Executive Board Climate Emergency Update report in January 2019

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=102&MId=9775&Ver=4>

Some particular highlights from 2019 included:

- The Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury, organised and funded by Leeds Climate Commission working with Shared Future CIC. It was tasked with examining the Leeds' response to the emergency of climate change, and with producing recommendations that will be used to guide the future work of the Commission and a range of organisations across the city. The Jury's recommendations were presented at a public event in November. You can read about their work and recommendations here:

<https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/leeds-climate-change-citizens-jury>

- The Big Leeds Climate Conversation was launched at the Big Leeds Climate Q & A hosted by Leeds Climate Commission. You can watch the session with our 'super-panel', chaired by Polly Billington of UK100 here:

<https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/big-leeds-climate-qa>

- In July 2019 and January 2020, Leeds Climate Commission hosted seminar-style training for school leaders and governors in an event called "[Caught in the Middle: Educational responsibilities, dilemmas and opportunities](#)". This addressed the challenge of the position that schools find themselves in, caught between the valid concerns of students exercising their civil rights on the one hand, and the inadequate global political response to the challenge of climate change on the other and sought to answer the question, what is the role of schools in a climate emergency?
- Between 26 March-18 June 2019, the Commission ran [four 3-hour workshops](#) with Leeds law firm Walker Morris as part of a capacity-building programme to help organisations secure investment in energy-efficiency and low carbon projects.

PROGRESS TOWARDS NET ZERO

Based on the latest data from Dept of BEIS, Leeds' emissions fell by 40% in the period from 2000 to 2019. This equates to a year on year reduction of less than 2.7%. There has been some acceleration in the rate of decarbonisation in recent years, with emissions falling by 3.7% in 2018 and 3.9% in 2019. However, in order to get to net zero by 2030, Leeds need to deliver about 11% year on year reduction in emissions.

We estimate that Leeds' emissions fell by c13% in 2020. This reduction was largely due to the impacts of Covid-19 and the lockdown, as well as some other city-wide projects (district heating, domestic insulation) starting to have an impact. In the longer term, however, this reduction would only delay the point at which Leeds uses its share of the global carbon budget by two months.

We note that the emissions BEIS data is lagged with a delay of up to two years. We also note that it is possible that the impacts of recently adopted or initiated policies and projects may have yet to show up in the data. However, given the pre-Covid rates of decarbonisation, it is clear that a significant intensification of effort will be required to keep Leeds on track towards its target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2030. As the economy of the city is restored after the pandemic, it will be important to ensure that we embed carbon emission reduction in the recovery.

ROADMAP

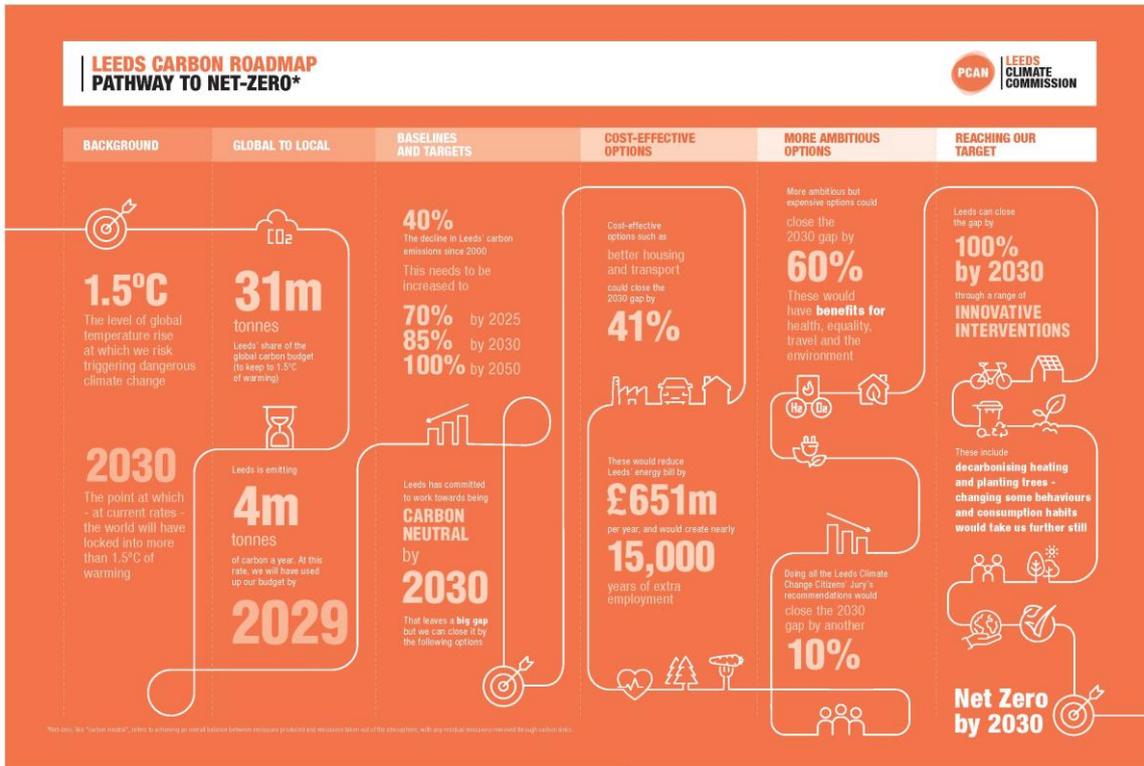
In March 2019, Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency and resolved to sign up to a science based carbon reduction target consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement of no more than 1.5°C global temperature increase. It also resolved to work to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council tasked Leeds Climate Commission to produce a science-based roadmap for the city, which was formally presented by Professor Andy Gouldson to the Executive Board on 17 April 2019 and was used as the evidence base for the work programme set out in the January 2020 Executive Board (see above).

A lot has happened and so much has changed in the short period of time since then that a new version was needed. An updated version, A Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Leeds, was published on 7 January 2021 at a webinar, with responses from stakeholders in the public sector (Leeds City Council), private sector (Business in the Community) and civic sector (Friends of the Earth), plus members of the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury.

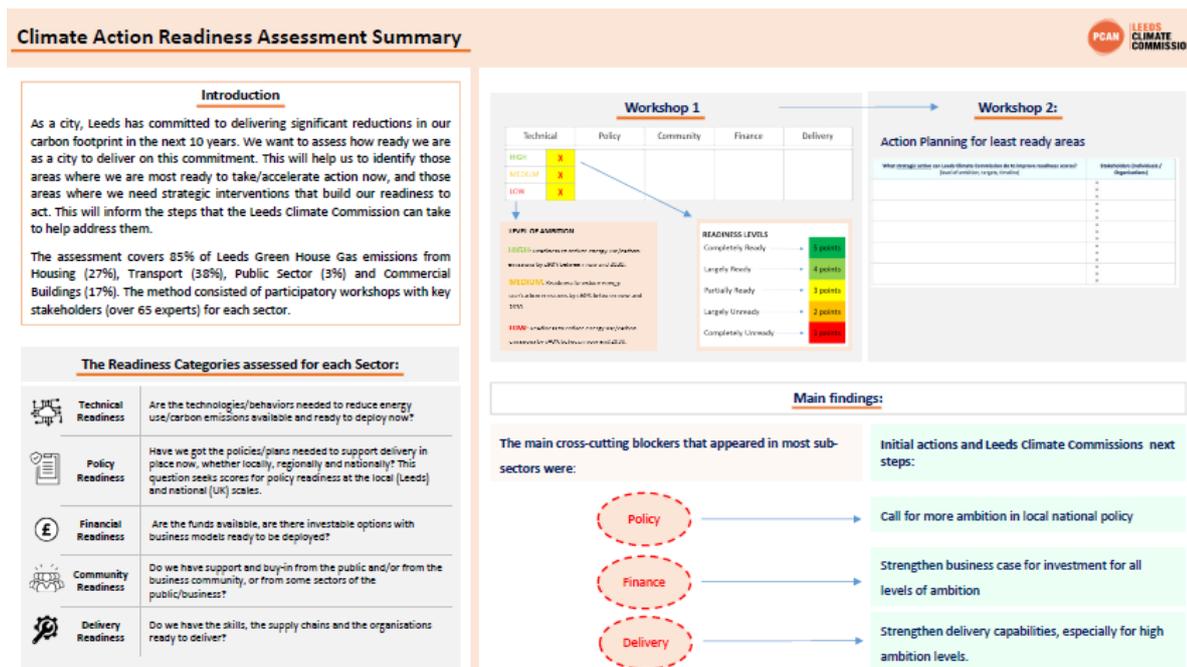
The Net-Zero roadmap shows how, in the critical years to 2030, Leeds can radically reduce its carbon footprint while also becoming a better place, with cleaner air, improved public health and reduced poverty and inequality.

<https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/leeds-carbon-roadmap>



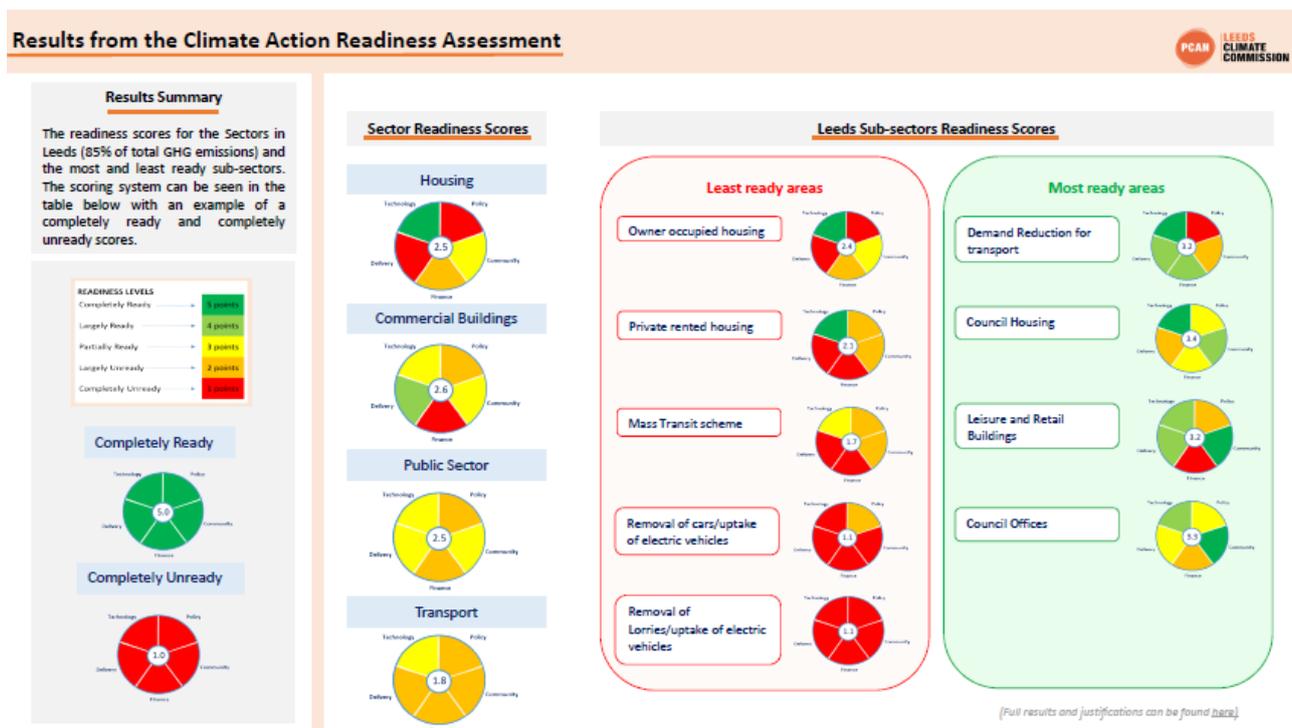
CLIMATE ACTION READINESS ASSESSMENT (CARA)

The Net-Zero roadmap shows how the city can respond to the climate challenge, but how ready is Leeds as a city to meet this challenge? Leeds Climate Commission worked through the 2020 lockdown to answer this question.



The Climate Action Readiness Assessment (CARA) process draws on participatory workshops to map how ready Leeds as a city is to take action in different sectors and to identify strategic interventions needed to build readiness. The CARA framework focuses on each sector (i.e. housing) and then on the sub-sectors (i.e. council housing) within it. For each sub-sector, and then for each sector, and ultimately for the city as a whole, it considers the technical, policy, community, financial and delivery readiness for climate action. The process scores Leeds's current level of readiness as a city across different levels of ambition ranging from low (40% carbon cuts between now and 2030), medium (60%) and high (90%).

The assessment covers 85% of Leeds greenhouse gas emissions from Housing (27%), Transport (38%), Public Sector (3%) and Commercial Buildings (17%). The method consisted of participatory workshops with key stakeholders (over 65 experts) for each.



The CARA process found that while some sectors and sub-sectors in the city were more ready to decarbonise than others, there were some recurrent issues restricting readiness, particularly relating to policy at the local, regional and national scale, and to finance. As discussed below, the Commission is focusing on these barriers in its future work plans.

The Commission is now working with SAIL (Sustainable Arts in Leeds) to apply the CARA process to Leeds' cultural sector.

Read more about the Leeds CARA process and download the presentation and summary:

<https://leedsclimate.org.uk/news/climate-action-readiness-assessment-inform-new-directions-leeds-commission>

LOW CARBON INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

Leeds Climate Commission and Leeds City Council have secured 60,000 Euro funding from the European Cities Facility to support the development of a Leeds Low Carbon Investment Prospectus (LLCIP) to attract investment in the commercial/public buildings where we are most ready to act. With EUCF support, the aim is to publish a prospectus in summer of 2021.

CITY-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION

Despite the Covid lockdowns, climate-related work has continued apace across the city.

A partnership of local organisations including Our Future Leeds has been successful in a £2.5m award from The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund for a five year Leeds Climate Emergency Community Action Programme (CECAP) about ensuring that climate justice is embedded into the city's journey towards Net Zero. This will create 16 properly supported, well-connected community hubs that connect to city-wide action so that local concerns and city wide interests are properly addressed and represented in our journey to the 2030s. Leeds Climate Commission supported the Lottery application and will work with CECAP through a biannual round table, and connect up engagement and communications campaigns.

<https://ourfutureleeds.org/intro-to-cecap/>

Leeds Climate Commission has helped to establish SAIL (Sustainable Arts in Leeds), a network of organisations and individuals in the creative and cultural sector, who have come together to take action on the climate emergency.

<https://wearesail.org/>

Zero Waste Leeds is building a movement to help make Leeds a zero waste city by 2030 and Leeds By Example is bringing together examples of best practice across the city.

<https://www.zerowasteleeds.org.uk/>

<https://www.leedsbyexample.co.uk/>

Leeds City Council is leading a host of major city-wide low carbon projects and initiatives and these are summarised in the February 2021 Executive Board report

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CI=102&MI=9980&Ver=4>

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Leeds Climate Commission's main focal points will be Housing, Transport and Finance and investment. These emerged as key challenges in the CARA process – and we will establish new panels to help us to propose viable ways forward so as to improve the city's readiness in these three areas; For Commercial buildings and the Public sector, we will work with other existing networks to help do the same;

For Communications and engagement, we will retain a working group, especially to promote the wider social, economic and environmental benefits for the city as it pursues net zero by 2030.

When resources permit we also propose to commence work on considering Consumption Based (Scope 3) emissions for the city

REGIONAL COMMISSION

Our experience as the Leeds Climate Commission has shown that there is growing interest in the role that can be played by independent climate commissions that draw together key actors from key organisations in the public, private and third sectors to support an area's response to the climate challenge.

Thus far, most climate commissions or similar are emerging at the city/local levels. However, we can see a clear role for a regional commission for Yorkshire and Humber, to provide support, learn from and where appropriate coordinate/provide a strategic framework for local commissions and other local climate initiatives and to make the case for further support from national government.

Within the Yorkshire and Humber region, the Leeds Climate Commission was established in 2016, and other local commissions or similar initiatives have been/are being established/actively discussed in Bradford, Doncaster, Kirklees, Otley, Harrogate, Wakefield and York.

The main focus of these local commissions and other initiatives tends to be on the low carbon side – indeed summary low carbon roadmaps have been prepared for every authority across the region. However, climate resilience and adaptation issues are perhaps better dealt with at the catchment or regional scales.

A regional commission could therefore add most value if it placed its primary emphasis on climate resilience, whilst also coordinating and supporting low carbon activities in localities across the region.

We will be helping with the establishment of a Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission to promote the delivery of both net-zero and climate resilient activities across the region and to ensure that activities respect the principles of a just transition to a low carbon economy. A top priority in the first six months would then to prepare a regional submission to the UN climate (COP) talks that will take place in Glasgow in November 2021.



Annual Report to Full Council

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee 2019/20

Foreword by the Chair, Councillor Neil Walshaw

Leeds City Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019. The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) was formed in May of that year with a remit to analyse, to critique, to advise and to lobby about all and everything relating to this civilizational level threat we all face.

CEAC elected members resolved at the start to be evidence lead, to work collegiately and cross party and, above all, to listen to the many voices that need to be heard on this all-encompassing issue. That's quite a daunting set of challenges but I hope in this first year that we have begun to contribute to our city's future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow CEAC members for all their hard work and thoughtful contributions across the breadth and depth of the matters we have considered, especially through 2020 which has been a rather different year from that which we anticipated. I would also like to pay tribute to Polly Cook, our Lead Officer, and Harriet Speight, our committee clerk, and to officers from across the Council for their knowledge, commitment and steadfastness. I am especially pleased by the progress made in the CEAC Working Groups, despite the pandemic, and by the involvement of groups and individuals from across our city and region.

In Leeds we are privileged to be able to work with the Leeds Climate Commission and with a wide range of academics, businesses, third sector organisations and civic and youth groups. I am pleased that we have been able to discuss, debate and exchange ideas across such a broad group of interests and politics.

We can and will be a leader and exemplar city as we strive to reach a zero carbon future, where that future raises the living standards of future generations and that this process transform our lives and the city for the better. .

I will leave you with this; in October of 2020 no Arctic sea ice had formed. This has never happened before in recorded history. Please think about this when considering the decisions you make in life. We have come a long way on our carbon journey, as this report demonstrates, but we have so much more to do.

With best wishes

Councillor Neil Walshaw, Chair, Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC)

Summary

- The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was introduced following the declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2019. It is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change and sustainability.
- Whilst we have had a serious health crisis, it is important to stress that work has continued across all strands of the work programme that will help drive down the city's emissions, including but not limited to the development of the local plan, longer term transport planning and emergency active transport work as well as securing funding to support multiple energy efficiency schemes.
- The pandemic has been challenging for many people for a variety of reasons, preventing many activities that people have missed but it has also opened up new opportunities that we can embrace as part of the city's recovery, such as the increased use of technology to enable remote working – reducing travel at peak times and getting to know our local neighbourhoods and spend at local businesses.
- During the pandemic the Committee has met every other month with one meeting cancelled at the start of the pandemic until the Committee moved to virtual meetings in July 2020.
- The topics covered to date have been wide ranging and varied and many external speakers have also attended to present a whole city view of the action required in response to the climate emergency.
- As well as the main committee there have been three working groups that to date have covered planning, biodiversity and transport. The work programme of the working groups was severely disrupted by the pandemic, with work pausing for eight months due to resource constraints as a result of the emergency response.
- The Committee has played an important role in providing detailed insight on a range of issues to multiple members, supporting a greater understanding of the climate emergency and its potential solutions. This in-depth knowledge can then be used by members in their wider council work to support the principle that every decision made by the council should consider the consequences on the net zero target.
- Public engagement has been an underlying principle of the Committee as it is clear that the net zero ambition cannot be achieved by any one organisation or individual and requires a whole city approach. The committee played a key role in maintaining the required public profile by increasing public engagement and media interest.
- There is a requirement to examine progress to date and plan the future direction of travel, particularly as the 'new normal' emerges and the impact of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency is further shaped by the covid-19 pandemic.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 This report:

- Details the progress made by the main committee and each CEAC working group
- Confirms the future work programme of the working groups for the remainder of 20/21

2. Background information

- 2.1.1 Full Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019, with the stated ambition of working towards a net zero carbon city by 2030. The council has accepted that very urgent action is required to make our contribution to containing global temperature rises within 1.5C. Beyond this limit, there is a strong scientific consensus that there will be catastrophic consequences for both humanity and the natural world.
- 2.1.2 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was set up specifically in recognition of the extent of the challenge that the council was facing in achieving its stated objective of net zero by 2030, highlighting that all political parties must work together to achieve this aim and that all organisations and individuals across the city must also be actively engaged.
- 2.1.3 This report is not intended to provide a full overview of the actions taken to date by the council or the detail of the emissions roadmap but to focus on the contribution of CEAC. In January 2020 a report was taken to Executive Board that set out the council's initial approach to the climate emergency in detail. A further report will be taken in February 2021 to provide an update on the city's emissions, progress made and challenges that we face.
- 2.1.4 The covid-19 pandemic has magnified and accelerated previous trends in the economy and labour markets which have been observed at both the local and national level. Undoubtedly, the pandemic has also had a significant environmental impact.
- 2.1.5 Global emissions are expected to fall by a record 5-10% globally as a result of the pandemic, and it is vital that a sustainable, green recovery is at the forefront of the city's covid-19 response.
- 2.1.6 Since the first national 'lockdown' in March, fuel sales have been down nationally and there have been evident improvements to air quality and a reduction in traffic levels. There has also been an observed decrease in commercial and industrial energy consumption and it is expected that global energy use will fall by 6% in 2020.¹
- 2.1.7 Throughout the pandemic, the council has continued to encourage the shift to low-carbon transport options and its fleet of electric vans – which represent the largest EV fleet of any local authority in the UK – have been used as part of the city's covid-19 response to deliver food parcels to vulnerable residents across the city.
- 2.1.8 To encourage residents and workers to try more sustainable travel, the council recently launched its E-Bike Trials scheme, which encourages people who live and work in Leeds to try an electric bike free of charge. This received phenomenal

¹ According to the IEA <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/covid19-energy-use-drop-crisis>

interest in the first few weeks of going live and almost 1000 miles have already been completed on electric bikes as part of the scheme.

- 2.1.9 In partnership with Highways England, the council launched the EV Trials scheme in January 2020 which gives businesses, charities and other organisations the opportunity to try an electric van for free. The scheme has already received around 450 applications and a number of participants have gone on to purchase their own electric van following the trial period. The council continues to encourage businesses to take part in the scheme and this has been able to progress throughout the ongoing pandemic.
- 2.1.10 To support the transition to a zero emission future, Leeds City Council is working with partners to create a network of electric vehicles rapid charge points across the city. So far, 16 of these are live and a network of over 30 charge points is planned to be delivered by March 2021. Since installing the first charge point over a year ago, the network has already been used over 22,000 times.
- 2.1.11 Housing and low-carbon retrofits continue to be a priority for the council. To help tackle inequalities whilst tackling climate change, the council has secured £2.9 million of funding to improve the energy efficiency of poorly insulated homes in area with high levels of fuel poverty. The targeted measures include specialist cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps and external wall insulation.
- 2.1.12 A district heating network update was published in July 2020, along with proposals for a third phase of the scheme which was presented at Executive Board. Work was able to progress over the first national lockdown period to connect civic buildings to waste-powered heat. The network already connects residents to more sustainable heat and once fully built out it will save a combined 11,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year. The network's third phase would extend the scheme into the South Bank area of the city.
- 2.1.13 To support local wildlife and encourage green spaces across the city, the council has committed to planting 50 hectares on its own land every year. To achieve this aim, the council will work in partnership with businesses and communities across the city as well as hosting volunteering opportunities. Leeds City Council is currently developing its White Rose Forest strategy to increase tree cover across the Leeds City Region by 2050. Tree planting across the region is also being used as part of the council's natural flood management programme across the River Aire catchment.
- 2.1.14 The council continues to communicate its work to tackle the climate emergency and is working with partnership organisations to engage audiences on climate-related issues. Leeds City Council has signed up to UK100's 'Net Zero Pledge' to achieve net zero council emissions by 2030. Additionally, the council, along with many others across the globe, has signed up to the 'Count Us In' project which encourages people to take action on climate change through 5 key themes: transport, food, lifestyle, voice, and home.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 When the climate emergency was declared in March 2019, the scale of the challenge was recognised alongside the importance of public engagement to ensure that action was taken in every part of society.
- 3.2 The Committee has played a key role in the council's response to the climate emergency:

- Increasing public engagement;
- Attracting greater media interest for activity being undertaken across the whole city;
- Providing members access to experts to improve their own knowledge and to promote an in-depth understanding of complex issues;
- Ensuring that the climate emergency remains a key priority across the council, even during the recent health crisis;
- Through the working groups challenging policies and strategies such as the White Rose Forest, Transport Strategy, planning policy etc.

- 3.3 To support this aim of public engagement the Committee was a public meeting, attracting audiences of up to 70 in the Civic Hall and when it moved on-line it received over 150 viewers of the YouTube channel.
- 3.4 Open forum was also introduced at the start of each meeting to provide members of the public an opportunity to set out their concerns, ideas or ambitions with speakers ranging from private individuals to representatives of organisations such as Our Future Leeds, GALBA and Youth Strikers.
- 3.5 In order to retain Open Forum during the pandemic, members of the public have been offered the opportunity to provide video recordings, enabling the public to still have its voice heard at virtual meetings. Digitising open forum has brought other advantages as it has enabled more people to be a part of the open forum as submissions can easily contain multiple people and be more creative,. It also allows open forum to be more inclusive as you don't have to be free at the time of the meeting to participate.
- 3.6 One meeting was also dedicated to businesses and the Committee heard from Yorkshire Building Society, Yorkshire Design and Civic Engineers, explaining both what they had achieved to date, their future ambitions and plans as well as where they would like to see action from the Council.
- 3.7 At appendix 1 a full list of individuals and organisations that have attended open forum in 2020 and the issues that they raised can be found.
- 3.8 The Committee also provides another focal point for the media and one that is climate emergency focused. For example the last committee meeting received coverage of the item on food production. Capturing the media's attention on the climate emergency can be difficult, particularly since Covid and so this helps with public engagement.
- 3.9 The main committee has had a wide ranging agenda, starting by providing an in-depth overview into the challenge that the climate emergency presents from various angles such as planning and transport, including aviation. It provided oversight into the planning that went into the Big Leeds Climate Conversation and had the opportunity to question the outcomes and follow up actions. It has more recently been provided with an update into the impact of Covid on the climate agenda.
- 3.10 The committee had the chance to explore the process surrounding the citizen's jury and then to receive and comment on its 12 recommendations. It has committed to do this on a quarterly basis. The next update will be due in the new year.

- 3.11 It has also received a report about the recent, successful lottery bid that will focus on community engagement through a series of community hubs across a number of different work streams. It will continue to work with the third sector to see how the council can support to best effect by way of regular updates to the main committee.
- 3.12 There was a session that focused on business with three businesses presenting at the open forum sessions (see 3.5 above) and then the Chamber of Commerce providing their overarching views of the climate emergency and businesses.
- 3.13 More recently a presentation was brought forward on the impact of food and the opportunities to take more action locally to reduce the carbon impact of food supplies locally. It was agreed that the food and biodiversity working group would examine this paper in more detail and return to the main committee with their recommended actions.
- 3.14 In April it was intended to hold a meeting that was focused entirely on schools and engaged with children of all ages. This unfortunately had to be delayed due to the pandemic. However, we hope to reschedule this in early 2021.
- 3.15 As well as the main committee, three working groups were set up that were aligned to the key themes of the Climate Emergency. The working groups work programme has been more disrupted by the pandemic and has paused for eight months, due to the resource challenges faced by the Council as they dealt with the impact of the pandemic with staff being redeployed temporarily to support the emergency response. The paragraphs below document progress to date and discuss the future work programme.

Bio-diversity and Food

- 3.15.1 The Biodiversity and Food working group has focussed principally on the issue of tree planting as a means to both capture and store carbon and to improve biodiversity across the city. This group has considered opportunities and barriers on both council land and non-council land, and ways to involve the community alongside some of the factors impacting on tree planting. Members have provided intelligence regarding potential planting sites and links to community groups willing to support planting activities
- 3.15.2 The group has also considered how open spaces in parks could be managed to improve biodiversity, the role of planning policy in supporting biodiversity, how the impact of streetlights on animals and insect circadian rhythms has been mitigated and what other options are available, alongside how access to nature is important to improve physical and mental health.
- 3.15.3 The group will continue to explore ways the council can deliver services that enhance biodiversity over the next year and will look to expand activities to also focus on the carbon footprint of Leeds' food, exploring how to support existing local food producers as well as ways to expand food production and to improve understanding across the city of the contribution that food makes to the city's emissions.

Planning

- 3.15.1 The Planning, Energy and Building Group has met five times since September 2019. It has agreed a work programme linked to five key themes. The following paragraphs describe the progress made against each theme to date:
- 3.15.2 Working with developers - A Developer Forum has been established which met in December 2019. A key action of this was the development of a toolkit to make what developers need to do at the planning application stage easier to understand, and

this is at a final draft stage. With the working group having now resumed, the intention is to organise another Forum meeting.

- 3.15.3 Better implementation of existing statutory policies – The 2011 “Building for Tomorrow Today” and 2003 “Neighbourhoods for Living” Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) provide guidance to developers for delivering quality sustainable developments. These have been refreshed on the web-site to note that the principles within them are highly relevant to help the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency, and further guidance is provided to help use the documents against an up to date planning framework. Training material has been agreed through the CEAC group and launched initially for officers to re-inforce the climate, health & well-being and inclusive growth benefits of the existing planning policies, primarily around the theme of better place-making. A member training package can also be implemented as part of any overall Climate training, with specific training on Trees already having been delivered.
- 3.15.4 Lobbying - The group has responded to the Government’s proposals for changes to Building Regulations and a joint letter to MHCLG was co-signed by core cities and the Mayor of London seeking a more ambitious approach to building fabric and for local authorities to be allowed to continue setting their own standards. The CEAC Group as a whole and its members via DPP fed into a cross-party response on the Government’s Planning White Paper (October 2020).
- 3.15.5 Updating existing policies - Members of the group set the initial scope for policies to be reviewed on climate change which were subsequently considered by Development Plans Panel. Work on the Local Plan Update with a focus on climate change policies is underway and more detail on these matters was considered by Development Plan Panel in November and will be again in January prior to initial public consultation in spring 2021.
- 3.15.6 Understanding the value of planning to the zero carbon trajectory - Members have discussed the importance of clarifying approaches to environmental monitoring and working across organisations to have a better understanding of the implications of development on carbon and the environment.
- 3.15.7 The group has developed a forward programme of activity which is set out as follows:
1. Working with developers – Launch toolkit and widen developer forum to include more housebuilders.
 2. Better implementation of existing statutory policies – Continue to deliver training during 2020.
 3. Lobbying – Develop links with Planning Inspectorate and continue to lobby on specific planning guidance.
 4. Updating existing policies – Local Plan Update underway – first statutory consultation in Spring 2021. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment brief ready to market and continued discussions with WYCA on renewable energy potential,
 5. Understanding the value of planning to the zero carbon trajectory – Continue to improve baseline data that enables better policy making and planning decision taking. Link with other agencies such as DEFRA, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency on matters such as Natural Capital and Biodiversity Net Gain
- 3.15.8 This work has been slightly delayed by the legal challenge to the Site Allocations Plan and the impacts of Covid-19. It is important to note however, that much of this agenda is not only about climate change, but about creating better and more resilient places and communities which can adapt to external changes. The Covid-

19 outbreak is reinforcing the need for such resilience and exposing where places are failing, such as where green infrastructure links are poor or where environments are not assisting in providing support to well-being and mental health.

3.15.9 In addition to this, it is also proposed that the group focus over the coming months on the priority of reducing carbon emissions arising from existing housing through energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Members will be involved in determining the scope of proposed work to develop a potential retrofit offer to homeowners. As part of this, they will also be asked to identify the key 'asks' of Government that are required to create the conditions and context in which such a programme can be accelerated in the face of limited local resources.

3.15.10 Transport

3.15.11 The transport working group started its work programme with a city centre tour that showed members of the committee the various projects that were already underway to help improve transport across the city.

3.15.12 The group has heard from experts on a variety of matters, including a detailed session looking at the future of electrification and its limits, especially for freight.

3.15.13 Just prior to the pandemic representatives from Living Streets Leeds came and explained their aspirations for active travel in the city. The focus on active travel continued at the first virtual meeting as the group considered both school streets and active travel neighbourhoods. In December the group will consider the proposed new transport strategy, having considered the transport vision earlier in the calendar year.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 One of the key focuses of the Committee is consultation and engagement. It enables cross party discussion on a wide range of issues, it offers the opportunity for other organisations to attend and present their own views/ findings as well as allowing the public to provide their input through open forum.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 The committee is a public meeting that allows access to all members of the public. The recent digitisation of open forum has further enabled access for those who may have struggled to travel to the city centre or who may have been unable to attend day time meetings.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 There are three Best City key performance indicators of direct relevance to this report. Performance information is reported regularly via the council's performance reporting framework and is used to inform project development and progress.

- Reduced carbon emissions across the city;
- Number of households in fuel poverty;
- Improved energy and thermal efficiency performance of houses.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee has helped the council to understand the wider work that is underway across the city to support the climate emergency by hearing from a number of representatives from the third sector, businesses and academia.
- 5.2 The Committee has helped to increase public engagement in the climate agenda and provided members of the public with an opportunity to present their views.
- 5.3 The Committee has responded well to the pandemic, managing to hold virtual meetings that still enabled public engagement and actually helping to improve inclusivity by the digitisation of open forum. It is appropriate that a Committee that's purpose is to enable the delivery of net zero across the city is proactive in adopting new ways of working.

Open forum submission	Key discussion points	Council response
<p>13 January, 2020: Drusilla Long, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the council's plans to build a Parkway Station and link road to Leeds Bradford Airport and the impact of increased air travel on climate change • Suggested the council defers the decision to build a rail station and highway linkages until air travel becomes carbon neutral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the council's position that aviation growth and meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible until new technologies are developed. It is only at the point at which emissions from aircrafts have been adequately resolved that national and international aviation growth can be supported • Explained that the council have written to the government lobbying for aviation emissions to be included in the national carbon budget and calling on the government to then use its resources to invest in research and design technology to develop cleaner aviation for the future • Highlighted that the council has withdrawn its previous proposals for surface access, reducing the direct impact on green belt and that revised surface access plans will concentrate on links which improve rail access
<p>13 January, 2020: Keith Whittaker, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is incompatible with achieving zero carbon targets until new technologies can make aviation carbon neutral • Suggested the council should not facilitate additional surface access plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the council's position that aviation growth and meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible until new technologies are developed. It is only at the point at which emissions from aircrafts have been adequately resolved that national and international aviation growth can be supported

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urged the committee to lobby for a frequent flyer levy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted that the council has withdrawn its previous proposals for surface access, reducing the direct impact on green belt and that revised surface access plans will concentrate on links which improve rail access Outlined the council's asks to Government where aviation is concerned, which includes the introduction of a frequent flyer levy to reduce demand
13 January 2020: David Bars, Our Future Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked the council for the steps taken so far to address the climate emergency. However, did not consider the actions adequate in reducing emissions at the rate required to meet 2030 targets Concerned that tree planting initiatives are not enough to offset aviation emissions alone and are only valuable in addition to other actions and measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained the ambition of our transport plans and how national lobbying is a key part of our action plan for more funding and powers at a local level Highlighted that we'll soon be publishing our White Rose Forest Strategy and looking at land ownership opportunities across the city. Also noted that the council is not reliant on tree planting to solve the climate emergency alone and made reference to the additional benefits of tree planting: natural flood management, biodiversity gains, greater accessibility to green space
10 March: Elliot Kilbride, Yorkshire Building Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed the committee that YBS has reduced its internal carbon emissions by 48% since 2012 and the actions that have taken place to achieve this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulated Yorkshire Building society on their work and dedication so far

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated how YBS is already a carbon-neutral organisation and report scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions • Acknowledged the challenges of also mapping the indirect emissions that occur across the organisation • Invited further opportunities for partnership working with the council around the climate emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged that YBS has been invited to join the Leeds Climate Commission • Invitation to contact officers in the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality team about upcoming opportunities
10 March: Paul Ellison, Yorkshire Design Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged projects and campaigns for local businesses to engage with, including Clean Air Day and Car Free Day • Suggested new ways to engage communities, including temporary free bus travel schemes and a pop-up forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of how, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the council supported Clean Air Day virtually this year and highlighted the impact of the campaign • Highlighted the council's work to improve public transport and active travel, raising awareness of the council's new e-bike trials scheme to encourage residents to try an e-bike free of charge and the pop-up bike hub in Kirkgate Market • Invitation to hold a meeting to discuss opportunities for Clean Air Day in 2021
10 March: Leah Stuart, Civic Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the committee about a number of projects focused on providing sustainable infrastructure, including the development of a car-free school in the city centre • Highlighted barriers to such projects and the need for policy change. Also highlighted the financial implications for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined how planning plays an important role across the council's strategic priorities • Raised awareness of the Core Strategy which outlines the council's plans to ensure that new development takes place in locations that are, or will be, accessible by a choice of a

	<p>the construction industry and the need for innovation within the sector that is supported by the council</p>	<p>means of transport, including walking, cycling, and public transport with the majority of growth focussed in urban areas and settlements located within a 15-20 minute walk from local and other services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition to set standards for buildings to be as sustainable as possible and to improve our policies on green and blue infrastructure • Highlights from the Local Plan Update, including updated policies to deliver more trees and improve access to sustainable housing
<p>17 July: Our Future Leeds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented 10 ideas for Leeds to “build back better”. The 10 ideas include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing our roads 2. 15 minute neighbourhoods 3. A network of community action hubs 4. More greenspaces 5. Warm affordable homes for all 6. Neighbourhood assemblies 7. Security for Leeds workers 8. A Leeds COVID Recovery fund 9. A socially useful economy 10. Measuring what matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement that the scale of our ambitions will require additional support from central government in terms of policy and resource • Highlighted that many of the ideas mentioned are also incorporated within the climate emergency roadmap report that was approved in January • Raised awareness of the work the council is already doing around the Affordable Warmth strategy, planning, transport and active travel, tree planting and increasing access to green space • Overview of the council’s Inclusive Growth strategy which also has a focus on building useful, sustainable

		and 21st Century infrastructure such as transport, green energy, green infrastructure, housing and flood protection
22nd September: Youth Strike4Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that air pollution has dropped because of the reduction in traffic over the Covid-19 pandemic and that levels will rise again after the lockdown • Suggested the health and climate impacts of air pollution should form the basis of the Clean Air Zone review • Concerned about the money already spent on the Clean Air Zone • Asked the council to provide air pollution levels with the accompanying health risks on a publically available platform • Asked for the committee to publish an independent publically available assessment of what the Leeds Bradford Expansion would mean for the city's climate targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that, since the meeting, the council has published the conclusions of the joint review and the council's Executive Board has endorsed its recommendations • Explained that the review found that the CAZ has successfully accelerated long term improvements to air quality by encouraging local businesses to switch to cleaner vehicles faster than expected, with the help of £7.5 million of financial support • Explained that the shift to less polluting vehicles has been so unprecedented that if Leeds were to introduce the CAZ tomorrow, only a fraction of traffic would be charged • Advised that the joint review found that air pollution at key points in Leeds is unlikely to exceed legal limits ever again, meaning the CAZ achieved its aim and is no longer required • Outlined the council's own view that whilst our air is cleaner than ever, there are no truly 'safe' levels of air pollution. The council's new targets which are aligned with World Health

		<p>Organisation guidelines will be the goal of a new local air quality strategy that will be published early next year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposted where to find transparent and simple local air quality data from monitors in Headingley and Leeds City Centre • Explained that, as the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is current “live” and pending determination, the committee would be unable to comment until a decision has been reached. Also explained that is it important that the Local Planning authority does everything it can to ensure that the Panel’s consideration of the application is robust and unbiased • Outlined the council’s position on the expansion and how the council continues to press the government for an updated aviation strategy and to include the impact of aviation in national carbon reduction targets • Signposted the independent Leeds Climate Commission’s position paper
<p>22nd September: Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the climate impact of the proposed Leeds Bradford Airport expansion • Need for support from regional and national government that supports the actions of citizens where the climate emergency is concerned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained that, as the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is current “live” and pending determination, the committee would be unable to comment until a decision has been reached. Also explained that is it important that the Local Planning authority does everything it can to ensure that the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about how the airport expansion would impact the city's carbon budget 	<p>Panel's consideration of the application is robust and unbiased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the council's position on the expansion and how the council continues to press the government for an updated aviation strategy and to include the impact of aviation in national carbon reduction targets • Signposted the independent Leeds Climate Commission's position paper
<p>22nd September: Wildlife Friendly Otley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the decline of insects and biodiversity and suggested the council relax mowing across the city to encourage wildlife • Suggested spaces in Otley that could benefit from relaxed mowing and a network of wildlife corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the council's commitments to adapting parks and green spaces to support biodiversity, including though relaxing mowing, introducing pollinator friendly habitats and focusing on conservation and habitat creation • The council is in dialogue with residents to identify possible changes that would support biodiversity, which includes bring forward additional sites for relaxed mowing. The council has identified a target to increase this by a further 250,000m² from next year • Outlined the importance of maintained grass in certain areas so that pedestrians and motorists and able to use roads and footpaths safely and with full visibility • Invitation for Wildlife Friendly Otley to get involved with tree planting as part of the Woodland Creation Initiative

<p>22nd October: Simon Campbell-Skelling, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns regarding the West Yorkshire Pension Fund's investment in fossil fuels and recommendations for the council to lobby the WYPF to divest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An item has been scheduled for the January 2021 meeting to discuss the West Yorkshire Pension Fund investment in carbon assets in greater detail
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Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 25 February 2021

Subject: Work Schedule

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Scrutiny Board’s work schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year.

2. Background information

2.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.

3. Main issues

3.1 The latest iteration of the Board’s work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.

3.2 Executive Board minutes from the meetings held on [10 February 2021](#) are attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and identify any matter where specific scrutiny activity may be warranted, and therefore subsequently incorporated into the work schedule.

- 3.3 The Board will note that the summary of Phase 2 Budget Consultation with Scrutiny is included as Appendix 2 at p119 within the [10 February 2021](#) agenda item entitled *2021/22 Revenue Budget and Council Tax*.

Developing the work schedule

- 3.4 When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
- Avoid unnecessary duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue.
 - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
 - Avoid pure “information items” except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review.
 - Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings, taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place.
 - Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year.
- 3.5 In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Covid-19 and Scrutiny Board meetings

- 3.6 In June 2020 remote public sessions of all Scrutiny Boards were introduced. There is a degree of continuing uncertainty about how future meetings will be hosted – they may be hosted remotely, be buildings-based or involve a hybrid approach. However, all meetings for the 2020/21 municipal year have been scheduled in such a way as to ensure they can continue to be resourced remotely if that is the required approach.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director(s) and Executive Member(s) about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include ‘to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council’s Equality and Diversity Scheme’.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 When considering areas of work, the Board is reminded that influencing climate change and sustainability should be a key area of focus.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.

4.4.2 The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.

Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should:

- Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources;
- Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue;
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5. Conclusions

5.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider the matters outlined in this report and agree (or amend) the overall work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2020/21.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

June	July	August
Meeting Agenda for 18 June 2020	Meeting Agenda for 9 July 2020	No Scrutiny Board meeting scheduled.
<p>*REMOTE SESSION*</p> <p>Outcome of the consultation on the proposals for the land currently occupied by Temple Newsam Golf Course</p> <p>Safer Leeds (verbal update)</p>	<p>*REMOTE SESSION*</p> <p>Volunteer Hubs – learning lessons to ensure the future resilience of the 3rd sector</p> <p>Referral to Scrutiny: Nitrous Oxide (Cllr Robinson)</p>	
Working Group Meetings		
	Discussion re: parameters of River Cleanliness Inquiry	
Additional Notes		
	Request for detailed Nitrous Oxide Report	

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Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

September	October	November
Meeting Agenda for 24 September 2020	Meeting Agenda for 15 October 2020	Meeting Agenda for 12 November 2020
<p>Waste Management Services: update on the recommendations of the 2018 scrutiny inquiry [PM]</p> <p>LASBT Review: update following the introduction of changes to the service in early 2020. [PSR]</p> <p><i>Work programme to include: update on River Cleanliness inquiry & Statement regarding volunteer hubs to be noted</i></p>	<p>Housing Activity Update [PM]</p> <p>Budget consultation – review of September proposals</p> <p><i>*Nitrous Oxide report to inform discussion around work programming in response to referral*</i></p>	<p>Locality Working and Priority Neighbourhoods [PM]</p> <p>Voluntary Sector: reflections on lessons learned from the Covid 19 experience [following July 2020 discussion]</p>
Working Group Meetings		
Budget – Early Consultation - 25 September 10am-12pm	28 October 2-4pm River Cleanliness	25 November 2-4pm River Cleanliness 16 November 1.30-3.15pm Budget Consultation [Oct/Nov Proposals]
Additional Notes		

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PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

January	February	March
Meeting Agenda for 14 January 2021	Meeting Agenda for 25 February 2021	Meeting Agenda 25 March 2021
Reducing Poverty and improving Financial Inclusion – update report, including impact of Universal Credit. (PSR) Financial Health Monitoring and Initial Budget Proposals [PDS] Performance monitoring	Standards in the Private Rented Sector – update report [PSR] CEAC update on progress and activity Parking Strategy and Management update [PM]	Fuel Poverty Update / Energy Efficiency in Council Housing Stock / Carbon reduction in the Private Rented Sector [PM] Final Report: River Cleanliness Final Report: Anti-Social use of Fireworks
Working Group Meetings		
		10/3/21 – Anti-Social use of Fireworks
Site Visits		

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PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

For follow up:

Universal Credit Update: Service user experience as per discussions in January 2020 – *deferred in light of CV19 impact*

Best Council Plan [PDS] – *deferred until Sept 2021 EB*

PCC

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J Blake in the Chair

Councillors A Carter, D Coupar, S Golton,
J Lewis, L Mulherin, J Pryor, M Rafique and
F Venner

110 Chair's Opening Remarks

At the commencement of the meeting, Councillor Blake as Chair welcomed all to the meeting and highlighted that this would be her final Executive Board meeting, following her recent announcement that she was to step down as Leader of the Council, in order to take up a new role as a Labour Party Peer in the House of Lords.

In response to this, throughout the meeting Board Members paid tribute to Councillor Blake and extended their thanks to her for her years of service in the number of roles in which she had served on the Council.

Also, on behalf of the Board, Councillor Blake paid tribute to both Councillor Mulherin and Councillor Charlwood for all of their efforts and achievements throughout their time as Executive Members of Leeds City Council following their respective recent announcements to step down from their positions on Executive Board.

111 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt from publication on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

- (A) That appendix 2 to the report entitled, 'Acquisition of Premises at Kingsdale Court, Seacroft', referred to in Minute No. 115 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that the information contained within that appendix relates to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, and of the Council. This information is not publicly available from the statutory registers of information kept in respect of certain companies and charities. It is considered that since this information was obtained through one to one negotiations for the disposal of the property / land then it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this point in time. Also, it is considered that the release of

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such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to other similar transactions in that prospective purchasers of other similar properties would have access to information about the nature and level of consideration which may prove acceptable to the Council. It is considered that whilst there may be a public interest in disclosure, much of this information will be publicly available from the Land Registry following completion of this transaction and consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time;

- (B) That appendix B to the report entitled, 'Accelerated Capital Receipts and Estate Rationalisation', referred to in Minute No. 119 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that the information contained within that appendix relates to the financial and business affairs of the Council. It is considered that the release of such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to property transactions. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time;
- (C) That appendix 2 to the report entitled, 'East Leeds Extension – Land Disposal and Delivery of Community Infrastructure', referred to in Minute No. 124 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that the information contained within that appendix contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of appendix 2 as exempt from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, as doing so would prejudice the Council's commercial position and that of third parties in the negotiation of a land transaction, should they be disclosed at this stage;
- (D) That appendix 3 to the report entitled, 'Corn Exchange Public Realm Design and Cost Report', referred to in Minute No. 125 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that the information contained within the appendix relates to the financial and business affairs of the Council and other parties. It is considered that the release of such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to other similar transactions. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time.

112 Late Items

Agenda Item 8 - Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan

With the agreement of the Chair, a late item of business was admitted to the agenda entitled, 'Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan'.

Given the scale and significance of this issue, it was deemed appropriate that a further update report be submitted to this remote meeting of the Board. However, due to the fast paced nature of developments on this issue, and in order to ensure that Board Members received the most up to date information as possible, the report was not included within the agenda as originally published on 2nd February 2021. (Minute No. 117 refers).

113 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared at the meeting, however during the course of the meeting, Councillor Golton drew the Board's attention to the fact that he was a candidate in the forthcoming West Yorkshire Mayoral Elections. (Minute No. 116 refers).

Also, Councillor Mulherin drew the Board's attention to her recent appoint as Chief Executive for the Market Place organisation. (Minute No. 117 refers).

114 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

COMMUNITIES

115 Acquisition of premises at Kingsdale Court, Seacroft

The Director of City Development and the Director of Resources and Housing submitted a joint report which outlined a proposal to purchase a portfolio of at least 40 flats at Kingsdale Court, Seacroft, as part of a co-ordinated response by the Council and other partner services to resolving acute neighbourhood management issues and extremely poor housing conditions.

Members were supportive of the recommendations presented in the submitted report, however, in response to Members' comments the Board received further detail regarding the actions being taken to mitigate against risk associated with the proposals, with it being noted that appropriate due diligence processes were in place.

In discussing the current position in relation to the properties at Sugar Hill Close and Wordsworth Drive, and in response to a Member's enquiries, the Board was provided with information which explained the reasons for the proposed actions to address the specific issues at Kingsdale Court and how that position differed to that of Sugar Hill Close and Wordsworth Drive, with it

being noted that liaison with the residents of Sugar Hill Close and Wordsworth Drive would continue as part of the support provided to them by the Council.

Following consideration of Appendix 2 to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the use of Housing Revenue Account capital funding in line with the detail, as set out in exempt Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved, in order to enable the acquisition of a portfolio of at least 40 flats at Kingsdale Court, Seacroft, and that having agreed resolution (b) (below), the final negotiations of the terms be delegated to the Director of City Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and Housing and the Executive Member for ‘Communities’;
- (b) That the terms of acquisition, as contained within exempt Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) That in principle support be agreed for Directors to pursue further acquisitions to enable full assembly of the Kingsdale Court site and its redevelopment, with the relevant delegations available to Directors for this, being noted;
- (d) That it be noted that the Council has the potential to use its Compulsory Purchase powers to support any assembly of the site should they be required, with it also being noted that any such proposal would be the subject of a further report;
- (e) That approval be given for the resolutions within this minute to be exempted from the Call In process, for those reasons as detailed within paragraph 4.5.5 – 4.5.6 of the submitted report.

(The Council’s Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council’s, or the public’s interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (e) above, and for the reasons as detailed within section 4.5.5 – 4.5.6 of the submitted report)

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND CULTURE

116 2021/22 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Report, Including Reports on the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy

Further to Minute No. 96, 16th December 2020, the Chief Officer, Financial Services, submitted a suite of reports regarding: proposals for the City Council’s Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and the Leeds element of the Council Tax to be levied during the same period; proposals regarding an updated

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Capital Programme for 2021-2025 and also a proposed updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.

By way of introduction to the report, the Chair paid tribute to all those officers who had developed the current draft budget to its current position, under what were unprecedented circumstances.

(A) 2021/22 Revenue Budget and Council Tax

As part of the introduction to the report, the Chief Officer (Financial Services) brought to Members' attention the following corrections to be made to the covering report:

- That the sum in paragraph 2.2.1, bullet point 4 should read £3.775 billion, not million;
- That the reference to 2020/21 in the first recommendation be replaced with 2021/22; and
- That the reference in the second recommendation to the proposed Adult Social Care precept of 2.99% be replaced with 3%.

Responding to a Member's enquiries, the Board was provided with further information regarding the total funding which had been provided by Government specifically for the Coronavirus pandemic which was contributing towards this proposed Council budget. Also, responding to a specific question on how the funding from Government for Track and Trace provision had been spent, officers undertook to provide the Member in question with further detail.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board was updated on the current position regarding the Chair of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) being provided with further detail in relation to the future provision of grass cutting; PCSOs; Community Committee Wellbeing funding and the opening hours of Community Hubs following the recent consideration of such matters by the Scrutiny Board.

Also, responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further detail on the liaison which took place between the Council and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioners office in terms of budgetary matters.

Following a Member's question on how much the Council was expected to pay in interest upon outstanding debt in 2021/22, officers undertook to provide the Member in question with the requested information outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Council be recommended to note the recommendation of the Council's statutory officer (the Chief Officer – Financial Services) that the Budget proposals for 2021/22 are robust and that the proposed level of reserves is adequate, as set out at Section 12 of the submitted report;

(b) That subject to making those specific corrections as detailed above, Executive Board recommends to Council the adoption of the following:-

- (i) That the revenue budget for 2021/22 totalling £435.3m be approved. This means that the Leeds element of the Council Tax for 2021/22 will increase by 1.99% plus the Adult Social Care precept of 3%. This excludes the police and fire precepts which will be incorporated into the report to be submitted to Council on the 24th February 2021;
- (ii) That approval be given to grants totalling £69.0k to be allocated to parishes;
- (iii) That approval be given to the strategy at Appendix 9 of the submitted report in respect of the flexible use of capital receipts;
- (iv) That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, Council be recommended to approve the budget with the following:-
 - An increase of 1.5% (CPI+1%) in dwelling rents;
 - A 30p/wk change in the standing charge for Leeds PIPES (Providing Innovative Pro-Environmental Solutions) as a step towards full cost recovery;
 - A 1.1% RPI increase in charges for all other District Heating schemes;
 - The service charges for low/medium and multi-storey flats being increased by RPI of 1.1%;
 - The charge for tenants who benefit from the sheltered support service being increased to £15.14 per week to reflect full cost recovery. The charge being eligible for Housing Benefit;
 - The subsidy for tenants who are not eligible for benefits but receive the sheltered support service being set at £3.14 per week; Therefore the amount payable by these tenants will increase from £10 per week to £12 per week;
 - That subject to consultation, a Retirement Life charge be introduced for the provision of additional services linked to communal areas and for communal facilities where they are within a standalone community centre;
 - That whilst a full charge covering communal areas equates to £7.83, it be proposed that for self-payers this charge is initially subsidised and introduced over 3 years. Therefore the subsidy for tenants who are not eligible for benefits but receive the service be set at £3.01 per week meaning the amount payable by these tenants will increase from £3.30 per week to £4.82 per week;
 - That whilst a full charge for stand-alone community centres equates to £3.34, it be proposed that for self-payers this charge is initially subsidised and introduced over 3 years. Therefore the subsidy for tenants who are not eligible for benefits but receive the service be set at £2.04 per week

meaning the amount payable by these tenants will be £1.30 per week;

- Any overall increase to tenants in respect of rents, service and sheltered support who are 'self-payers' being no more than £3.25 per week.
- (v) That in respect of the Schools Budget, approval be given to the High Needs Block budget for 2021/22, as set out in paragraph 3.4.7 of the Schools Budget Report as detailed at Appendix 8 to the submitted report.
- (c) That the Executive Board's thanks be conveyed to Scrutiny Boards for the comments and observations made as part of Scrutiny's consideration of the Council's proposed Budget;
- (d) That agreement be given to the recommendations in the two 'Service Review' proposals, as detailed at Appendix 3 to the submitted report, and that consultation commences, with it being noted that decisions to give effect to such proposals shall be taken by the relevant Director or Chief Officer, following the consultation period, in accordance with the Officer delegation scheme (Executive functions) save where the Leader, relevant portfolio holder or Director considers that the matter should be referred to Executive Board for consideration.

(B) Capital Programme Update 2021 – 2025

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Executive Board recommends to Council:-
- (i) the approval of the Capital Programme for 2021-2025, totalling £1,842.2m, including the revised projected position for 2020/21, as presented in **Appendix A** to the submitted report;
 - (ii) the approval of the MRP policy statement for 2021/22, as set out in **Appendix C** to the submitted report; and
 - (iii) the approval of the Capital and Investment Strategy, as set out in **Appendix D** to the submitted report.
- (b) That Executive Board approval be given to the following net injections totalling £91.0m into the Capital Programme, as set out in **Appendix A (iii)** to the submitted report:
- £43.0m of annual programme injections and £15.2m of major programme injections as listed at **Appendix A(iv)** of the submitted report;
 - £4.7m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund monies; and
 - £121.2m of other injections, primarily relating to the roll forward of the HRA Programme, annual capital grant allocations,

departmental borrowing injections and other secured external funding;

- £93.1m of budget reductions as listed at **Appendix A(v)** of the submitted report.

- (c) That it be noted that the above resolutions to inject net funding of £91.0m will be implemented by the Chief Officer (Financial Services).

(C) Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board was provided with further information on how CIPFA's prudential code had been taken into consideration in respect of the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy, with assurance being provided that the code did not present any specific concerns for the Authority.

Regarding the ongoing actions in respect of Barclays Bank, responding to a Member's enquiry, officers undertook to provide the Member in question with a separate briefing on this issue.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Treasury Strategy for 2021/22, as set out in Section 3.3 of the submitted report be approved by Executive Board, and that the review of the 2020/21 strategy and operations, as set out in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, be noted;
- (b) That full Council be recommended to set the borrowing limits for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, as detailed in Section 3.4 of the submitted report and to note the changes to both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised limits;
- (c) That full Council be recommended to set the Treasury Management indicators for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, as detailed in Section 3.5 of the submitted report;
- (d) That full Council be recommended to set the investment limits for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in Section 3.6 of the submitted report.

(The matters referred to in Minute Nos. 116 (A)(a) – 116(A)(c) (Revenue Budget and Council Tax); 116(B)(a)(i) – 116(B)(a)(iii) (Capital Programme) and 116(C)(b) – 116(C)(d) (Treasury Management Strategy), given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillor A Carter required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on all of the decisions referred to within this minute, whilst Councillor Golton required it to be

recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within Minute No. 116(A) and 116(B))

(As part of the discussion on this report, although not a declaration of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Councillor Golton drew the Board's attention to the fact that he was a candidate in the forthcoming West Yorkshire Mayoral Elections)

117 Update on Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan

Further to Minute No. 97, 16th December 2021, the Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic across the city including vaccination rollout, the recovery approach, outbreak management, and current issues and risks. The report focused upon the impact of entering into national lockdown restrictions, rollout of vaccinations across the city and the West Yorkshire sub-region, vaccination access, mitigating risks from the new Covid-19 variants and the support in place for people and businesses. The report also noted that the city's multi-agency command and control arrangements continued to be used with the Response and Recovery plan, aiming to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on those in the city, especially the most vulnerable.

With the agreement of the Chair, the submitted report had been circulated to Board Members as a late item of business prior to the meeting for the reasons as set out in section 11.9 of the submitted report, and as detailed in Minute No. 112.

By way of introduction to the report, the Chair thanked Council officers, partners across all sectors and also the wider community for their continued efforts in response to the pandemic. An update was provided on a number of issues, including the roll out of the vaccine in Leeds, the latest infection rates, the establishment of Elland Road as a public vaccination site and the expected timeframe regarding further Government announcements regarding current restrictions. Members of the Board also paid tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore, who had recently passed away, for his inspirational actions throughout the pandemic.

Emphasis was placed upon the work which continued to ensure that the number of people being vaccinated was maximised, with it being noted that this would continue to be a priority for the city and that Members would continue to be updated. With regard to vaccination levels, Members highlighted how crucial it was to ensure that clear and consistent messaging about the importance of being vaccinated continued to be conveyed to communities across the city, especially those where there was hesitancy in taking the vaccine.

Responding to a Member's comments, the Board received further information on the actions which continued to be taken in collaboration with partners regarding the prioritisation of mental health services and the promotion of wellbeing, given the impact that the pandemic was having on many.

In conclusion, the Chair took the opportunity to thank Councillor Venner for extending her portfolio during the current period, to include both 'Children and Families' and 'Health, Wellbeing and Adults'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the change in restrictions announced on 4th January 2021, with the introduction of a national lockdown, be noted, and that the public efforts to stay at home and reduce contacts, be acknowledged; with the verbal update provided at the meeting on the latest position also being noted, together with the fact that the national lockdown is due to be reviewed in mid-February;
- (b) That the extensive work being undertaken across the city's multi-agency partnership, in line with the integrated winter plan, as reported to December's Executive Board, to roll out vaccinations as quickly as possible, control the spread of the virus, undertake local contact tracing, prepare for asymptomatic testing, protect the health service, and deliver support to vulnerable people and businesses, be noted, and that it be agreed that these priorities continue to be progressed;
- (c) That the concurrent pressures on the system, which include winter pressures on the health and care system, flooding and extreme weather particularly through January, continued pressure on local government finance, capacity concerns and potential impacts from the uncertainty caused by the UK's departure from the European Union, be noted;
- (d) That in respect of the financial implications for the Council arising from the coronavirus pandemic, the contents of the submitted report be used as context when the Board considers the more detailed finance based reports, as presented elsewhere on the Executive Board agenda.

(As part of the discussion on this report, although not a declaration of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Councillor Mulherin drew the Board's attention to her recent appointment as Chief Executive for the Market Place organisation)

118 Update on Leeds City Council's actions following the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union

Further to Minute No. 98, 16th December 2020, the Chief Executive submitted a report which, following the White Paper Motion resolution of Full Council on 13th January 2021, provided the Board with an overview of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement, an initial view of its potential impacts and the approach of the Council moving forward. It also provided an update on other areas affected by EU Exit including the repatriation of EU funding and the EU Settlement Scheme.

By way of introduction to the submitted report, the Board received an update on the ongoing work which continued in this area.

Responding to a Member's comments, the Board received further detail regarding the communications between the Department for International Trade, the LEP, the Combined Authority and the Council and the actions being taken to support the business community moving forward. With regard to the level of contact which was being made with the Department for International Trade and its regional representatives on such matters, officers undertook to provide further detail to the Member in question.

Members also discussed the issue of the repatriation of European funding and the need for benefit from that funding to be maximised. Members also discussed how a long term approach towards the Government's provision of funding would be helpful in terms of planning for the future. The Board also considered the process by which such funding would be delivered regionally, and whether it would be directed to Local Authorities or the Mayoral Authority. In conclusion, it was agreed that the Leader, on behalf of the Board write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government seeking further clarification on the process by which European funding would be repatriated.

With regard to the global market, a Member referenced the current situation with regard to China, with it being noted that such matters were being monitored, as appropriate.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the developments which have occurred since the previous Executive Board report (16th December 2020); the overview of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement and its potential impacts; together with the Council's next steps following its signing to capitalise on any opportunities moving forward, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That, following the resolution of the White Paper Motion by Council on 13th January 2021, agreement be given to the drafting of a letter calling on the Government to ensure EU funding repatriated to the UK is devolved to local Councils and Mayoral Combined Authorities as soon as possible, and following specific agreement as detailed above, the Leader, on behalf of the Board, write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government seeking further clarification on the process by which European funding would be repatriated.

RESOURCES

119 Accelerated Capital Receipts and Estate Rationalisation

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update on the Council's Capital Receipt Programme and which sought support to continue with the disposal of the properties, as included within the schedule

attached at Appendix A. The report also sought approval to the acceleration of properties from future years of the programme and the addition of new properties being released through estate realisation.

A Member emphasised the key importance of ensuring that Ward Councillors were kept updated on proposals which affected their Wards, with it being undertaken that further liaison with local Members could be undertaken to address any specific issues which remained.

Regarding a Member's enquiry regarding the preservation of mature trees on the Redhall site, it was noted that the trees had been included in the master plan developed for the site, with it also being noted that such matters would be taken into consideration as part of the planning consent process.

Responding to an enquiry regarding the cost to the Council for the provision of security measures for those sites which were vacant, officers undertook to provide the Member in question with that detail.

With regard to a Member's comment regarding properties of community interest, it was noted that any expressions of interest made by community groups would be taken into consideration, as appropriate.

Following consideration of Appendix B to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report which provides an update on the Capital Receipts Programme, be noted, together with the schedule of properties which make up the Council's Capital Receipts Programme of surplus properties for disposal over the next 5 years, as detailed in Appendix A to the submitted report;
- (b) That the previous key decisions which have been taken in relation to the disposal of assets, as set out at paragraph 3.1 of the submitted report, be noted;
- (c) That the accelerated disposal of the properties contained within Table 3.1 of the submitted report via auction, be approved;
- (d) That the addition of the properties contained in Table 3.2 of the submitted report into the Capital Receipts Programme, be approved;
- (e) That the removal of properties from the Capital Receipt Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the submitted report, be approved.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter and S Golton both required it to be recorded that they respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

120 The Leeds Community Infrastructure Levy - Investment of the Strategic Fund

The Director of Resources and Housing and the Director of City Development submitted a joint report which sought approval for the investment of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund in terms of spending priorities for the forthcoming year and to align the Fund with the Capital Programme. The report also provided an update on national legislative changes to the CIL process, in particular those that impact the Strategic Fund.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, officers undertook to provide the Member in question with further detail regarding a public transport contribution concerning NGT in terms of the sum of money involved and where it was held.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That agreement be given for the spending priority for the investment of the CIL Strategic Fund (financial year 21/22) to be the Learning Places Programme, given the continued need in particular for secondary and SEN places;
- (b) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of resolution (a) is the Chief Officer (Financial Services), and that, following resolution (a) (above), the Chief Officer (Financial Services) will proceed to implement the recommendation under their delegated powers with the assistance of their delegated officers.

121 Financial Health Monitoring 2020/21 – Month 9

The Chief Officer (Financial Services) submitted a report which set out the Council's projected financial health position for 2020/21, as at Month 9 of the financial year.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the projected financial position of the Authority, as at Month 9 of the financial year, be noted, with the projected impact of COVID-19 on that position also being noted;
- (b) That for 2020/21, it be noted that the Authority is forecasting a balanced budget position;
- (c) That it be noted that the position detailed within the submitted report does not reflect the potential effects of any further local or national lockdown arrangements not yet introduced, which could impact upon those financial projections.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

CLIMATE CHANGE, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

122 The Door to Door Community Transport Service Project

The Director of City Development and the Director of Adults and Health submitted a joint report which provided an update on the Door to Door Community Transport Service (Digital Hub) project, presented a summary of the work undertaken to date and which sought approval to deliver a pilot of the proposed service, subject to funding approval from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) via the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP).

In noting that the proposal was a pilot scheme, it was suggested that if successful, consideration could be given to potentially expanding the project to other areas of the city.

Responding to a Member's concerns regarding the proposal, the Board was provided with further information detailing a breakdown on how the funding for the pilot would be utilised, together with information on the reasons as to why the specific geographic and demographic areas for the pilot had been proposed, with it being undertaken that further detail could be provided to Members, if required.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the update on the progress made, and the forward plan for the Door to Door Community Transport Service project, be noted;
- (b) That the delivery of a pilot of the proposed service, be approved, subject to funding approval being agreed by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) via the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP).

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors S Golton required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

123 Review of the Local Centres Programme

Further to Minute No. 44, 24th September 2020, the Director of City Development submitted a report which set out the review of the Local Centres Programme and which sought agreement to the proposals for the revised scope of the programme.

Whilst acknowledging the financial situation being faced by the Council, the key importance of continuing to invest in local centres was emphasised.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the deliverability and progress of the Council's Local Centres Programme, be noted;
- (b) That the approach taken to assessing a revised scope for the Local Centres Programme and the criteria-based approach towards retention

or continuation of schemes, as set out in paragraphs 3.4 – 3.12 of the submitted report, be agreed;

- (c) That the list of schemes to be taken forward to completion, as set out in paragraph 3.13 and Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be agreed, with it being noted that the commensurate figure of £1.862m is to be retained in the Capital Programme, as set out in the separate report on the agenda for this meeting;
- (d) That it be noted that the Head of Regeneration will be responsible for the implementation of the revised scope of local centres work, as set out within the submitted report.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter and S Golton both required it to be recorded that they respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

124 East Leeds Extension - Land Disposal and Delivery of Community Infrastructure

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided an update on the development of the East Leeds Extension (ELE) and which sought related approvals regarding the specific next steps in relation to the disposal and development of Council owned land in the Middle and Southern Quadrants, together with the related delivery of new community infrastructure.

A Member welcomed the briefings which continued to be received on this complex matter and in response to a specific enquiry regarding the consideration being given to the provision of secondary education in the area, the Director of City Development and the Director of Children and Families undertook to provide the Member in question with a briefing on this.

Following consideration of Appendix 2 to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That approval be given for the Council to enter into Option Agreements with Taylor Wimpey and Redrow in relation to the sale of Council land in the Southern Quadrant (as shown in the plan at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) and an Equalisation Agreement with the other Middle and Southern Quadrant land owners and developers, with such agreements to be on the terms as outlined within the submitted report;
- (b) That the principle of the Council's land at Parcel A in the Southern Quadrant of the ELE (as shown in the plan at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) being appropriated or dedicated for use as a primary school and for the provision of community facilities as necessary and in accordance with planning requirements, be approved;

- (c) That the principle of the Council disposing of land at Parcel A in the Southern Quadrant of the ELE (as shown in the plan at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) to a third party or parties for use as a school and for the provision of community facilities, be approved;
- (d) That it be noted that the Capital Programme report on the agenda for this meeting proposes the injection of up to £650,000 to facilitate the re-provision of the existing sports pitches in the Southern Quadrant, to be forward funded by developers; and that approval be given to the Director of City Development to authorise the Director to provide authority to spend up to that amount for this purpose;
- (e) That the principle of pitch development, as set out in the Whinmoor Grange Development Brief, be reaffirmed, and that approval be given for the progression of feasibility, design and the submission of a planning application to enable progression of the ELE playing pitch strategy, as set out in paragraphs 3.16-3.25 of the submitted report.

125 Corn Exchange Public Realm Design and Cost Report

The Director of City Development submitted a report which outlined the establishment of the 'Grey to Green' work programme for the creation of high quality green infrastructure projects and detailed the related submission of a final business case to West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The report also set out the proposed redevelopment of an area of land outside the Corn Exchange for the creation of a new high quality public realm, and which sought the necessary 'authority to spend' for the delivery of the proposal. Finally, the report provides information and sought the necessary approvals for the development of proposals regarding the pavilion building to be brought forward by CX (Leeds) Limited, subject to planning approvals.

Following consideration of Appendix 3 to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the establishment of the 'Grey to Green' work programme and the submission of a final business case to WYCA in November 2020 to secure £8.6m of match funding from the Government's Getting Building Fund, be noted;
- (b) That the progress made on proposals for the development of the public realm scheme for the Corn Exchange, linked to the delivery of the Connecting Leeds Corn Exchange Gateway, be noted;
- (c) That the authority to spend up to £1,546,655 on the Corn Exchange Public Realm scheme from the sources identified within the submitted report, be approved;

- (d) That the principles of the proposed lease terms, as outlined in the exempt appendix to the submitted report, for the construction of a pavilion building and a ground lease between Leeds City Council and CX (Leeds) Limited (part of Rushbond PLC), be approved, with the necessary authority being delegated to the Director of City Development to enable the Director to conclude the final agreement;
- (e) That the principles of the management agreement between Leeds City Council and CX (Leeds) Limited to facilitate use of the space by CX (Leeds) Limited for an annual programme of trading and events associated with the Corn Exchange, be approved and that the necessary authority be delegated to the Director of City Development in order to enable the Director to conclude the final agreement;
- (f) That it be noted that further reports will be submitted to Executive Board regarding approvals for the remaining 'Grey to Green' projects;
- (g) That subject to ongoing consultation with relevant Executive Members, as appropriate, it be noted that the Director of City Development will be responsible for the implementation of the resolutions arising from the submitted report.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors S Golton required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

126 Annual Report on the Climate Emergency

Further to Minute No. 134, 7th January 2020, the Director of Resources and Housing submitted a report providing an update on the progress being made towards reducing emissions at both a national and local level, setting out key actions that have been undertaken. The report also reflected upon the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both emissions and how the road to recovery can be founded in the green economy.

Members discussed the range of zero emission targets that existed locally, nationally and internationally, with the actions being taken in Leeds being noted and it was also acknowledged that whilst Leeds would continue to work to address the Climate Emergency, matters such as the alignment of zero emission targets remained the subject of ongoing discussion.

Responding to a Member's enquiries, the Board was provided with further detail regarding the proposed development of a Domestic Energy Strategy and how Members would be involved in that process. Details were also provided to the Board on the engagement and communications work being undertaken with communities in this area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the intention to report on the Council's scope 3 emissions in the next annual report, in line with the climate commission's proposed approach for the city, be noted;

- (b) That the intention to bring a domestic energy strategy to Executive Board in summer 2021, be noted.

LEARNING, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

127 Outcome of consultation on proposals to establish Resource Provision at Bishop Young Church of England Academy and St Margaret's Church of England Primary School

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which in Part A presented the outcomes from the consultation exercise undertaken on a proposal to establish Resource Provision at St Margaret's Church of England Primary School and which sought a decision to publish a statutory notice in respect of this proposal. In Part B, the report presented the outcomes from the consultation exercise undertaken on a proposal to establish Resource Provision at Bishop Young Church of England Academy and which sought the relevant approvals.

Members welcomed the proposals detailed within the submitted report.

RESOLVED –

Part A – Proposed 12-place Resource Provision at St Margaret's C of E Primary School, Horsforth:

- (a) That the publication of a statutory notice on a proposal to establish a 12-place Resource Provision at St Margaret's Church of England Primary School with effect from September 2021, be approved;
- (b) That provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) of £1.1m to deliver the proposed 12-place Resource Provision at St Margaret's Church of England Primary School, be granted;
- (c) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposal would be subject to the response of the proposed statutory notice and on the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications, as indicated at section 4.4 of the submitted report;
- (d) That it be noted that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021;
- (e) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

Part B – Proposed 30-place Resource Provision at Bishop Young Church of England Academy:

- (f) That approval be given for the progression of a proposal to establish a 30-place Resource Provision at Bishop Young Church of England Academy, with effect from September 2021;

- (g) That provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) of £2.2m to deliver the proposed 30-place Resource Provision at Bishop Young Church of England Academy, be granted;
- (h) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposal is subject to the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications, as indicated at section 4.4 of the submitted report;
- (i) That it be noted that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021;
- (j) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

128 Outcome of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently increase learning places at West Oaks SEN Specialist School and College from September 2021

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the outcomes from the statutory notice regarding a proposal to permanently expand West Oaks Special Educational Needs (SEN) Specialist School and College from 350 to 500 places for children and young people aged 2-19 from September 2021 utilising a site at Buckingham Road, Headingley (formerly known as Rose Court). Additionally, the report also sought a final decision on the proposal.

Members welcomed the proposals detailed within the submitted report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the governing body's proposal to permanently expand West Oaks SEN Specialist School and College from 350 to 500 places for children and young people aged 2-19 utilising a site on Buckingham Road in Headingley (previously known as Rose Court) with effect from September 2021, be approved;
- (b) That the recommendation to exempt the decisions arising from this report from the Call In process for the reasons as set out in paragraph 4.5.2 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposal is subject to funding being agreed based upon the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications, as indicated at section 4.4 of the submitted report, with it also being noted that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021;
- (d) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the

decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (b) above, and for the reasons as detailed within section 4.5.2 of the submitted report)

129 Determination of School Admissions Arrangements for 2022/23

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which presented for approval the Local Authority Admissions Policy and Admissions Arrangements for entry to Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools in September 2022.

In responding to a concern regarding the proposed location of some catchment area boundaries, Members discussed the increasing complexities involved in establishing school admission arrangements and catchments areas for the city.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That in determining the school admissions arrangements for the academic year 2022/23, the admissions policies for the Leeds Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools (as detailed at Appendices A, B, & C of the submitted report), be approved;
- (b) That the resolutions of the Board in respect of the submitted report, as detailed within this minute, be exempted from the Call In process for the reasons as detailed within paragraph 4.5.2 of the submitted report;
- (c) That the following be noted:-
 - (i) The Co-ordinated scheme for admissions arrangements for entry in September 2022 (as detailed at Appendix D to the submitted report) and that there are no significant changes to the content, but the scheme has been re-worded to be simpler, clearer and make the policy more accessible to all Local Authority colleagues and families;
 - (ii) That the officer responsible for the implementation of such matters is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service;
 - (iii) That the statutory date for implementation (i.e. determination of the policies) is no later than 28 February 2021, with the policy being published by 15 March 2021.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In

process, as per resolution (b) above, and for the reasons as detailed within section 4.5.2 of the submitted report)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

130 Covid-19 and the Early Years Sector

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report that provided an overview of the Early Years sector in Leeds, within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges that this had presented.

By way of introduction to the report, the Executive Member summarised the range of issues which were being faced by the sector together with the actions being taken by the Council to support providers.

Responding to a Member's enquiries, the Board received further detail on the actions being taken to maximise the availability of funding to support the sector during the pandemic, and the representations being made to Government on such matters. With regard to the number of childcare providers who had received financial support from Government funding via the discretionary element administered by the Council, officers undertook to provide the Member with further detail on this.

Linked to this, responding to a Member's enquiry regarding the discretionary funding stream that was currently open for applications, and whether any remaining balance from this funding stream could potentially be made available to childcare providers following the forthcoming deadline, officers undertook to look into this matter further.

Members further discussed the continued role played by the Local Authority in making representations to Government in respect of the concerns which existed for the sector during the pandemic, with detailed discussion being given to a number of areas relating to the pandemic where representations had been made to Government, or where views had been provided at the Government's invitation.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further detail regarding the provision of 'Little Owls' and the continued monitoring and adaptation of the business model for the service, with it being noted that the Council's expertise in this area was shared with the wider sector, as a way of providing support to private businesses during the current time.

RESOLVED – That the following be noted:-

- (a) That the childcare sector has faced significant challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic – in relation to finances, demand for places and the ability to provide the stimulating learning environment providers aspire

to due to the safety measures, restrictions, guidance and advice in place;

- (b) That there is concern both nationally and locally that the childcare market disruption is likely to have ongoing and long term impacts on the sector, with regard to parental engagement with childcare and early learning, the sustainability of childcare provider businesses and subsequently the sufficiency of early learning and childcare places;
- (c) That the Local Authority continues to support the sector through ongoing communication and advice, amending funding approaches wherever possible in line with Department for Education (DfE) advice to offer financial support to providers;
- (d) That the Local Authority will continue to lobby and advocate for the sector with regard to the need for adequate funding, in recognition of the crucial importance of the sector for children's development and as a key plank of the economy;
- (e) That the Local Authority will continue to lobby and advocate for the sector with regard to being recognised and included in Covid-19 recovery plans; e.g. staff being included within priority groups for vaccinations, access to adequate PPE and timely communication from central Government to the sector.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 2021

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2021