



## SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

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Meeting to be held remotely on  
Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 10.00 am

There will be a pre-meet for all members at 9.45am.

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### MEMBERSHIP

N Buckley	- Alwoodley
L Cunningham	- Armley
N Dawson	- Morley South
K Dye	- Killingbeck & Seacroft
J Goddard	- Roundhay
A Hussain	- Gipton and Harehills
K Maqsood	- Gipton and Harehills
M Shahzad	- Moortown
J Taylor	- Horsforth
P Truswell (Chair)	- Middleton Park
P Wadsworth	- Guiseley and Rawdon
Vacancy	

**Note to observers of the meeting:** To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' 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.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1112&MId=10021>

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
2			<p><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2 To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</p> <p>3 If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> 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>	
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)</p>	

4	<b>DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</b>	
	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	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.	
6	<b>MINUTES - 20 JANUARY 2021</b>	5 - 10
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021.	
7	<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH UPDATE</b>	11 - 38
	To receive an update from the Director of City Development on the approach being taken to deliver Inclusive Growth across the city within the context of the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework.	
8	<b>BEST COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT</b>	39 - 56
	To receive a summary of the Best Council Plan (BCP) performance data for Quarter 2, 2020/21 in relation to progress against the delivery of the strategic outcomes and priorities contained within the BCP 2020-2025 relevant to the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth).	
9	<b>REFERRAL TO SCRUTINY: CLLRS JOHN ILLINGWORTH &amp; SCOPES</b>	57 - 72
	To consider a referral in the name of Cllr Illingworth and Cllr Scopes.	
10	<b>WORK SCHEDULE</b>	73 - 80
	To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2020/21 municipal year.	

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is on 7 April 2021 at 10.30am.  
There will be a pre-meet for members at 10.15am.

## SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Truswell in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, L Cunningham,  
N Dawson, K Dye, J Goddard, K Maqsood,  
M Shahzad, J Taylor and P Wadsworth

### 55 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no appeals.

### 56 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

### 57 Late Items

There were no late items.

### 58 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

### 59 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A Hussein.

### 60 Minutes - 18 November 2020

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 61 Financial Health Monitoring

The report of the Head of Democratic Services provided Members with information regarding the projected 2020/21 financial health position of those service areas that fall within the Board's remit at Month 7 (October). A copy of the Executive Board Report – Financial Health Monitoring 2020/21 – Month 7 was appended.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor James Lewis – Executive Member
- Martin Farrington – Director, City Development
- Jill Stuart – Head of Finance

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 17th February, 2021

- Phil Evans – Chief Officer, Operations

The Board was informed that Month 7 had broadly shown a continuation of the previously reported projections for City Development with a predicted overspend of approximately £20 million. It was reported that there had been a slight improvement and the Board was informed of areas where there had been a reduction in income across the directorate.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- Although there was a delay in reporting, officer processes picked up issues before the financial health reports were produced.
- There would be some compensation received from the Government Income Compensation scheme and this would be reported in the future.
- Figures relating to costs of the Early Leavers Initiative were requested.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **62 Initial Budget Proposals 2021/22**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services provide the Board with the Executive Board's initial budget proposals for 2021/22 for consideration, review and to comment on matters and proposals relating to service areas that fell within the Board's remit. A copy of the Executive Board report – Proposed Budget for 2021/22 and Provisional Budgets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 were appended to the agenda.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor James Lewis – Executive Member
- Martin Farrington – Director, City Development
- Jill Stuart – Head of Finance
- Phil Evans – Chief Officer, Operations

The Board had previously received briefings on the savings that were to be proposed across the City Development Directorate. Service Review proposals were currently being considered and would be reported to Executive Board in February.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- Centralisation of Property Management – this would involve City Development and Resources & Housing and it was expected that any proposed changes would deliver savings.
- It was proposed that a working group meeting be arranged when further details were known.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## 63 Best Council Plan Performance

The report of the Director of City Development, Director of Children & Families and Chief Executive provided the Board with a summary of performance at Quarter 2, 2020/21 against the Best Council Plan 2020-25. Performance against the key performance indicators relevant to the Board was included in the report as well as an update on City Region functions.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Martin Farrington – Director, City Development
- Eve Roodhouse – Chief Officer, Culture & Economy
- Tim Rollett – Intelligence & Policy Manager
- Martyn Long – Head of Employment and Skills
- Gary Bartlett – Chief Officer, Transportation & Highways
- Lynsey McGarvey – Principal Transport Planner
- Chris Shillito – Performance & Improvement Officer

The following was highlighted:

- Supporting people to improve skills – the current target was on track to be met. There had been an impact on the Adult Learning Programme due to the pandemic with a switch to online learning.
- Supporting people into work – there had been a lower number of vacancies due to the pandemic and more challenges due to the nature of remote working.
- NEETs – Figures were currently at 7.2% which was a reduction on the previous year.
- There had been a significant on the number of KSIs due to the pandemic and there was a 34.2% reduction on the previous year.
- There was a 1.35% increase in bus passenger usage in 2019 but this was expected to fall dramatically when figures were available for 2020.
- Flood risk – over 3,200 residential and 500 commercial properties had been taken out of flood risk areas following completion of flood alleviation work.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- Work to track NEETs that were not known. It was considered that figures relating to this would improve and methods for tracking NEETs was discussed.
- KSIs – although there had been a decrease in these figures there had been an increase in traffic speeding. Reference was made to Vision Zero and a new approach to road safety which hoped to bring KSI figures down to zero by 2040.
- It was noted that the Board had requested that KSI figures and wider concerns regarding Road Safety be scheduled for further scrutiny by the Board. In order to enable road safety campaigners to participate in that debate at a physical or hybrid meeting it was agreed this should be deferred to the next municipal year.

- KSI information on a ward basis was requested for the current year.
- The pilot scheme to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes. It was recommended that this be trialled on the A65 and it was hoped to commence by the end of the financial year.
- There were no plans to allow the use of electric vehicles on bus lanes as there was a priority need for public transport. In some instances taxis and bicycles were allowed.
- Although the Vision Zero approach to road safety would be different there would still be the requirement for enforcement measures. It was agreed that the Board would receive an update on Vision Zero at a future meeting.
- Review of the Camera Safety Partnership – at a local level the position remained unchanged but there was still work ongoing at a national level and an update could be provided to the Board.
- There would be clear signage and advertising of the changes for the motorcycle trial on the A65 bus lanes.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Best Council Plan Quarter 2 2020/21 performance information be noted.
- (2) That the narrative update on City Region functions be noted.
- (3) That the Best Council Plan 2019/20 performance information be noted.

#### **64 Referral To Scrutiny**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services presented details of a referral that fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor James Lewis
- Councillor Debra Coupar
- Councillor Sam Firth
- Martin Farrington, Director – City Development
- Mark Mills – Head of Asset Management

The referral had been made at the request of Councillor Sam Firth following the decision made at Executive Board regarding the proposed sale at auction of East Lodge, Temple Newsam Estate as part of the Accelerated Capital Receipts and Estate Rationalisation. There was concern that the correct information had not been provided and that sufficient consultation had not been carried out prior to this decision. The Board was asked to consider scrutinising the consultation process. It was reported that the Friends of Temple Newsam had not been consulted regarding the sale until after the Executive Board decision.



Ward Councillors had been in constant engagement with the local community regarding the proposed disposal of East Lodge and there had been many conversations with the Friends of Temple Newsam and there were still ongoing conversations.

The Accelerated Capital Receipt programme budget had been used to help with balancing the Council's budget and to protect front line services. The proposal referred to in the referral was to sell a leasehold to the building, which would enable the Council to retain ownership of the building and ensure that it would be preserved and used appropriately. This would bring in a capital receipt for the building while reducing running costs.

Members were informed that the East and West Lodge building has been part of the Council's social housing stock since the 1960s. East Lodge had become vacant in 2017 when it was removed from the social housing programme due to the costs to achieve decency standards. It had been proposed that East Lodge be included in the Capital Receipts Programme and the disposal date had been brought forward due to the pandemic. As with any property that would be included in the Capital Receipts programme there had been consultation with Ward Councillors.

In response to questions and comments from Members, the following was discussed:

- The leaseholder arrangements that would apply to the sale. The Council would retain rights to request that any leaseholder forfeit the lease should terms of the lease not be followed. There would be clauses within the leases to ensure this protection.
- The normal amount of consultation had been carried out with Ward Councillors.
- The lease would limit the use of the building for residential use only.
- Heritage aspects would be protected as the building was Grade II listed and any proposed alterations would have to go through the normal conservation process. Any leaseholder would be made aware that they could only work within the terms of the lease and the listing of the building.
- Advice was being sought as to whether a clause could be included into the lease that ensured that the building remain occupied.
- Feedback from Ward Councillors had included their discussions with Friends of Temple Newsam and others.
- Estimated costs to bring the property back into use were between £50k and £70k. It was felt that the cost of the investment for the use of social housing would be excessive.
- If the property was part of the social housing programme it could be subject to the right to buy scheme.

In summary, Councillor Firth informed the Board that there had been a 1,250 signature petition against the disposal of East Lodge and over 50 people had written to the Leader of the Council to delay any decision. It was felt that

there should be a scrutiny inquiry into the decision and the Friends of Temple Newsam could be invited to contribute.

A proposal was made that a more detailed report should be brought with further contributors and details regarding any lease and the future of the building. A further proposal was made that no further action be taken.

Following a vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That no further action be taken.

**65 Work Schedule**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services asked Members to consider the Board's Work Schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year.

The work schedule was appended to the report along with recent minutes from meetings of the Executive Board.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and Work Schedule be noted.

**66 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 17 February 2021 at 10.00 a.m. (Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.45 a.m.)

**Report of the Director of City Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Subject: Inclusive Growth and Leeds Economic Recovery Framework**

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): City wide	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report for Scrutiny Board provides an update on the Council’s progress on delivering Inclusive Growth. It is the second Inclusive Growth update report to the Board since the outbreak of coronavirus, which has had an unprecedented impact on the economy and created a health emergency across the globe.
2. Our existing strategies on Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing and tackling the Climate Emergency have provided a framework for the Best Council Plan and can be used to identify measures surrounding recovery to enable a coherent response to the economic shock.
3. In this report we set out our continued approach to aid recovery from the coronavirus crisis and how we are looking to build resilience into the economy, support existing sectors and harness new opportunities, including creating new green jobs as we work towards becoming a Net Zero City by 2030.
4. The Leeds Economic Recovery Framework, which was approved by the Council’s Executive Board in October 2020, sets out our approach to economic recovery, one where we can adapt quickly whilst striving to build resilience. This has been necessary given the change in Tier alert levels throughout the autumn and into the winter, as well

as the national restrictions currently in place and other major economic factors such as the UK leaving the EU single market.

5. Our ambition remains to create a strong economy set within a compassionate city and we will refresh our Inclusive Growth Strategy when the time is right after the immediate crisis has passed. But our Recovery Framework sets out current economic priorities centred around three areas:
  - **Respond**. Where required, continue to take immediate actions to support businesses and the economy as we have done since lockdown in March 2020.
  - **Reset and Renew**. Ensure we understand the challenges and opportunities that we face in recovery and that we have a clear focus and direction on the projects and partnerships that will address them.
  - **Build Resilience**. Maintain a long-term view of our aspirations to deliver Inclusive Growth, address the Climate Emergency and be the best city for Health and Wellbeing. Ensure that our decisions lead us towards these goals.
6. In the future we will need to refresh the city's Inclusive Growth Strategy and this year we intend to undertake consultation with key partners and stakeholders from across the city through our Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership on a range of issues which include amongst others our city, town and local centres, employment and skills, our city digital strategy and green jobs.

## **Recommendations**

1. Members are asked to note the approach being taken to continue to deliver Inclusive Growth across the city within the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework and agree any specific Scrutiny actions that may be appropriate.

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report for Scrutiny Board provides an update on the Council's commitment and progress on delivering Inclusive Growth. It sets out background information on the coronavirus pandemic since the previous report to the Board in July 2020, including the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework and what is happening at a local level to continue to deliver Inclusive Growth.

## 2. Background information

### UK context

- 2.1 In January 2021 the Chancellor said that the UK economy will "get worse before it gets better" as the country battles the coronavirus pandemic. The OECD predicts that the UK economy will be among the hardest hit by the crisis, stating that by the end of 2021 it will be more than 6% smaller than before the Covid-19 pandemic. Recent forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility predict borrowing could reach £393.5bn by the end of the financial year in March 2021, which would be the highest seen since the Second World War.
- 2.2 According to the Office for National Statistics, there were 819,000 fewer workers on UK company payrolls in November than at the start of the pandemic. The unemployment rate rose to 4.9% in the three months to October 2020, with the jobless total up to 1.7 million people. Redundancies hit a record high over the period, with Hospitality being the sector most affected by Covid-19 restrictions this year.
- 2.3 This being said, according to the EY ITEM Club's Autumn Forecast, the UK economy's initial recovery from the recession was much faster than expected, although future growth prospects were downgraded. In its latest forecast, the EY ITEM Club says GDP likely grew around 16-17% quarter-on-quarter in Quarter 3 – much faster than the 12% predicted in July 2020's Summer Forecast.
- 2.4 However, some sectors have been impacted harder than others. Nearly 180,000 Retail jobs were lost in the UK in 2020, up by almost a quarter on the previous year, according to the Centre for Retail Research (CRR). CRR found that last year was the worst for the High Street in more than 25 years, as the coronavirus crisis accelerated the trend towards online shopping, and they have warned that there will be more pain for the sector in 2021 as retailers face a cash-flow crisis and rent payments.
- 2.5 One positive was securing a trade deal with the EU. The CBI welcomed the news, but also highlighted the need for urgent confirmation of grace periods to smooth the cliff edge on everything from data to rules of origin and to ensure goods keep moving across borders.

### Local impact in Leeds

- 2.6 Since July 2020 there have been a number of changes to the restrictions which were relevant for Leeds. An overview of the updates during this period is shown below:
  - On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Leeds entered the Government's watchlist for the first time as an area of concern. On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Leeds became an area of enhanced support.
  - On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 it was announced that from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 there would be a 10pm curfew for pubs and restaurants in England, seeing them forced to close from 10pm every night.

- On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the Government introduced a three-tier approach to restrictions, with Leeds placed in Tier 2 on High Risk Alert from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 it was announced West Yorkshire was to enter Tier 3 Very High Risk Alert from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.
- A national lockdown was announced on 31<sup>st</sup> October, for the period 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and the Government confirmed that West Yorkshire would no longer enter Tier 3 from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 but rather would remain in Tier 2 until the national lockdown began on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- The Government published its Winter Plan on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, which set out its plan to managing Covid-19 throughout the winter months and which included changes to the system of tiers and restrictions which was in place.
- It was announced that Leeds would be in Tier 3 Very High Risk Alert from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, after the end of the national lockdown.
- A further national lockdown was announced on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for a period of at least six weeks, with a review due in February.

- 2.7 The various stages of restrictions have had an impact on the Leeds economy. The latest Government data shows that 25,500 people were furloughed in Leeds in October 2020 and we estimate this has increased to around 50,000 in December 2020, in line with the national average. The continuation of the Government's furlough scheme means that it is still too soon to know the full impact on job losses throughout 2021, although it is likely to be significant.
- 2.8 Universal Credit claimants, whether they are in or not in employment, have increased 96% from March 2020 to November 2020. Worryingly, figures from September 2020 show that youth unemployment in Leeds has more than doubled to a rate of 7.5% in a year, compared to September 2019.
- 2.9 The Service sector acted as the main drag on growth in November 2020, falling by 3.4% as restrictions on activity were reintroduced. The largest contributor to this fall was Accommodation and Food service activities, followed by Wholesale and Retail trade. The Service sector is now 10% below the level of February 2020. Manufacturing remained fairly constant, but remains at almost 5% below its pre-pandemic level. However, Construction continues to see growth and activity is almost back to February 2020 levels.
- 2.10 Analysis by Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) shows that Yorkshire and Humber has the highest rates of in-work poverty in the UK after London and Wales. JRF's recent annual report on poverty highlights that several months into the pandemic, many individuals and communities already experiencing poverty have borne the brunt of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19. These include:
- Part-time workers, low-paid workers and sectors where there are much higher rates of in-work poverty, such as accommodation and food services;
  - Black, Asian and minority ethnic households;
  - Lone parents – mostly women, many of whom work in hard-hit sectors – who are more reliant on local jobs, and are more likely to have struggled with childcare during lockdown; and

- Private renters, who have higher housing costs, and social renters, who tend to have lower incomes, both leading to higher poverty rates. Renters in work are also more likely to be in a sector more affected by coronavirus.

- 2.11 We are also seeing a growing digital inequality, as access to devices and Wifi has become so important for young people. The Good Things Foundation has stated that 37% of people (19.4 million) in Britain do not feel prepared for the current economic downturn due to digital and financial exclusion stemming from Covid-19. The Foundation states that digital exclusion can deepen poverty, making it harder to earn, save on essentials and get help, especially in lockdown. The need to bring together digital skills and inclusion has increased dramatically since the Covid-19 crisis. We know that in Leeds children are struggling to get the digital equipment they require to undertake school work remotely and that schools have not been getting all the machines that they need - the Council is in continuous communication with the Government about these concerns.
- 2.12 There are a number of national and regional schemes to support children and families during national restrictions, including the Department for Education (DfE) scheme (over 2,400 families in Leeds have been supported through this route); Asda working with Dell Technologies to provide 7,000 laptops to schools across the UK; and Community Calling, launched in Leeds and West Yorkshire on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, sponsored by O2 and focused on smartphones. However, some families in need of equipment may not meet Government criteria and/or the number of devices provided through the national schemes might not be sufficient to meet demand. In response, local schemes and initiatives have worked hard to fill the gap by asking for donations and repurposing equipment to give to families in need. For example, Digital Access West Yorkshire (DAWY) launched a device donation, recycling and gifting scheme in April 2020. They also have a Go Fund Me page which has raised over £7,500 since mid-January 2021. Furthermore, Tech Angels is a collaboration project between DAWY, Solidaritech and Leeds Community Foundation, supported by the Council, Ahead Partnership and Zero Waste Leeds. The schemes have a high profile, including DAWY recently hosting a national meet-up for local schemes doing similar work across the country. In some cases, councillors and residents have set up hyper-local schemes to meet the need in specific areas of the city. Some of these are working with or receiving support from DAWY or Tech Angels, whilst others are running independently.
- 2.13 In addition to this work, the Children and Families directorate and the Digital and Information Service are collecting information from schools on the number of families who still require support. A survey has recently been undertaken (with the results submitted after the DfE and community schemes) by the School Improvement team which was sent to all schools. 82 schools, nearly a third of the 275 schools in Leeds, have responded and from the responses it has been ascertained that over 3,000 devices are needed. Using this as a representative sample for the two thirds of schools who have not responded, this could mean around 10,000 devices required.
- 2.14 Whilst significant challenges remain in place Leeds continues to have a strong economic foundation. The Leeds City Region is the largest outside of London and has the UK's biggest Manufacturing employment base. As a city, Leeds is Britain's second busiest for Legal work and the third for Financial Services. Our Digital sector is growing faster than anywhere in the UK and now employs 30,000 people, an increase of 67% since 2015, and has been particularly resilient over the last 11 months. Leeds has a strong knowledge-rich employment base linked to the city's universities and teaching hospitals, which are major innovation assets.

- 2.15 There are significant opportunities in emerging Green sectors. Recent modelling from the Local Government Association in summer 2020 shows that Leeds will become a hotspot for new Green jobs, generating the highest estimated number of jobs in the low-carbon and renewable energy sector of all the English Core Cities, with the city expected to see almost 34,000 by 2050.
- 2.16 Furthermore, the amount of speculative development in the city centre has been comparatively low, which may help pivot development to what we need in the future as office take up has fallen dramatically this year, combined with changes to planning regulations, allowing for more flexibility on changing uses on the high street.
- 2.17 Boosting productivity remains a challenge and although the city produces many highly-skilled jobs, employment and output growth has seen a rise in 'lower productivity' sectors such as consumer services and this continues to impact on growth and productivity.
- 2.18 The region's economy will undergo significant milestones in the coming year, as we begin a new trading relationship with the EU and undergo West Yorkshire Devolution. Devolution will create more local powers and funding, but this should not take away from our existing public services which need to be properly financed. The current financial pressure on the Public sector is impacting on our ability to deliver essential services; we want to do more and will continue to lobby central government for more support.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 The coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the economy and some forecasts predict it may take up to 2024 to return to pre-crisis levels. We need to support recovery in the short term as we all live in this period during the outbreak – keeping schools open for key workers and being ready to reopen as the vaccine is rolled out; ensuring public transport can run safely and efficiently; delivering a strong test and trace programme and supporting national efforts to control the outbreak; and building confidence with businesses and communities, as well as continuing to administer and distribute multiple business grant schemes.
- 3.2 Cities should be at the forefront of recovery. Without our towns and cities the economic impact of the crisis will be greater. We are, however, acutely aware of the non-linear nature that recovery will take. We are mindful that different areas of the economy have been disproportionately affected and there is a risk that some businesses and sectors will bounce back more quickly than others, which will be a challenge as we continue to respond to the economic impacts of Covid-19. Because of this, we are taking an approach to economic recovery rather than having a set plan, so we can adapt quickly whilst striving to build more resilience into our economy. This has been shown to have been the right decision to have made, given the change in Tier alert levels throughout the autumn and into the winter, as well as the national restrictions that began again at the start of January 2021.
- 3.3 The Covid-19 pandemic has magnified and accelerated trends that were already evident in the economy as well as growing inequalities, which means that we will need to be ready to accelerate, stop or change our work to recover. We are mindful that the recovery could be uneven, with some parts of the economy doing well while others struggle. Indeed, there is some commentary stating that we will see a second "roaring 20s" whereby we see people seeking out extensive social interaction and spending money in sectors such as Hospitality and Retail, having been unable to do so throughout the crisis and having saved money also. However, this "roaring 20s" may



not occur for a number of years (possibly until the start of 2024) and could highlight inequalities further, between those who have a disposable income available and those who have not, as a result of unemployment and a cessation of work in particular sectors caused by the pandemic and/or existing disadvantages. We are therefore going to need to work even harder to build out from our ambition to be a compassionate city within a strong economy in order to recover. We need to increase productivity and build in resilience to our economy, creating a place that actively supports the life changes of its citizens and has the infrastructure to support the city's long-term ambitions. There is already a new spirit of collaboration that has come about throughout lockdown, building and expanding upon the spirit that was already within the city, and we have fantastic partners and businesses doing great things.

### Regional outlook

- 3.4 Other large cities and regions are of course also facing many difficult challenges as they respond to the coronavirus crisis. They have adopted similar strategies and approaches in their response to that which we are employing in Leeds, including in Manchester and Liverpool. Their approaches also involve a focus upon the need for job creation, good jobs and relevant skills, as well as support for business, the importance of health in relation to local economies and ambitions for a green recovery, recognising the challenges this involves and changes that are required to achieve carbon neutrality.
- 3.5 Devolution to West Yorkshire will provide the region with a range of enhanced tools, including access to new sources of funding, to support economic recovery. At its core the proposed model of regional governance offers a broader framework for economic recovery across a wider geography, enabling individual local authority areas to come together and foster a greater degree of collaboration which can support each of us to collectively achieve more that would be possible if working in isolation.
- 3.6 The West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan was published in August 2020, focussing on supporting jobs for people in resilient businesses, helping people get the skills they need to get jobs and also on infrastructure so people can access opportunities. The vision of the plan is to grow a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable economy with more productive businesses, better levels of skills and entrepreneurialism, less inequality, and better environmental sustainability. The result of collaboration with partners through the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board, the plan sets out what is required at a regional level to deliver a successful recovery, what the region can offer distinctly to national recovery and what the region needs from Government, in a clear and costed plan of action across three stages of Rescue, Re-imagining and Resilience. This initial £1.4bn action plan will need to adapt and local intelligence will be used to inform any updates. The four distinctive investment propositions outlined in the plan, totalling £750m, build on what West Yorkshire uniquely offers the UK and include:
- Health Innovation (£60m) – Building on the region's world-leading strengths in devices, data and diagnostics, unlocking industry collaboration, skills and a globally-positioned Act Early institution on disease prevention.
  - Lives transformed by digital technology (£158.9m) – Ensure no one is left behind in a digital and tech-enabled future from the basis of the fastest growing Digital sector in the UK, driving broadband infrastructure, digital skills and Made Smarter investment to support digital adoption in Manufacturing.
  - Transition to Net Zero Carbon Resilient Economy (£192m) – Supporting the region's Net Zero 2038 target, with unique industry strengths in low carbon

transport, clean agri-tech, construction and circular economy, delivering a pipeline of critical green and blue infrastructure, up to 71,291 jobs and skills and training.

- **Entrepreneurship (£340m)** – Focussed on the diversity of the region’s communities, its existing scale-up performance and its Massachusetts Institute of Technology Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (MIT REAP) programme for high growth pre-starts, unleashing innovation-driven entrepreneurs, transforming empty properties and providing accelerator funding for high-growth potential start-ups.

3.7 WYCA have confirmed that they will keep refreshing their Economic Recovery Plan and are indeed in the process of doing so now. At the final 2020 meeting of the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board, leaders of all five West Yorkshire Councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and partners including unions and businesses called on the Government to give its backing to the ambitious Economic Recovery Plan for the region. Although the Government did not provide funding for the Plan in the most recent Spending Review, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and partners are implementing measures around skills and employment support that can be delivered using funding from the region’s Devolution deal, as well as continuing to provide support to the region’s businesses. To partially fill the gap in Government support for businesses and people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, WYCA will use £13.5m of funding secured through the West Yorkshire Devolution deal to enhance and expand its successful [re]boot and Employment Hub programmes, helping over 10,000 people in the region affected by the pandemic build new skills and access training or find work over the next two years. The funding will be made available from WYCA’s £38m a year gainshare funding to be transferred from central government to West Yorkshire through the Devolution deal agreed in March 2020.

#### *The Leeds Economic Recovery Framework*

3.8 In October 2020 we published the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework, which can be found [here](#). This Framework sets out our continued approach to aid recovery from the coronavirus crisis and how we are looking to build resilience into the economy, support existing sectors and harness new opportunities, including creating new green jobs as we work towards becoming a Net Zero City by 2030.

3.9 Our ambition remains to create a strong economy set within a compassionate city and we will refresh our Inclusive Growth Strategy when the time is right after the immediate crisis has passed. Until this point is reached, we will be following an approach to economic recovery which is centred around the need to:

- **Respond.** Where required, continue to take immediate actions to support businesses and the economy as we have done since lockdown in March 2020.
- **Reset and Renew.** Ensure we understand the challenges and opportunities that we face in recovery and that we have a clear focus and direction on the projects and partnerships that will address them.
- **Build Resilience.** Maintain a long-term view of our aspirations to deliver Inclusive Growth, address the Climate Emergency and be the best city for Health and Wellbeing. Ensure that our decisions lead us towards these goals.

3.10 The Economic Recovery Framework is intended to be a starting point for a city-wide conversation. We continue to engage with the city through the Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership, with the last event being in November, which saw over 130 attendees, and the next event is due to take place in March. We are clear that

ensuring our city's economic recovery will require the commitment and actions of all across Leeds, not just the Council.

### Respond

- 3.11 As a Council we have been working hard with partners from across the city to ensure that we have been able to provide as much support as possible to communities and businesses in Leeds throughout the Covid-19 crisis. In our emergency response, we have carried out many interventions, including delivering food parcels to families; supporting vulnerable people from emergency accommodation into more permanent accommodation; distributing millions of pieces of Personal Protective Equipment; working with partners to create Outbreak Control and Track and Trace programmes; supporting our schools, colleges and universities to open in a safe and Covid-19-secure way; working with transport partners on ensuring school and public transport is supported and provided in a safe and secure way; delivering Active Travel measures and accelerating transport programmes, such as the widening of footways; ensuring the safe reopening of our city and district centres, including signage, barriers and promotion work; and engaging with bars, restaurants and takeaways to ensure Covid-19 secure compliance ahead of the new university term this autumn.

### Business Support

#### Grants

- 3.12 The Council has administered and distributed the Covid-19 business support grant funds on behalf of the national Government throughout the crisis. Below is a summary of the activity carried out by the Council in relation to these funding schemes.

Previous schemes – Throughout summer 2020 and into the autumn 2020 the Council administered four grant support schemes on behalf of central government.

- Both the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund closed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, with payments ending on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, the total amount of grants paid through these schemes was over £154m.
- The first phase of Discretionary Grant Fund was opened and closed in June 2020 and the Board received an update on this in the July 2020 Inclusive Growth Update report. There was a second phase of the scheme which opened later in the summer, closing on 28<sup>th</sup> August to applications and closing for payments on 30<sup>th</sup> September, with 715 businesses supported via grants to the value of £6.621m.

Current/recent schemes – Since October, in response to the introduction of COVID-19 local and national restrictions, the Government made a number of announcements about interventions to address the associated economic impacts. This included announcing additional funding to local authorities to provide business grants and business support locally. These schemes were/are complex in nature and have resulted in a significant amount of work being undertaken by Council staff to both administer and distribute the funds as we have seen demand increase across existing schemes.

January Business Support Package – Due to the national lockdown beginning in January 2021, the Treasury announced a £4.6bn package for eligible firms affected by the new national restrictions, to be provided by Local Authorities on a

per-property basis. The Government also announced that Local Authorities will receive additional money to support businesses who are required to close but are not liable to rates. Leeds City Council will use this funding to reopen existing discretionary grant schemes in February 2021.

3.13 The schemes announced since October 2020 are outlined in the table below:

Scheme	Opened	Closed	Details	Amount paid out so far
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Still open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened to support businesses that pay rates.</li> <li>To simplify matters, the first three fortnightly instalments, covering the initial six weeks of the current lockdown, are being given out as a lump sum with the one-off payment.</li> <li>Support for businesses required to close.</li> <li>Strict eligibility criteria and Council has no discretion over funding.</li> <li>Continually operational through different periods of restrictions.</li> </ul> <p><i>National Restrictions, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply now for grants worth up to £3,000.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tier 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply now for grants worth up to £1,500 each fortnight.</li> </ul> <p><i>National Restrictions, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 onwards</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses forced to close due to national restrictions can get a one-off lockdown grant for the January lockdown and a payment for every two weeks a business has to close from 5<sup>th</sup> January until lockdown restrictions are lifted.</li> <li>Lockdown is planned to last for at least six weeks. A single payment will be sent containing both the one-off support grant and the first three two-week grants.</li> <li>Payments for both the one-off grant and the payment for every two weeks in lockdown are based on the rateable value of a business' premises.</li> </ul>	£22,972,021 (as of 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021)
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	Removed from website - considering individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intended to provide one-off grants to Hospitality and Accommodation businesses that pay rates, for the six-week period spent under Tier 2 restrictions in Leeds.</li> </ul>	£2,011,653 (as of 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021)

		applications by email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For businesses that have remained open but have suffered financially as a result of restrictions (eg. 10pm curfew).</li> <li>For Hospitality venues and accommodation providers only.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tier 2 restrictions, 25<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> November</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply now for grants worth up to £3,150.</li> </ul>	
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Still open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For businesses required to close on a national basis and have not been able to reopen since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 (eg. nightclubs, adult entertainment venues).</li> <li>These businesses are supported through LRSG (Closed) during the period of national restrictions.</li> </ul>	£31,502 (as of 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021)
Discretionary Grant Fund 3 (Scheme 1)	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through Additional Restrictions Grant monies.</li> <li>Part of the third round of discretionary grant funding and is intended to help businesses pay fixed property costs incurred over the period October 2020 – March 2021.</li> <li>For businesses severely impacted by the pandemic.</li> <li>To help with paying fixed property costs.</li> <li>For businesses incurring £4,000 or more of fixed property costs per annum.</li> <li>Grants worth up to £25,000 (by exception).</li> <li>Currently closed for new applications.</li> <li>Businesses not liable for business rates could access 'booster' grants relating to the periods 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.</li> </ul>	£1,795,133 (as of 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021)
Discretionary Grant Fund 3 (Scheme 2)	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through Additional Restrictions Grant monies.</li> <li>The other component of the third round of discretionary funding, targeting businesses with no or low fixed property costs.</li> <li>For businesses severely impacted by the pandemic.</li> <li>For young businesses trading less than 3 years.</li> <li>Businesses based in domestic and non-domestic premises with annual property costs below £4k per annum.</li> <li>Grants worth up to £1,000.</li> <li>Currently closed for new applications.</li> </ul>	£67,500 (as of 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021)
Christmas Support Payment	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Removed from website - considering individual applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened to support pubs or bars which pay rates and get less than 50% of sales from food.</li> <li>For wet-led pubs in Tiers 2 and 3 restrictions.</li> <li>Apply now for a grant of £1,000.</li> </ul>	£367,000 (as of 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021)

		by email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended by the government to the 28<sup>th</sup> February.</li> </ul>	
Additional Grant for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure	w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Still open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For closed firms in retail, hospitality and leisure</li> <li>One-off grants worth up to £9,000.</li> </ul>	£23,170,000 (as of 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021)
Discretionary Grant Fund 3 (Scheme One) – second round	Reopen for applications end of February	Two-week application window – dates to be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help with paying fixed property costs.</li> <li>For businesses incurring £4,000 or more of fixed property costs per annum.</li> <li>Will target those eligible businesses not yet in receipt of support.</li> <li>Grants worth up to £25,000 (by exception).</li> </ul>	N/A
Discretionary Grant Fund 3 (Scheme Two) – second round	Reopen for applications 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Two-week application window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses based in domestic and non-domestic premises with annual commercial property costs below £4,000 per annum.</li> <li>For the new round, businesses must be incorporated or registered before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 in Retail, Hospitality, Leisure, Childcare and associated supply chains</li> <li>Businesses qualify that were established after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 from any sector.</li> <li>Businesses that have not been in receipt of government grant support will be considered in this round.</li> <li>Single one off grants of £500 for sole traders and £1,000 for partnerships or those employing one or more employees.</li> </ul>	N/A

*Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise regional programmes*

- 3.14 The regional Ad:Venture programme has been awarded a one-year extension, taking the project up to summer 2023. An additional £4.1 million of funding will take the total project value to £22.4 million and make Ad:Venture one of the longest running and largest individual projects in the Yorkshire and Humber European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme. Offering a tailored mix of advice and support, the programme supports start-ups and young businesses in their first three years of trading within the Leeds City Region, largely aimed at businesses who supply to other businesses.
- 3.15 2020 has seen an increase in demand for the Ad:Venture programme, up by 30%. The programme has worked with over 3,500 clients and continue to work with many of these. In April 2020 the programme swiftly introduced the Resilience Grant, of up to £5,000, offered to registered clients who needed urgent support to enable them to continue trading. Between April 2020 and December 2020, 175 clients received a grant, totalling £481,118. Also in 2020, the programme delivered 116 physical and virtual events to over 1,300 delegates.
- 3.16 A number of intensive programmes available to businesses across the Leeds City Region have also been delivered:
- Northern Max 3 was launched in April and delivered to 21 businesses, enabling them to swiftly adapt to changes and continue to build on their businesses.

- Accelerate, delivered by Leeds Beckett University in February 2020, July 2020 and October 2020, successfully shifted to online delivery, assisting 40 new and young businesses across three cohorts.
- One-to-one advice – more than ever this has given business owners a much-needed sounding board. Advisors have given clients the support they needed to access Government funding and to adapt their business models. Some examples of sectors supported include Agri-tech, Fin Tech, Med Tech, Health and Wellbeing, Digital, Sustainably and Healthy Food Manufacturing, Social Impact organisations and Eco Housing Building.

- 3.17 Overall, the programme has seen an increase in people registering on the programme who are at the very pre-start stage (Ideation) and for a variety of reasons have made the decision to start their own business (including redundancy, time on furlough, desire for a chance, better work-life balance, controlling their own future). To support these individuals, a pilot programme will be delivered to 25 pre-start businesses in March 2020, delivered by Leeds Beckett University. Called Founders Forge, the programme will seek to support these very early stage pre-starts and to help us better understand their support requirements in the current environment.
- 3.18 Ad:Venture is also working with partners at The Leeds Library Business and Intellectual Property Centre, and is currently developing a new strand of activity that will support businesses and individuals who may not be viewed as high growth for the broader Ad:venture eligibility, but will create a sustainable income for themselves and support the local economy, such as freelancers, consultants, makers and microbusiness. This will build on activity currently delivered through partners The Princes Trust, but open accessibility to all age groups and be delivered through local hubs.
- 3.19 The regional Digital Enterprise programme has also been awarded £5.5m from the ERDF, bringing the total project value to £22m. The project will now run until June 2023 at least. The innovative business support programme is committed to helping businesses achieve digital transformation and resilience by offering funding for digital projects or to improve their digital/broadband connectivity. The programme also helps businesses to develop their digital knowledge and skills by accessing fully funded support and training on a wide range of topics.
- 3.20 Since September 2019 over 3,400 businesses have registered with the programme. There has been a notable increase in registrations since the Covid-19 pandemic began, indicating that businesses are aware of the value of improving their technological capabilities, especially during a pandemic, and are actively looking for support.
- 3.21 To help businesses impacted by the Covid-19 crisis Digital Enterprise launched a new funding scheme, Digital Resilience Vouchers, in June 2020. The match-funded scheme offered up to £5,000 of funding for businesses to invest in technology to help them become more resilient. The scheme proved to be a phenomenal success, closing within five days due to exceeding availability – over 500 businesses applied. 403 LCR businesses were approved for assistance, with 133 coming from the LCR region.
- 3.22 The Digital Knowledge Exchange has adapted in response to Covid-19, to becoming a completely virtual learning experience. Between April 2020 and December 2020 activity included 68 webinars; two mentoring days; and one Go Digital Live! Virtual conference. Webinars will continue throughout 2021.

### Employment and Skills

- 3.23 It has recently been confirmed that the Council's Employment Skills team has been successful in securing up to £6 million in additional funding through the European Social Fund to deliver a community based Employment Support programme. This will support up to a further 4,000 unemployed residents to access support to gain employment or further skills between January 2021 and December 2023. This is in addition to a number of programmes that have been enhanced and expanded over the past few months to respond to the challenges of Covid-19 and the changing labour market.
- 3.24 The service was also successful in securing a £100,000 grant to help support unemployed residents who were digitally excluded. In December the service successfully purchased and loaned out 150 iPads with full data connection to Employment Hub customers to assist them in accessing online training and job opportunities.
- 3.25 From April 2020 to December 2020, the Council supported 2,701 people into work, including 269 apprenticeships. 54% of those supported into work live in neighbourhoods that fall within the 20% most deprived SOA's on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. They were supported into work across all sectors, with the largest numbers in Health and Care, Food Retail, Logistics, Distribution and Transport. Over 258 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff and to provide support for staff facing redundancy. Recruitment continues in the Health and Care sector as it gears up to deal with winter pressures and in digital roles across all sectors, as well as a combined effort with partners across the city to support the significant workforce challenge in rolling out the coronavirus vaccination programme. There are currently more than 2,000 people being supported across our range of employment support programmes and we continue to discuss further funding opportunities with the Department of Work and Pensions and WYCA.
- 3.26 In the academic year 2019/20, 4,368 adults improved their skills through community-based delivery and online skills courses through the Adult Learning Programme. Delivery of the 2020/21 programme commenced in September 2020, with 16 commissioned providers delivering online courses and an increased focus on digital skills and work-focused courses.
- 3.27 New methods of delivery were supported to include blended learning, such as digital delivery through mobile phones coupled with home learning options; remote delivery options to include outdoor learning; and the return to face-to-face learning when restrictions permitted with reworked, Covid-secure delivery spaces. In addition, home learning resource packs were developed and a flexible approach, including increased pastoral support with a particular focus on vulnerable learners, was employed to include learners who are unable to access online learning.
- 3.28 The Council has also worked with businesses across the city to support them with recruitment and retention of staff, as well as help them access a range of national programmes. The Employment and Skills service is now a registered Kickstart Gateway to support businesses to offer six-month paid placements for young people aged 16-24 years currently claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. Since the Kickstart Gateway started at the beginning of October 2020, 247 placement opportunities have been supported across 62 employers, with a number of further applications in process.
- 3.29 The Levy Match Leeds was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to boost apprenticeship numbers in Leeds. Supported by a web-based platform, the service enables large levy



payers to transfer up to 25% of uncommitted funds to small and medium enterprises wishing to support an apprenticeship. The online brokerage service aims to make this as simple as possible to ensure maximum levy investment is retained and invested locally to create more apprenticeship opportunities. To date over £100,000 has been committed to support apprenticeships in the city.

- 3.30 Leeds Apprenticeship Festival (LAF) will take place during National Apprenticeship Week, 8th to 12th February 2021, and will be held virtually for the first time, hosted on a dedicated web page and developed by Open Data Institute (ODI) Leeds. Visitors will be able to watch exhibitor apprenticeship presentations and videos, contact employers directly, access live Q&A sessions with exhibitors and receive personalised one-to-one information, advice and guidance from a team of specialist advisors. 77 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance and a promotional campaign to advertise and raise awareness of the event commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- 3.31 The new Employment & Skills Leeds website was launched to provide a single access 'portal' or central place on-line where the service offer is articulated to maximise engagement with key stakeholder groups. The Employment and Skills Leeds site provides information on jobs, apprenticeships and courses to residents across the city. Those accessing the site can get help finding employment using Leeds Employment Hub, learn more about apprenticeships via Leeds Apprenticeship Hub or find adult learning courses through Leeds Learning Hub. The website also offers a contact point for employers looking to recruit or upskill their workforce.
- 3.32 In addition we have active social media channels which are regularly updated with support, job and apprenticeship opportunities: <https://www.facebook.com/eandsleeds/> and <https://twitter.com/eandsleeds/>. A new subscription service, "The List", was also launched in November 2020 through the Leeds City Council website for people to receive the service weekly vacancies, apprenticeships and courses information. Since December 2020 subscribers to our emails have increased 114% to 4,685 and 17,000 emails were sent.
- 3.33 Furthermore, we have established an Employment and Skills Task Group, bringing together Public and Private sector partners in the city to aid collaboration and produce an action plan to put in place support for priority groups and sectors impacted by the economic shock as a result of the pandemic. This will seek to maximise locally the stimulus for recovery announced through the Government's Plan for Jobs 2020 and ensure a coherent offer to local businesses and communities.

#### Digital inclusion

- 3.34 Increasing digital inclusion continues to be a priority for the city and the 100% Digital Leeds team have been busier than ever in response to the current crisis. The Board will be receiving a full report on digital inclusion at their April meeting. However, some of the work of the 100% Digital Leeds team has a direct connection to the Inclusive Growth agenda. These elements will be discussed in detail at the April Scrutiny Board, but highlights include:
- 100% Digital Leeds have supported organisations across Leeds to bid for funding and secure investment of around £500,000 into digital inclusion programmes or projects. This has been used to increase Wi-Fi in community venues and to purchase equipment such as tablets or laptops that organisations are lending to residents. It has also been used by a number of organisations to appoint staff to lead on digital inclusion projects with specific groups of residents. Many of the funding bids included evidence of impact from their work with 100% Digital Leeds over the last two years and the staff who

have been appointed are being guided and supported by the 100% Digital Leeds team. This work is increasing the resilience of our third sector and 100% Digital Leeds is continuing to build the digital inclusion capacity of organisations across the city.

- WYCA recently launched their Local Digital Skills Partnership. There is an overarching ambition that the LDSP will improve digital capability across the whole skills spectrum, from the essential skills that help reduce digital exclusion, to the skills workers need in an increasingly digital economy, and through to the advanced skills required for specialist roles. 100% Digital Leeds is acknowledged as the leading digital inclusion programme in the region and 100% Digital Leeds is represented on the LDSP Board to contribute to the developing priorities of the LDSP.
- In recognition of the lead role of the 100% Digital Leeds programme at a regional and national level, MHCLG funded the Council to develop a Digital Inclusion Toolkit. This website was launched just before Christmas and the toolkit serves as a how-to guide on strategies that can be used when tackling digital exclusion in communities. Drawing initially on the combined experience and learning of 100% Digital Leeds and Croydon Council, the toolkit is a shared resource where any council or organisation can come together to collaborate. The funding proposal for Phase Two of the toolkit will see Leeds continuing to take the lead role and will include content written by some of the city's community organisations and communities of interest with the support of 100% Digital Leeds.

#### Additional economic support interventions

- 3.35 The Council has also carried out many further economic support interventions.
- 3.36 The Leeds MIT REAP team, supported by the Council, launched its 'LEAP' programme last autumn to help individuals facing a change in circumstance, inspiring them to make the leap to become part of a new wave of entrepreneurs. In addition to this, the Leeds MIT REAP team also launched its 'BUILD' pilot programme by inviting applications from November 2020. The programme 'BUILD a better tomorrow' is looking to find and support big ideas with a social impact, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and aimed at supporting entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds across the region to turn their innovative, socially beneficial ideas into scalable businesses that investors want to back. This is a key milestone of the strategy which aims to accelerate innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the city and a timely intervention given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The participants in the pre-accelerator programme have now been finalised and the intensive 12-week programme began in January 2021, providing learning, support and networks that founders need to build investable business propositions. The programme is committed to supporting underrepresented groups and is delivered by experts and entrepreneurs from across the Leeds City Region.
- 3.37 We also have a well-established Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network, comprising of the largest employers in Leeds which combined employ over 56,000 people. The Anchors are committed to supporting recovery and sharing learning and practice with a wider group of businesses across the Private sector in the city. The success of this programme has led us to expand the idea and we have begun engaging with our main Private sector firms across the city to determine how best to bring them in to our Anchors Network.

- 3.38 Work within our communities will also continue to be supported. Leeds has a thriving Third Sector providing critical support to the people of Leeds. For this to be maintained going forwards, the sector will require support and resources and we have established a group to understand the potential impact of Covid-19 on Third Sector organisations and communities and develop actions aimed at minimising the impact on the sector. Included in this work is action to ensure the Third Sector can influence and maximise its involvement with other sectors and its role in both the city and region's economy through the Local Enterprise Partnership, WYCA and via the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan and the economic recovery approach led by Leeds City Council. Alongside this, work will also focus on continuing the development of community-led approaches to climate action, as well as the potential for a Third Sector Anchor Partnerships model.
- 3.39 The Council will also continue promoting the asset-based approach to community development (ABCD) that it has pioneered, which supports citizens to make the changes that are important to their community. Growing evidence shows ABCD to be an effective, sustainable and value for money approach to achieving thriving communities. Analysis of ABCD activity in Leeds has shown that it has had a real impact on communities by improving connections, enabling skills development and providing a springboard to employment. As communities are key to the approach to Inclusive Growth, strengthening the connections to place-based regeneration is key to the development of ABCD. Our aim is to develop stronger partnership working and a co-ordinated approach across the Council that will initially target priority neighbourhoods. Building on the work to date, ensuring that pathways to employment and investment in skills, especially use of digital, are developed at a community level is a priority focus.
- 3.40 As an example, Leeds Beckett University are evaluating the impact of the ABCD Pathfinder sites. Their research has provided a range of examples that illustrate the impact in terms of inclusive growth. The following case study was provided by the LS14 Trust: "Helen hadn't worked for a number of years while her children were young and initially offered to volunteer at the centre. After initially volunteering in the café, she is now employed at the centre and runs several groups. It has increased her confidence, given her purpose and cemented her connections in the community." Pathfinder sites are supporting residents with digital technology to connect and develop new skills and enhance quality of life. Communities are increasingly using social media platforms to communicate, connect and create new friendships. Local people are learning new languages, teaching each other skills and participating in choirs and social events online.

#### Reset and Renew

- 3.41 We need to ensure that we understand the challenges and opportunities that we face in recovery and that we have a clear focus and direction on the projects and partnerships that will address them.
- 3.42 Below and in the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework we have outlined our plans for resetting and renewing our economic growth ambitions and actions under six headings: Our Labour Market; Health/Communities; Our Centres; Transport and Infrastructure; Culture; and Innovation. Under each section within the economic recovery document are examples of transformational projects which we believe will help to build our economic recovery for the city.
- 3.43 Since the Economic Recovery Framework was published in October 2020 we have made tangible progress on a number of actions and initiatives.

- 3.44 Our centres work – Covid-19 has changed the way we think about place and how we use our spaces, as well as how we travel, work and shop. Before the coronavirus pandemic we knew that the way we worked and shopped was already changing, but the crisis has altered these further and work and leisure patterns now appear to be accelerating previous trends, such as working from home. The pandemic is accelerating trends in our centres and posing huge questions for cities like Leeds. Some sectors have seen five years of change occurring in less than six months, with Covid-19 accelerating structural trends around digital transformation, remote working and the shift from ‘bricks to clicks’ in retail. Many businesses are now considering how best to capitalise on these trends to support flexible working and reduce their office space. Major city centre retail locations are also being impacted by a reduction in office workers and shoppers, in Leeds city centre we have consistently seen footfall reduced by 66 percent or more. There have been some positive opportunities for our district centres, by enabling some to capture more spend locally, although they too will be challenged by the huge changes in the retail sector.
- 3.45 Although we can see the broad impacts on employment, travel behaviours and our local economy, we still need to better understand how Covid-19 is impacting different places across Leeds. At this point, we do not know how much of this change is structural and what is transitional. We do know, however, that cities evolve and change and that Leeds needs to adapt so it can continue to thrive moving forwards. Because of this, we have appointed a partner to work with us to help us understand the long-term transformational changes, challenges and opportunities for our city and district centres that are now in motion in Leeds. Through this work, we will explore responding to new ways of working; new ways of spending; how we can shape and engage with our centres; and the role of the Council and how we can use our assets and influence effectively to transition our centres to the ‘new reality’, maximise opportunities and mitigate threats. The output of this collaboration will result in a series of recommendations to help us address both the challenges and opportunities for our city and district centres in Leeds. These can then inform policy interventions, as well as considerations for future action.
- 3.46 Alongside this work we will shortly be launching an online survey for members of the public and businesses to complete, to enable us to capture their views and thoughts on the changes that are taking place in our city and local centres. Through this, we are hoping to hear about the changes people have had to make to how and where they work and where they choose to spend their money. The information gathered from this conversation will be included in the centres work that we will be undertaking with our partner, as outlined above.
- 3.47 Draft Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy published - We are committed to improving transport in and across our city. We want a world-class connected city and a people-focused city, with well-connected neighbourhoods and an easily accessible city centre, as well as a healthy city that allows more people to walk, cycle and be more active. In December 2020 we published the draft Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy which states how we will achieve our vision for Leeds “to be a city where you don’t need a car”. It also outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the city; our “big moves” and targets for 2030 in order to achieve the city-wide vision; and supporting for the three pillars of delivering Inclusive Growth, improving Health and Wellbeing and tackling the Climate Emergency. We know that to realise our vision and to continue to deliver transformational change we need to work with partners and regional bodies, including WYCA and Transport for the North as well as central government. The draft strategy therefore presents options on how to allow the

continuation of our transport conversation, with the aim of everyone in the city agreeing to the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy.

- 3.48 The public consultation and engagement exercise in relation to the draft strategy is ongoing and is open until 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This will inform the development of the Strategy ahead of its publication in summer 2021 and is hosted on a dedicated Commonplace site [here](#). Over the forthcoming weeks the Highways and Transportation team are launching a series of webinars and Q&A sessions to allow people to find out more about the Strategy and what it means for Leeds. The team will also be attending all Community Committees across the District. There has been a strong response to date, with 3,296 visitors to the site contributing almost 1,100 comments (figures from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021). The Council has also launched a webinar series to discuss the Strategy in more detail. These are free for everyone to attend and consist of a panel-based discussion including Executive Members, academic and industry leaders. The sessions will run through February 2021 and into March 2021.
- 3.49 Innovation - Leeds is an enterprising city with a broad-based economy, an ideal location for innovative and productive companies to start up and grow. We are strengthening our international links to encourage more trade and investment, with a focus on Health, Creative and Digital sectors, as well as university links. We are sharing best practice and adapting to the challenges of digitisation and Covid-19 through the Eurocities network. The programme emerging from our participation in MIT REAP, including BUILD, will also unleash innovation-driven entrepreneurs across the city and the region. Furthermore, the city is innovating at a community-level, including in the effort to address the Climate Emergency, with a partnership of local organisations receiving National Lottery funding to create jobs and provide grants for community groups in a bid to tackle the Climate Emergency, including through the creation of a Leeds Climate Assembly.
- 3.50 Culture and Tourism – We know that the Arts and Culture sector has a hugely important role to play in our economic and social recovery. We will facilitate consolidation of best practice from the lockdown period, which showcased the strength of our creative sector, whilst capitalising on opportunities to stabilise and re-establish sector growth. Our Culture Strategy will drive our ambition for Leeds to be a national centre for Creative and Cultural excellence supported by a vibrant cultural sector and our creative communities affirming Leeds as a great place to live, work and visit. We remain committed to Leeds 2023, an outstanding programme of cultural investment that will culminate in an international year of Culture in and around the city.
- 3.51 As society slowly returns to normal we will continue to support our Tourism partners, helping them to adapt their businesses and products. The #Rediscover Leeds campaign has been designed to help revive the city's rich Tourism, Hospitality, Leisure, Business and Cultural industries and we will continue to promote a positive, dynamic, diverse and outward-looking image on a global stage. We are now in planning for spring time onwards as we know that we need to continue to promote a positive, dynamic, diverse and outward-looking image on a global stage, seeking to increase both inward and local investment and using our international profile to push Leeds as the fantastic place it is.
- 3.52 Furthermore, just before Christmas 2020 we received confirmation that we had been successful in securing European funding for a regeneration project at Leeds Media Centre. We also heard that MAP (Music and Arts Production) Charity had been successful in their application to support the generation of Hope Foundry. Both projects are supported through the Council's Creative Workspace Fund.

3.53 Digital Strategy work – Digital increasingly touches all aspects of our lives, whether that be through the technology we use at home or at work, or the data we generate, consume and interpret. Better use of data and embracing technological innovation underpins the Council’s three pillars of delivering Inclusive Growth, improving the Health and Wellbeing of all our citizens and tackling Climate Change. Work has begun on the writing of the City Digital Strategy, which will provide a five-year strategic plan outlining how Digital will support the three pillars. Beginning in September 2020, the Council has convened workshops to discuss the different areas that the Strategy will focus on. These are continuing and will take place until March 2021. The areas covered at the workshops include: Digital Economy and Skills; Innovation and Collaboration; Digital Place/Smart Cities; Health and Wellbeing; and Digital Safety and Ethics. The sessions that have been held to date have had good attendance and have been positively received. Whilst the Council will have oversight of the City Digital Strategy, attendees are being encouraged to help shape it in terms of identifying priorities, outlining actions that will be taken forward and ultimately signing up to it themselves. It is envisaged that the first draft of the Strategy will be completed by spring 2021, following the completion of the workshops.

#### Building Resilience

- 3.54 Leeds is the economic heart of the region and in the longer term, post-coronavirus, the city will return to growth and our aspiration to make this as inclusive as possible, whilst addressing the Climate Emergency and being the best city for Health and Wellbeing, remains.
- 3.55 The region’s economy will undergo significant milestones in the coming year, including the impact of the UK having left the EU single market and West Yorkshire Devolution. The new relationship with the EU may impact sectors that have so far proved resilient to the specific challenges created as a result of Covid-19 and may cause further disruption, for example, to Manufacturing, a sector that is already in decline across the region. Devolution will create more local powers and funding, but this should not take away from our existing public services which need to be properly financed. The current financial pressure on the Public sector is impacting on our ability to deliver essential services; however we want to do more and will continue to lobby the Government for more support.
- 3.56 We know that in the longer term we need to continue to focus on building more resilience into our broad-based economy; protecting our most vulnerable and tackling inequality; improving people’s health and wealth; adapting to accelerating trends in work and travel patterns; delivering transformational projects across the city; and leading the way towards becoming a Net Zero City by 2030, an innovative world-class test bed for the UK.
- 3.57 The Council has received £18.6 million, as part of a successful £52.6 million bid made to the Government’s Getting Building Fund by WYCA, which will be used to deliver three regeneration projects that will boost economic growth and recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, help tackle climate change and improve residents’ wellbeing. £8.6 million will be used to progress the City Centre Park; £7.4 million for the expansion of Temple Green Park and Ride; and £2 million will be used for retrofitting and improving older terraced homes in the Holbeck area to improve the energy efficiency of properties and help reduce fuel bills. Actions will include new roofing, doors and windows, along with external wall insulation. A previous phase of this work led to 153 houses benefitting from the improvements and the new funding is expected to enable a further 100 homes to reach the same standards. The funding will also support ongoing partnership work in the area to support people to access jobs, educational

opportunities, healthcare and financial assistance by directly engaging with residents throughout the project's lifespan.

- 3.58 The development of the city's 19km District Heating Network is well underway, providing sustainable heat and hot water to homes, businesses and civic buildings using heat generated from household waste at the city's Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility. Work to install the second phase of the Network has progressed faster than planned in recent months due to a reduction in city centre traffic, meaning buildings can be connected to sustainable heating sooner than expected. Once fully built the Network will save 11,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year. The project has helped employ more than 430 people in the local low carbon sector.
- 3.59 Electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging is also a priority for the Council. As an authority we have more electric vehicles in our fleet than any other. Furthermore, in partnership with Highways England, we have launched a new electric vehicle scheme giving businesses, organisations and charities the chance to trial electric vans free of charge for up to two months. Not only does this tackle air pollution, but it also encourages organisations to reduce their own emissions. There are also now hundreds of public charge points in Leeds for electric vehicles, including free-to-use rapid charge points. Furthermore, the Council has launched an E-Bike scheme trial, whereby people can sign up to have an electric bike for free for two weeks, offering the chance to try them before buying
- 3.60 The Council is also committed to woodland creation and will plant 5.8 million trees, which has begun in autumn 2020. An additional 1,250 hectares of woodland will be created over 25 years, doubling the amount of woodland in Leeds. We are also planting more than 8,000 trees as part of a major flood alleviation scheme in east Leeds at Killingbeck Meadows and our White Rose Forest, a joint local authority-based venture covering the Leeds City Region, will aim to increase tree cover by a third in our part of Yorkshire.
- 3.61 Detailed proposals for the City Centre Park were approved in September 2020. A landmark for Leeds as the largest piece of green space in the city centre – and the largest new city centre green space in the UK – the park will provide a focal point for the redeveloped South Bank. The redevelopment of the former Tetley Brewery site has public space at its heart. The park will feature a series of connected and diverse open spaces, allowing it to be used year-round, day and evening, for a multitude of purposes. It will prioritise green spaces and pedestrian and cycle routes, connecting the city centre to the south of Leeds, meaning the City Centre Park will help with a top priority for Leeds: to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in the city centre. The park will provide opportunities to engage with the river and the potential to incorporate sustainable water management, acting as a landscaped catchment for the South Bank, as well as provide spectacular green space for people and communities to enjoy as a modern, child-friendly, 21<sup>st</sup>-century park accessible to all. It will also help deliver major supporting benefits by boosting the regeneration of the area, encourage new jobs, investment and growth, as well as help tackle climate change. Details of the first two hectares of the park including the following distinct areas and elements: The Tetley Triangle, an exciting new and dynamic public event space suitable for concerts, markets and outdoors cinema; Theatre Gardens, a modern ornamental and sensory garden; Central Park, a large green space for play and exercise, including a water feature or sculpture, grasses areas and parkland; The Green, a grassed and stepped amphitheatre and seating area for informal performance; The Hunslet Stray, a six-metre wide community pathway connecting pedestrians and cyclists from north to

south from Leeds Bridge; an avenue of cherry trees and a meadow path; and a one-kilometre exercise route around the whole park.

- 3.62 Additionally, work is set to start on a major office development in City Square as a vote of confidence for its drive to breathe exciting new life into this key gateway area. City Square House will stand on the Wellington Street side of the square, near Leeds City Station and the recently revamped Majestic Building. The 12-storey development will meet the needs of the post-coronavirus era via a clever blend of technology, open plan design and roof gardens – an ideal illustration of how the Business sector stands ready to bounce back from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is one of a number of forward-thinking schemes coming together in City Square, with the Majestic having been chosen as the home of Channel 4. Work is also continuing on several projects to improve Leeds City Station as part of the Leeds Integrated Station Masterplan and a competition was launched in September 2020 to find an expert design team that will oversee the wider transformation of City Square, delivering a vibrant and inclusive welcome to the city which reflects the Council's climate challenges and cultural ambitions.
- 3.63 Furthermore, work is progressing to introduce the British Library North to the city. The Library already has a presence at Boston Spa and although a comparatively little-known cultural asset, it is home to over two thirds of the Library's collection of 170 million items and to the national newspaper collection, some 750 million print pages. £25m has been secured from Government to develop a new library and the Grade I listed Temple Works building is being explored for its potential home.

#### Measuring our progress

- 3.64 A part of ensuring we build resilience into our economy is how we measure the actions that are being taken. As outlined in the report of July 2020, more than ever we need to understand how our interventions are addressing inequality and we need more real-time information about the economy to inform our interventions. This will also assist us to be more agile in our response and able to pivot/change as evidence of impact and opportunity emerges. We will continue to work with our partners, such as the Open Data Institute (ODI) to try and obtain and use new and different types of data.
- 3.65 As a way to measure Inclusive Growth alongside traditional economic measures we are adopting the Social Progress Index (SPI), as well as measuring success through lived experience. Designed by the Social Progress Imperative, a global non-profit organisations based in Washington DC, the SPI first launched in 2014 and is now used across the world, including by the United Nations, as a comprehensive measure of real quality of life to complement rather than replace traditional economic measures.
- 3.66 The SPI is built on three themes: Basic Human Needs; Foundations of Wellbeing; and Opportunity. We have been working to populate the indicators with data for the city. At the current time, we are working to collect data against a range of indicators and we are engaging with partners on this work, including in the Health and Third Sectors, to capture feedback and act upon it. We are aiming to have a version available in March or April 2021 and a final version for this year shortly after. As part of this work, Council officers will be trained in the methodology to run the SPI so we are able to take this forward in the coming years.
- 3.67 Further information on the Social Progress Index is provided at Appendix 1.



## Devolution

- 3.68 The Devolution deal itself includes a number of specific measures which will directly impact on West Yorkshire's ability to recover strongly. The most prominent of these include:
1. Greater control over adult education, skills and training budgets - The devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) will provide c. £63m annually to address specific skills gaps in the local labour market. With young people being most affected by the economic downturn, ensuring we have skills programmes and reskilling opportunities in place will be crucial in supporting access to the jobs that are available, especially those in growth sectors, and supporting everyone to reach their full potential.
  2. Commitment and funding to enhance transport infrastructure and connectivity - The deal includes new powers and funding to improve the infrastructure needed to help people move around the city / region. This includes access to bus franchising powers, £317m from the Transforming Cities Fund to improve access to public transport and active travel, and crucially includes a commitment from Government to work with the region to develop proposals for Mass Transit.
  3. Access to new funding - The deal includes a £38m per year, 30 year gainshare agreement providing a flexible funding source to be allocated to local priorities. This is the largest gainshare amount of any English regional devolution deal to date and can be utilised to support any initiatives the region's leaders may identify.

## **Moving forwards – refreshing the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy**

- 3.69 Over the coming months, work to identify priority areas to either accelerate, stop or change our work and to align the new strategic focuses with other Council strategies/priorities will be completed, whilst acknowledging the regional and national context, including Devolution. Work to populate the Social Progress Index will also be carried out, as outlined above, as well as the work looking at the future of our city and district centres, also outlined above. Further Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership events are also planned for March 2021 and will be for later in the year as well.
- 3.70 To inform the refresh of the Inclusive Growth Strategy the pieces of work undertaken throughout this calendar year. These will include updating the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan 2017-2023; a new Digital Strategy for and owned by the city; work focussing on the future of our city and local centres; creating green jobs and growing the green economy; Innovation within our city; and a refreshed Cultural Strategy for Leeds. All of these aspects will feed directly into the refresh of the Inclusive Growth Strategy, which will take place after the completion of the pieces of work outlined above. Members will be fully engaged with the refresh of the Strategy.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 A strong recovery for our city from the Covid-19 crisis requires a collaborative effort. In Leeds, we have a rich history of collaboration and a huge number of committed partners from wide range of backgrounds. Throughout the pandemic there has been a huge amount of collaboration between businesses, the Council, Third Sector organisations and other stakeholders. It has shown how well organisations can come together in many different ways across the whole of the city, for the good of the city and everyone in it.

- 4.1.2 The Covid-19 crisis has shown how well organisations can work together to help the city. Since the coronavirus pandemic began the Council has been engaging extensively with Government, local partners, Elected Members, the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy Ambassadors and the public to provide support to businesses and the people of Leeds. The Council has endeavoured to keep people up-to-date with developments and information as much as possible, for example the Economic Development team has produced a weekly/fortnightly economic briefing for Elected Members and MPs since lockdown restrictions began and they have also facilitated weekly calls with businesses and business representative groups across the city. Furthermore, the Inclusive Growth Partnership held its first virtual event in November 2020 which had over 130 attendees and was received extremely positively.
- 4.1.3 It is clear that we are going to need to refresh the city's Inclusive Growth Strategy and that to do this we will need to undertake consultation with key partners and stakeholders from across the city. We will do this once the economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis is clearer and when we have more certainty than the current period of flux. We have already begun engaging with the city through the Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership and will continue to do so over the coming months. From this engagement we intend to continue close collaborative working with our partners and key stakeholders on both the progression of the refresh of the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the establishment of the Social Progress Index as a key measure of inclusive growth in Leeds. We are clear that ensuring our city's economic recovery will require the commitment and actions of all across Leeds, not just the Council.

## 4.2 **Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 It is clear that the impact on the economy and to people's health will raise inequalities in the city. Those on lower incomes are more likely to work in sectors most affected by the virus, such as hospitality; the young are suffering through missing out on education and difficulty finding employment that is inflicting long-term damage to young people's prospects in life and creating a 'Covid generation'; and mortality rates from Covid-19 in the most deprived areas are more than double the least deprived areas.

## 4.3 **Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 Inclusive Growth continues to be one of the three pillars that underwrite the Best Council Plan. As we move forwards through our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic it will remain an important part of the Council's recovery plan.

### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 with the stated ambition of working to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 for the city. The delivery of the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy already incorporates consideration of Climate Emergency interventions, as highlighted in the One Year On report published in July 2019, as well as our planned framework for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 4.3.3 Green jobs will be essential to the UK recovery and our strategy will need to fully reflect our carbon reduction ambition for the city, seizing the opportunities of more sustainable and healthy movement of people; new ways of working at home and at work; adopting digital technology; emphasising the value of green spaces; and continuing to promote energy efficiency.

#### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Given the Council's current financial position and following the Council's thorough review of finances and savings required to be made, there will be implications on what the Council can do moving forwards and the possibility that our ability to drive and deliver Inclusive Growth will be reduced and adversely impacted upon if the situation is not resolved.

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

- 4.5.1 This is an information rather than decision-making report and therefore there are no legal implications arising from it.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 There is a comprehensive risk management process in the Council to monitor and manage key risks. Risks associated with progressing the implementation of the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy are reviewed quarterly through the Directorate Leadership Team meeting and the corporate Inclusive Growth Delivery Officer Group.
- 4.6.2 The risks related to coronavirus will continue to be monitored through the Council's existing risk management processes. This includes corporate risks relating to the Council's Budget and the Leeds economy, which have been updated to reflect the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. More specific risks are being managed through the Silver Command Groups, with the more significant ones being escalated onto the corporate coronavirus risk document.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 This report for Scrutiny Board has provided an update on the Council's progress on delivering Inclusive Growth. It is the second Inclusive Growth update report the Board since the outbreak of coronavirus, which has had an unprecedented impact on the economy and created a health emergency across the globe.
- 5.2 We have outlined our approach to recovery, using the three pillars of Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing and tackling the Climate Emergency as the priorities to form the basis for our recovery in the most inclusive way possible. We have set out our continued approach to aid recovery from the coronavirus crisis and how we are looking to build resilience into the economy, support existing sectors and harness new opportunities. By taking an approach to economic recovery rather than a plan, we have been and will continue to adapt quickly whilst striving to build more resilience into our economy. The situation remains fast-moving with continued uncertainty around the overall impact of the crisis on the city's economy, which is also why we are taking an approach rather than a plan. This has been shown to have been the right decision to have made, given the change in Tier alert levels throughout the autumn and into the winter, as well as the national lockdown that began again at the start of January 2021.
- 5.3 Our ambition remains to create a strong economy set within a compassionate city and we will refresh our Inclusive Growth Strategy when the time is right after the immediate crisis has passed. Until this point is reached, we will centre our approach to economic recovery on Respond; Reset and Renew; and Build Resilience, as outlined in this report.

5.4 It is clear that we are going to need to refresh the city's Inclusive Growth Strategy and that to do this we will need to undertake consultation with key partners and stakeholders from across the city. This will include undertaking a number of pieces of work this year which will enable us to refresh the Inclusive Growth Strategy. We have already begun engaging with the city through the Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership and will continue to do so over the coming months. From this engagement we intend to continue close collaborative working with our partners and key stakeholders on both the progression of the refresh of the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the establishment of the Social Progress Index as a key measure of inclusive growth in Leeds. We are clear that ensuring our city's economic recovery will require the commitment and actions of all across Leeds, not just the Council.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to note the approach being taken to continue to deliver Inclusive Growth across the city within the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework and agree any specific Scrutiny actions that may be appropriate.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 Appendix 1 – The Social Progress Index.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **Appendix 1 – The Social Progress Index**

### **Background**

- Measuring Inclusive Growth effectively is hugely important and whilst GDP needs to remain as a measure, there is a need to make the link between the economy and social progress. Because of this there is a need for another measure to sit alongside GDP.
- The Council's Economic Policy team has looked at various models, including those produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Centre for Progressive Policy and PwC, and has also worked with the University of Leeds for a potential new way of measuring Inclusive Growth.
- From this work, the Social Progress Index (SPI) is seen as potentially the most effective way of measuring progress on Inclusive Growth, alongside GDP, as it allows us to compare both internationally and to have an in-depth look at what's happening within Leeds
- The SPI is a measure that was designed by the Social Progress Imperative, a global non-profit organisation based in Washington DC. Since it first launched in 2014, the SPI has been embraced by innovative leaders from across the world, including one authority in England already (Barking and Dagenham). The SPI is a "comprehensive measure of real quality of life, independent of economic indicators" and is "designed to complement, rather than replace, economic measures such as GDP".
- The SPI is a practical tool that would help us to identify and implement policies and programmes that will drive faster social progress. Rather than emphasising traditional measurements of success like income and investment, the SPI measures social and environmental indicators to create a clearer picture of what life is really like for people. It does not measure people's happiness or life satisfaction, focusing instead on actual life outcomes. This allows for a useful policy tool that tracks changes in society over time. The SPI divides indicators across three broad dimensions of social progress: basic human needs; foundations of wellbeing; and opportunity.
- The Leeds SPI model will allow comparison across the Leeds Ward areas, and uses a set of bespoke indicators.
- The Index is built on three themes, each of which has 4 components.
  - Basic Human Need
    - Nutrition and basic medical care
    - Water and sanitation
    - Shelter
    - Personal Safety

- Foundations of Wellbeing
    - Access to basic knowledge
    - Access to information and communication
    - Health and wellness
    - Environmental quality
  
  - Opportunity
    - Personal rights
    - Personal freedom and choice
    - Inclusiveness
    - Access to advanced education
- For each of the 12 components, we are selecting a set of between five and eight indicators that will provide the most indicative picture of the position for Leeds of that component. These indicators are then calculated into an index for each component, theme and overall, that will change over time so we can compare how well we are doing against social progress.

### **Next steps**

- We have been working to populate the indicators with data for the city. At the current time, we are working to collect data against a range of indicators and we are engaging with partners on this work, including in the Health and Third Sectors, to capture feedback and act upon it. We are aiming to have a version available in March or April 2021 and a final version for this year shortly after. As part of this work, Council officers will be trained in the methodology to run the SPI so we are able to take this forward in the coming years.

**Report of Director of City Development and Chief Executive**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Subject: Best Council Plan Performance Report Quarter 2 2020/21**

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

This report provides a summary of performance information relating to areas of the Best City Priorities Inclusive Growth and Housing that fall within the scope of the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board. It draws on a well-established set of indicators, which track key elements of the city’s economy and housing market. Clearly, Covid-19 has and will have a major impact on the city, however, the precise effects are yet to manifest themselves fully, and data will lag these impacts.

**2. Best Council Plan implications** (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

The report provides an update on performance in delivering the Council’s strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities, as contained within the Best Council Plan 2020-25.

**3. Resource implications**

There are no specific resource implications from this report, although some performance indicators relate to financial and other value for money aspects.

## Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Note the performance information contained in this report and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.
- Note that the 'measurable' impact of Covid-19 is yet to fully flow into the data analysed.

### 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report is a periodic performance update to Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board providing a summary of the Best Council Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that relate to the Inclusive Growth priority. The report is based on the most recent performance results submitted to City Development Leadership Team (CDD) and the council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in November 2020.
- 1.2. Performance results relating to the Best Council Plan priority Sustainable Infrastructure were reported to the Board at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### 2. Background information

- 2.1. Members will note that the Best Council Plan (BCP) sets out the council's key outcomes and priorities. This report provides an overview of the relevant key performance indicators relating to this plan, enabling the Scrutiny Board to consider and challenge the council's performance in these areas.
- 2.2. This report includes two appendices:
  - Appendix 1: Best Council Plan 2020-25 Performance Summary Quarter 2 2020/21
  - Appendix 2: Best Council Plan 2015-20 Performance Summary, 2019/20

### 3. Main issues

- 3.1. Best Council Plan Performance Quarter 2, 2020/21
  - 3.1.1. Appendix 1 shows progress against the Inclusive Growth priority relevant to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board within the BCP 2020–25.
  - 3.1.2. In Appendix 1, Members will find a summary of the KPIs relevant to the Inclusive Growth portfolio area, showing the most recent results, the majority of which were reported to CDD and CLT in November 2020. Members are asked to note that although some KPIs are reported four times a year, others are available less



frequently, such as annually. Members will also find that some indicators are reported in arrears and Members are advised that the period to which each result relates is shown in both the body of the report and the appendix.

- 3.1.3. In August 2020, as a direct result of the pandemic, the UK went into recession for the first time since 2008/09. The number of workers on UK payrolls is falling and more high street businesses are entering into administration. Due to the ongoing national lockdown restrictions, many businesses continue to face severe pressure, with concerns regarding business closures and redundancies. These impacts are being felt locally in Leeds too. In terms of the labour market, almost 90,000 employees were furloughed in the city after the pandemic took effect, with young people and low earners the most likely to have been affected as they are prevalent in the hardest hit sectors. The hospitality and retail sectors, both of which had a thriving presence in Leeds have been especially hard hit by the lockdown. The Office market in the city has also been affected, with potential far-reaching impacts about future working habits and associated impacts on consumer-demand and footfall in the city centre. We have yet to see the longer-term effect on unemployment levels in the city, mainly because firms have put employees on the Government-backed furlough scheme.
- 3.1.4. Most of the results included in this report are subject to a time lag in their publication e.g. performance relating to the 2019/20 may not be made available until 2020/21, and as such will not yet reflect the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Members are made aware that the next set of results for Inclusive Growth will likely begin to highlight the impact of Covid-19.
- 3.1.5. The key challenge for the council and the city will be supporting Leeds's economic recovery from Covid-19, getting people back into work and building longer-term economic resilience. The council is working with a wide range of stakeholders to understand the impact on our economy and provide support where possible.
- 3.1.6. The Board's attention is drawn to the key performance indicators in Appendix 1 relating to the following areas:

## 3.2. Employment in Leeds

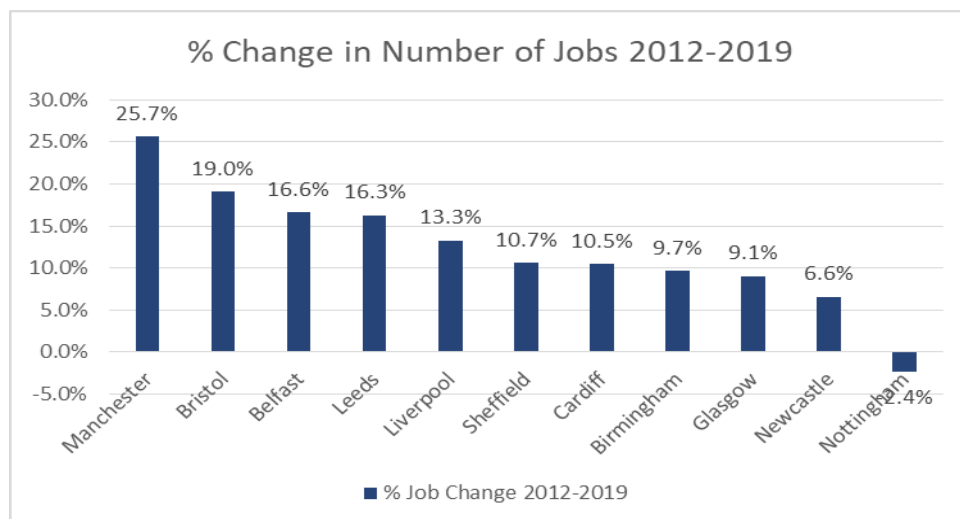
- 3.2.1. The analysis presented below, pre-dates Covid-19. It shows that Leeds continued to be a relatively strong engine for job creation, particularly driven by private sector. This performance should stand Leeds in good stead in the post-Covid-19 recovery. However, clearly the crisis is adversely affecting the levels of employment in the city, with jobs being lost in those sectors most adversely impacted. These sectors are also most likely to employ young people, and low earners, further compounding inequalities.
- 3.2.2. Based on the data available this annual indicator reports the number of jobs whilst showing the split between the private (employees and working proprietors) and the public sectors in Leeds using the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This is the official source of job and employment estimates and is conducted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The survey collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the UK economy for each site they operate, enabling the production of estimates by detailed geography, industry (by using Standard Industrial Classification codes) split by full-time and part-time workers and public or private sectors.

3.2.3. In November 2020 the provisional result for all employment (the number of jobs) for the calendar year 2019 was released and this rose from the confirmed 2018 result of 471,200 jobs to 471,800 jobs. A small increase of 0.13% since 2018, although of note is that the latest 2019 result is provisional and will be updated to the confirmed result in November 2021.

3.2.4. The table shows the changes between 2018 and 2019 split between full time and part time employees in both public and private sector jobs, as well as working proprietors and highlights changes in the sectors. In Leeds, although the overall number of jobs rose slightly, largely the effect of increases in full time public sector jobs, private sector jobs fell overall by 0.4%.

	Employment in Leeds								
	Public Sector			Private Sector			All Employment		
	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees	All Employees	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees	All Employees	Total Employees	Working Proprietors	Total Employment
2019 (provisional)	56,100	25,400	81,500	265,300	114,900	380,200	461,700	10,100	471,800
2018	52,900	26,500	79,400	267,800	113,800	381,600	461,000	10,200	471,200
Change	+3,200	-1,100	+2,100	-2,500	+1,100	-1,400	+700	-100	+600
% Change	+6.0%	-4.2%	+2.6%	-0.9%	+1.0%	-0.4%	+0.2%	-1.0%	+0.13%

3.2.5. The graph below shows the percentage change in the total number of jobs, both public and private sector (including working proprietors) for each of the core cities between 2012 and 2019. As seen below, the number of jobs between 2012 and 2019 in Leeds rose by 16.3%, fourth highest amongst the 11 core cities over the same period.



### 3.3. Gross Value Added (GVA) per filled job

3.3.1. GVA is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. There are three official measure of GVA – Income (I) based, productivity (P) based and the more recent Balanced (B) based figures. We have adopted the balanced approach for reporting in our Best Council Plan and our Economic Indicators. GVA per filled job is then used to express our productivity level which apportions GVA to the number of jobs in the city. How this changes over time is generally regarded as the single most important indicator of the health of local and regional economies, how they grow over time, of productivity, incomes

and the welfare of people living in a region. The data is released in December each year by the ONS one year in arrears.

- 3.3.2. Like the section above, GVA data pre-dates Covid-19. Leeds, like the rest of the UK, is likely to see a significant hit on economic output. Even before the crisis, productivity was a long-standing challenge for Leeds, as it is in all of the Core Cities.
- 3.3.3. A key area for concern is the 'hollowing-out' of skilled and semi-skilled occupations, traditionally in the manufacturing sector, but increasing across a wider range of sectors. Although Leeds produces a range of highly skilled jobs, recent employment and output growth has seen a rise in 'lower productivity' sectors such as consumer-services, gig economy workers, low paid jobs, portfolio workers (with several part time jobs) and this continues to impact on growth and productivity. These sectors are often most severely affected by Covid-19. It will be important that recovery efforts look to boost productivity as well as replacing jobs.
- 3.3.4. The GVA per filled job provides an indicative assessment of the productivity of businesses and individuals in Leeds. GVA per filled job is a measure of the productivity of those who are actually in work, as opposed to the per head calculation which used the number of residents of the local authority to provide the result. The calculation is based on the number of jobs in the city, whether these are residents or commuters into Leeds and also adjusts for double-jobbing i.e. when some individuals hold two or more jobs.
- 3.3.5. The GVA per filled job result for the calendar year 2018 (the latest figures available), grew by 1.4% compared to 2017, from £52,568 to £53,311 per filled job. This GVA per filled job ranked Leeds third amongst the core cities (excluding Newcastle for which figures were not available), behind Belfast and Manchester.
- 3.3.6. The result for the 2019 calendar year will be available early in 2021 and will be reported to this Board later in the year.

#### 3.4. Number of new business start-ups

- 3.4.1. This indicator reports business start-ups using figures from BankSearch which compiles information from Companies House and High Street Business Bank account openings data. The data is reported in calendar years and the target for 2020/21 is an increase against the number of start-ups reported for the calendar year 2019 i.e. greater than 4,338 start-ups.
- 3.4.2. Between January and September 2020, there were 2,780 start-up businesses in Leeds. Compared to the same period in 2019, there were 19% or 654 fewer business start-ups in Leeds. The number of start-ups fell further in Leeds than in Yorkshire & Humber (-15.8%) and England (-15.5%). This growth rate ranks Leeds at 139 out of the 317 English districts a fall from 116 out of 326 at the end of 2019.
- 3.4.3. Between January and September 2020, the wards with the greatest number of start-ups were Little London & Woodhouse, Gipton & Harehills and Crossgates & Whinmoor; with the fewest start-ups in Kippax & Methley, Garforth & Swillington and Otley & Yeadon.

### 3.5. Number of business scale ups

- 3.5.1. The annual business scale ups indicator is calculated using the Mint BVD business demography product which uses the Inter-Departmental Business Register. The two main sources of input are the Value Added Tax (VAT) system from HMRC (Customs) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) from HMRC (Revenue) with some additional data including from Companies House. Only limited companies with their registered addresses in Leeds (those registered elsewhere but with branches in Leeds are excluded) reporting over 20% growth in turnover or employment annually for three years are included. There is a reporting lag of over a year for this indicator due to delays in businesses submitting their final accounts for inclusion in the results, as such, the annual result for the period 2018/19 will be available in April 2021.
- 3.5.2. The annual result reported is that 467 businesses scaled up in Leeds in 2017/18 i.e. had 20% growth in either turnover or employment over the previous three years. Scale ups have been sustained at a similar level to that previously reported i.e. 461 businesses scaled up in 2016/17, and is indicative of business confidence in the city at that time, although the time lag in the data should be noted. Also, given that the data set is largely limited to PAYE and VAT registered business, wider economic activity in the city is not captured within these results. Of the 467 businesses that scaled up in Leeds, 395 were in the main city area and 72 were in the city fringe areas of Pudsey, Wetherby and Otley.

### 3.6. Business survival rate

- 3.6.1. This new annual indicator reports the number of new businesses still trading after 5 years. The data comes from Business Demography which is an annual publication produced from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), and reported via the ONS. The publication focuses on changes to the registered business population, i.e. those businesses registered at HMRC for Value Added Tax (VAT) and/or Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and at Companies House.
- 3.6.2. Business demography measures businesses that were active during the reference year, therefore the latest publication (November 2020) measures businesses that were active between December 2018 and December 2019, i.e. that the business had either turnover or employment at any time during that period, and is reported in November of the following year, i.e. a lag of 11 months.
- 3.6.3. The latest result showed that 42.9% of businesses which started up during 2014 in Leeds were still trading after 5 years. This is unchanged since the previous result (42.9%), a figure which is also used as the current target.
- 3.6.4. 1,835, or 42.9%, of the 4,275 businesses which started up during 2014 in Leeds were still trading after 5 years. Although the Leeds 5-year business survival rate is unchanged from the previous year, it has overtaken Bristol to become highest amongst the Core Cities:
- Leeds - 42.9%; Bristol - 42.8%; Sheffield- 41.6%; Cardiff - 41.4%; Birmingham - 38.3%; Nottingham - 38.5%; Newcastle upon Tyne - 40.1%; Manchester - 38.2%; Glasgow City - 37.3% Liverpool - 36.8%
- 3.6.5. Business survival rates are one indicator of the enterprise dynamics of a local economy, the most dynamic economies in the UK have high business start-up rates

and high rates of businesses closing, reflecting that entrepreneurs have confidence to start up and invest. The critical issue is does a local economy have a growing business stock (a positive net balance between business births and businesses which have stopped trading) and is there evidence that a proportion of that business stock is demonstrating high growth.

### 3.7. Change in business rates payable since 2017 revaluation

- 3.7.1. Business rates i.e. National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR), underwent a revaluation applicable from the 1st April 2017 which means that the amount of gross NNDR payable in 2017/18 will constitute a baseline against which future years' NNDR can be reported. The business rates growth indicator is reported gross of appeals, discounts and reliefs, in order that it is more reflective of the change in the absolute rateable value in Leeds and is more indicative of business and economic growth in the local economy.
- 3.7.2. The difference in gross business rates payable between the 1st April 2020 and the 30th September 2020 is reported here, i.e. the within year change. On the 1st April 2020, £467m NNDR was payable, however by 30th September this had fallen to £463.25m i.e. a reduction of £3.75m or 0.8%. It is expected that gross rates payable will rise as backlogs in the Business Rates Team and Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are cleared, and once refurbished properties are completed and reassessed for inclusion on the ratings list.
- 3.7.3. In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has put in place a number of initiatives to support businesses including business rates relief for a range of occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties. This support and the ongoing economic situation for businesses will have an impact on future levels of business rates payable.
- 3.7.4. Overall, Leeds has a dynamic start-up sector, which again is likely to be heavily impacted by the current crisis. However, those factors that have driven start-up activity, such as the strong presence of business network in health, fintech and digital industries, together with strong links into Universities should serve the city well in recovery.

### 3.8. Visitor economic impact for Leeds

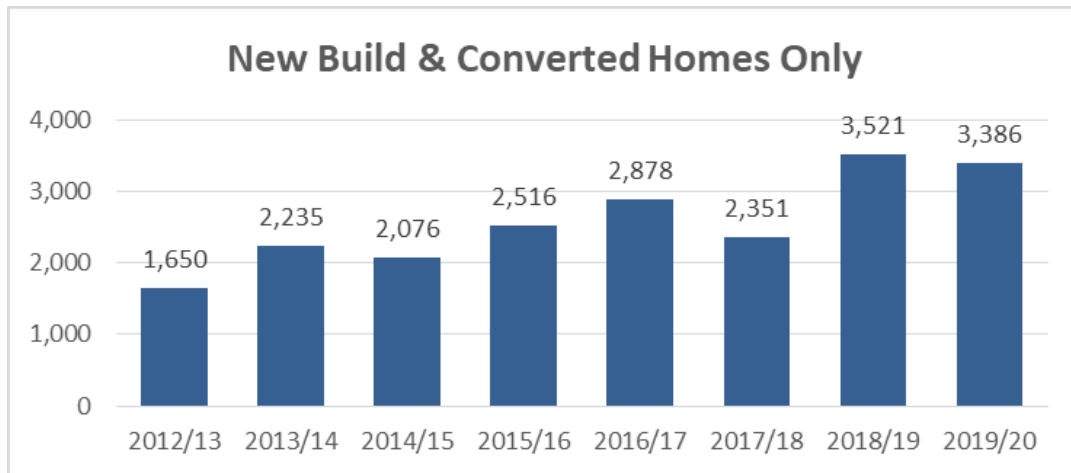
- 3.8.1. Like the employment and GVA sections earlier in this report, the results for visitor economic impact data pre-dates Covid-19. In between the three national lockdowns, there has been some retail, hospitality and cultural activity in the city, however the visitor economy has been temporarily decimated by the impact of the pandemic.
- 3.8.2. This annual indicator reports the economic impact to the city of the visitor economy. The data is taken from the Economic Impact Report produced by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS), where particular local information and data is provided to GTS such as footfall; hotel occupancy and rates; events; attractions; and this is input into the Economic Impact Model which provides data about the economic impact of various types of visitors in Leeds.
- 3.8.3. This indicator reports the economic impact of 'Day and Night Visitors' to the Leeds economy. The latest result from the annual 2019 Economic Impact Report for the

Visitor Economy (published in summer 2020) predates the impact of the pandemic and the results should be viewed in this context.

- 3.8.4. The Economic Impact Report indicates that the economic impact of the visitor economy in Leeds (day visitors and staying visitors) grew by almost 4.3% between 2018 and 2019, by an additional £58m to £1.89bn, an increase of 7.8% on 2018. In 2019, 30.42m day and staying visitors spent a total of 33.73m days in Leeds, supporting 21,520 people in direct/indirect visitor economy employment.
- 3.8.5. Day visitors continued to make up the majority of visitors accounting for 92%, with the remaining 8% representing staying visitors. Since 2013 Leeds has seen 22% growth in visitor numbers and 43% increase in their economic impact. FTE jobs supported by the sector has similarly grown by 22%. There is steady growth in the staying visitor market with visitor numbers growing by 28%, compared to that of day visitor market in which visitor numbers have grown by 21%.

### 3.9 Growth in new homes in Leeds

- 3.9.1 The Growth in new homes indicator shows those homes in Leeds which have been newly built or converted into residential properties. With the adoption of the new Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) in September 2019, an annual target of 3,247 new homes applies from 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2033.
- 3.9.2 The total number of new build and converted homes delivered during 2019/20 was 3,386, slightly lower than in 2018/19 (3,521) but above the new target of 3,247 per year. This includes developments completed as part of permitted development approvals for office to residential use. In total, 3,877 units have been approved by this route since 2014 at an average of 845 new homes per annum representing less than 10% of overall approvals. These schemes helped to kick-start development in the city centre after the previous recession and have made a modest but important contribution to overall numbers during the last six years. More recently, the potential of this delivery route has come under greater focus following flexibilities announced by the Government highlighting the opportunities for the conversion of office space for residential occupation particularly in the city centre. An increase was recorded in 2020/21 with 1,173 units approved as part of permitted development applications representing over 30% of all approvals.
- 3.9.3 The trend in new build and converted homes since the original Core Strategy was adopted in 2012 is shown in the chart below. A small decrease in performance between 2018/19 and 2019/20 reflects a dip in output in the final month of the year as construction sites started to prepare for the restrictions that were to be required in the response to Covid-19 and implement necessary procedural changes for site safety.



- 3.9.4 In the first quarter of 2020/21, 417 new homes were completed, the lowest level of quarterly delivery since 2012. This is the result of unprecedented disruption on construction sites following the coronavirus pandemic restrictions with impacts on construction and demand.
- 3.9.5 However, in the second quarter (and likely as a result of Government relaxations on stamp duty and lockdown exemptions for construction), 1,195 units were completed, of which 1,042 units were on brownfield (87%) and 153 (13%) on greenfield land. This is a significant uplift on the previous quarter and puts performance back on track to meet the annual target. This brings the total number of new homes to 1,612 for the year.
- 3.9.6 1,195 completions in a 3 month period is the largest return for a number of years, and was driven by a number of big construction schemes that are now starting to translate into completions. The total this quarter largely consisted of completions on two big student accommodation schemes in the city centre at Portland Crescent (308 units) and Podium Buildings on Merrion Way (246 units).
- 3.9.7 There remains a healthy pipeline of sites under construction comprising over 100 active sites with around 5,200 individual units being built (over 75% on previously developed land) including large sites in the city centre and inner areas such as Mustard Wharf and Hunslet Mill and more traditional builds from volume homebuilders at Thorpe Park and Spofforth Hill. The output of completed homes on those sites continues, although at reduced levels. A number of large city centre schemes including build to rent and student accommodation remain under construction. These together with an acceleration of output across all sites (aided by the Adoption of the Site Allocations Plan in 2019) and completion of one or more of the large city centre schemes will be critical to meeting the Core Strategy annual target.

### 3.10 Number of affordable homes delivered

- 3.10.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 definition of Affordable housing is housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers.

Examples of this can include products such as Social Rent, Affordable Rent, Buy to Rent, Intermediate Rent, Shared Ownership and Discounted Sale. The Councils

Core Strategy (Policy H5) states that the mix of affordable housing should be designed to meet the identified needs of households as follows:

- 40% affordable housing for Intermediate or equivalent affordable tenures
- 60% affordable housing for Social Rented or equivalent affordable tenures

3.10.2 This indicator shows completed affordable homes (AH) which are ready for habitation and is calculated from a number of sources:

- Delivered as a condition of planning, i.e. via a Section 106 agreement.
- Affordable Housing Providers:
  - delivered by Registered Providers (RP) from Homes England (HE) grant funding utilised for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
  - delivered through Providers programmes with no grant funding input
  - delivered with support from the Right to Buy (RtB) Replacement Programme by affordable housing providers for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
- Leeds City Council:
  - delivered through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) new build programme
  - delivered through HE grant funding used for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
  - delivered by the Council via RtB grant funding and used for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes

3.10.3 Similarly to the growth in new homes indicator above, with the adoption of the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) at Full Council on the 11th September 2019, a new AH target applies from 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2033. The new AH target increased from 1,158 to 1,230 annually, comprising the annual in-year need target for AH of 434 plus an additional annual requirement of 796 AH to contribute towards historic under-provision.

3.10.4 At the end of 2019/20, the total of AH had increased by 439, compared to a total of 433 for the 2018/19 period.

3.10.5 As at Q2, 143 affordable homes were delivered: 49 through s106 planning obligations; 28 by Registered Providers (RP); and 66 through the Council Housing Growth Programme (CHGP). Despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the total is almost unchanged from Q2 in 2019/20 when 142 units were delivered. Due to the initial cessation of onsite delivery and subsequent resumption with stringent site restrictions, caused by the pandemic, RP delivery has been very low.

3.10.6 RPs have rescheduled a number of schemes due in 2020/21. Further work will be undertaken with RPs and Homes England (HE) to understand the impact on the programme and site delivery, including seeking an extension from HE to the Shared Ownership Affordable Housing Programme.

3.10.7 The CHGP has 691 new homes (185 Extra Care; 490 general needs; and 16 working age adult bungalows) at various stages of development including: 12 units

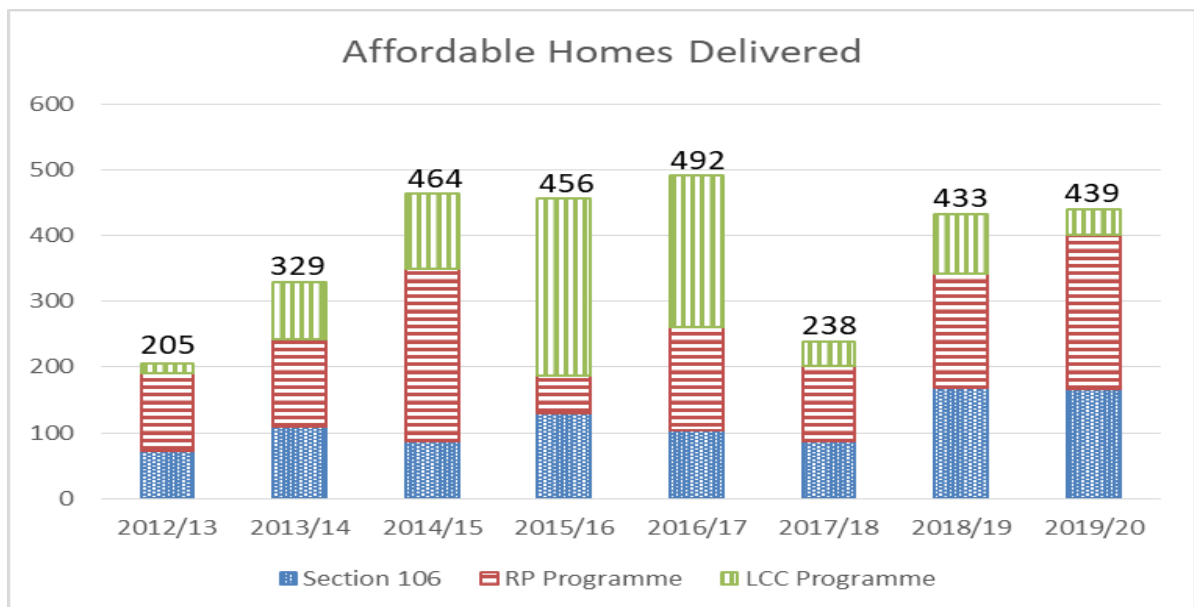


securing planning approval; 256 in preparation for planning submissions; 226 in mid-procurement; and an additional 197 in pre-procurement.

3.10.8 This is a reflection of the complex challenges around sites, procurement and planning, and work continues to be undertaken to consider whether the council has the right tools, funding and partners in place to increase and maximise AH delivery.

3.10.9 A number of RPs are negotiating with/have entered into HE strategic partnerships enabling greater flexibility in grant allocations, contingent upon exceeding Business Plan targets by 20%. Some RPs are submitting planning applications for significant developments or acquiring large sites. The most significant are:

- a) The acquisition by the Guinness Partnership Trust of a large site in South Bank with permission for over 1,000 new homes, around 40% at affordable rent through a Strategic Partnership with HE.
- b) The acquisition by Clarion of the Kirkstall Road (former City Reach) site, which has scope for over 1,000 new homes, of which around a third are expected to be affordable.



## 4. Corporate considerations

### 4.9 Consultation and engagement

4.9.1 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However, all performance information is published on the council's website and is available to the public.

### 4.10 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.10.1 This is an information report, rather than a decision report and so due regard is not relevant.

#### **4.11 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

4.11.1 This report provides an update on progress in delivering the council priorities in line with the council's performance management framework.

##### Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 with the stated ambition of working to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 for the city. The delivery of the strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities contained within the BCP 2020-25, as indicated by the performance of the key performance indicators (KPI's reported above), already incorporate consideration of climate emergency interventions. Services will continue to consider additional actions in the work they deliver to support the BCP as they further develop their approach to responding to climate change and its mitigation. Reference is made to climate emergency actions where appropriate within the KPI updates above.

#### **4.12 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.12.1 There are no specific resource or procurement implications from this report, although some performance indicators relate to financial and other value for money aspects.

#### **4.13 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.13.1 All performance information is publicly available and is published on the council website. This report is an information update providing the Scrutiny Board with a summary of performance for the strategic priorities within its remit and as such is not subject to call in.

#### **4.14 Risk management**

4.14.1 There is a comprehensive risk management process in the council to monitor and manage key risks. This links closely with performance management.

4.14.2 The council's Corporate Risk Register includes a risk directly linked to one or more of the KPIs summarised in this report:

- Economic Growth Lag: The rate of economic growth falls behind that of other core cities, and growth fails to benefit the most deprived households in the city.
- Insufficient Housing Growth: Failure to meet additional housing supply targets, appeals against Protected Areas of Search sites and the impact on the ability to provide homes for the people of Leeds.

### **5. Conclusions**

5.9 This report provides a summary of performance against the Inclusive Growth priority for the council and city related to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board.

5.10 Whilst this performance report highlights the progress made in delivering the Inclusive Growth portfolio area, it also acknowledges (where applicable) the initial impact on our performance of COVID-19 which took effect across the nation from the end of the municipal year 2019/20. The results included in the report should be interpreted in this context. The report acts as a signpost to the wide ranging impacts of the pandemic on our performance into 2021/22 and beyond.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.9 Members are recommended to:

- Note the performance information contained in this report and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**









7.9 The Best Council Plan 2020-25

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<sup>1</sup> 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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## Best Council Plan (BCP) Performance Summary Q2 2020/21

No.	BCP Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (*cumulative)	2020/21 Target	Q2 Result
1	<b>Annual KPI</b> Employment in Leeds	<b>&gt;471,200</b> (2018 confirmed)	 <b>471,800</b> (2019 provisional)
2	<b>Annual KPI</b> Unemployment in Leeds	<b>=&lt;4.2%</b> (Apr 2019 Mar 2020)	 <b>3.5%</b> (Jul 2019-Jun 2020)
3	<b>Annual KPI</b> Gross Value Added (GVA) per filled job	<b>&gt;£53,311 per job</b> (2018)	<b>TBC</b>
4	<b>Quarterly KPI</b> Number of new business start-ups* (calendar year)	<b>&gt;4,338* start ups</b> (2019)	 <b>2,780* start-ups</b> (Jan –Sept 2020)
5	<b>Annual KPI</b> Number of business scale ups (3 years of 20% growth in turnover or employment)	<b>&gt;467 scale ups</b> (2017/18)	<b>N/A</b>
6	<b>Annual KPI</b> Business survival rate (5 Year Survival Rate)	<b>&gt;42.9% of businesses</b> (2018)	 <b>42.9% of businesses</b> (2019)
7	<b>Annual KPI</b> Change in business rates payable since 2017 revaluation* (reported cumulatively over the Best Council Plan 2020-25)	<b>&gt;£446.1m</b> (2017 uprated revaluation figure)	 <b>0.8%* decrease</b>
8	<b>Annual KPI</b> Visitor economic impact for Leeds	<b>&gt;£1.832bn</b> (2018)	 <b>£1.89bn</b> (2019)
9	<b>Quarterly KPI</b> Growth in new homes in Leeds* (Newly built & converted homes only)	<b>&gt;=3,247 homes</b> (CSSR target)	 <b>1,612* homes</b> (Q2)
10	<b>Quarterly KPI</b> Number of affordable homes (AH) delivered*	<b>&gt;=434 AH Annual Target</b> (+ 796 pa backlog) (CSSR target)	 <b>143* AH</b>

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## Performance Summary 2019/20

No	BCP Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (*=cumulative)	2019/20 Target	2019/20 Result
1	Private Sector Employment in Leeds (calendar year)	>380,100 people (2017)	397,100 people (2018 provisional)
2	Gross Value Added (GVA) per filled job (calendar year)	>£49,544 per job (2017)	£53,311 per job (2018)
3	Number of new business start-ups (calendar year)	>4,277 start ups (2018)	4,388 start ups (2019)
4	Number of business scale ups (3 years of 20% growth in turnover or employment)	>461 scale ups (2016/17)	467 scale ups (2017/18)
5	Business survival rate (5 Year Survival Rate)	>41.9% (2017)	42.9% (2018)
6	Change in business rates payable since 2017 revaluation (reported cumulatively over the Best Council Plan 2018-20)	>£446,130,102 (2017)	+ 3.21% + £14.4m
7	Visitor economic impact for Leeds (calendar year)	>£1.745 billion (2017)	£1.832bn (2018)
8	Growth in new homes in Leeds (Newly built & converted homes only)	>=3,247 homes	3,386 homes
9	Number of affordable homes (AH) delivered	>=434 AH (+ 776 pa for backlog)	439 AH

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**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 17 February 2021**

**Subject: Referral to the Scrutiny Board (Planning Dispensations for Green Spaces)**

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 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 present details of a referral that falls within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth).

**2. Background information**

2.1 In accordance with the Council’s Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, any member of a Scrutiny Board may request that the Scrutiny Board of which they are a member considers a matter relevant to that Board’s functions. Such requests are generally considered as part of a Scrutiny Board’s standard agenda item to review its work programme.

2.2 Any referrals that arise from outside of the relevant Scrutiny Board membership are to be dealt with in accordance with sections G and H of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules ([Link to SBPR](#)). An extract of these sections can also be found at Appendix 1.

**3. Main issues**

3.1 A referral has been made to the Board by Cllr Scopes and Cllr Illingworth. Details of the referral can be found at Appendix 2.

3.2 An invitation to today’s meeting has been extended to Cllrs Scopes and Illingworth to make representations as to why it would be appropriate for the Board to exercise

its functions in relation to the matter. The Scrutiny Board Chair will decide how much time will be given for the referrer(s) to address the Scrutiny Board.

3.3 The Scrutiny Board shall consider whether to exercise its power to review or scrutinise the matter referred and may have regard to:-

- Any relevant information provided by or representations made by the Referrer as to why it would be appropriate for the Scrutiny Board to exercise any of its powers in relation to the matter;
- The principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document as part of Article 6.

3.4 A background report has also been provided by officers to inform the discussions of the Board and is included in the agenda pack at appendix 3.

3.5 The Scrutiny Board may also wish to consider:

- If further information is required before considering whether further scrutiny should be undertaken;
- If the matters links in with the scope of any current / planned scrutiny inquiries;
- If a similar or related issue is already being examined by Scrutiny or has been considered by Scrutiny recently;
- If the matter raised is of sufficient significance and has the potential for scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements;
- The impact on the Board's current workload;
- The time available to undertake further scrutiny;
- The level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny.

#### **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.

4.1.2 An invitation has been extended to the relevant Director and Executive Board Member to contribute to the Board's initial discussion surrounding the matter raised as part of this request.

#### **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 any 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 Any requests for Scrutiny are dealt with in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules as well as the principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document.

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

#### Climate Emergency

4.3.3 Following the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, importance is also placed upon the need to consider the potential climate and sustainability impacts associated with any matters being considered by Scrutiny.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 As set out in paragraph 3.4, the Scrutiny Board is advised to consider any potential impact on its current workload in taking forward requests for Scrutiny, including the level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny.

### **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**

5.1.1 A referral to this Scrutiny Board has been made by Cllr Scopes and Cllr Illingworth. An invitation has been extended to both councillors and also to the relevant senior officers and Executive Board Member to contribute to the Board's initial discussion surrounding the matter raised as part of this request. The Board will then be asked to determine what, if any, further scrutiny activity is required.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is asked to determine what - if any - further scrutiny activity is required in relation to the matter referred.

6.2 If further action is requested by the Board, the work programme will be amended accordingly.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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## Appendix 1: Extract from [Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules](#)

The extract below sets out the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules so far as they relate to the referral of matters to scrutiny boards (as amended May 2019).

### **G - REFERRAL OF MATTERS TO SCRUTINY BOARDS<sup>1</sup>**

25. The Scrutiny Officer may receive referrals for scrutiny from:-

25.1. The Executive Board;

25.2. Full Council;

25.3. Healthwatch Leeds<sup>2</sup> in relation to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the Leeds City Council area<sup>3</sup>, or social care services<sup>4</sup>; or

25.4. Any Member of the authority<sup>5</sup> in relation to a matter which is relevant to the functions of a Scrutiny Board<sup>6</sup> and is not<sup>7</sup>:-

a a planning decision;

b a licensing decision;

c Any matter relating to a person in respect of which that person has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment;

d Any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable to be included in the agenda for, or to be discussed at, a meeting of the Scrutiny Board.

e For the avoidance of doubt the following matters will not be considered reasonable to include in the agenda for a meeting of a Scrutiny Board:-

i Matters which are subject to ongoing judicial proceedings, Ombudsman or audit inquiry;

ii Matters which are subject to an ongoing complaint under the Council's formal complaints procedure;

iii Matters which relate to individual personnel issues.

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<sup>1</sup> S9FC Local Government Act 2000; S19(3&4) Police and Justice Act 2006; Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218

<sup>2</sup> As the Local Healthwatch Organisation for the Leeds area

<sup>3</sup> Reg 21 Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218; S221 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act

<sup>4</sup> S226 Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007

<sup>5</sup> Sometimes known as a Councillor Call for Action - In considering whether to exercise this right to refer the Member shall consider any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State.

<sup>6</sup> Local Crime and Disorder Matters shall only be referred to the Scrutiny Board with responsibility for Crime and Disorder functions S19(3b) Police and Justice Act 2006 and S9FC(5a) Local Government Act 2000.

<sup>7</sup> Local Government Act 2000 S9FC; Overview and Scrutiny (Reference by Councillors)(Excluded Matters)(England)Order 2012/1022

25.5. The exclusions set out in Rule 28.4 shall not prevent a Member from referring an allegation that a function for which the authority is responsible has not been discharged at all or that its discharge has failed or is failing on a systemic basis.

26. Referrals under this Part shall be made in writing to the Scrutiny Officer who will:-

26.1. Acknowledge receipt of the referral within 20 working days<sup>8</sup> beginning with the date on which the referral was made; and

26.1.1. add the referral to the agenda for the next meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board and advise the referrer as to which Scrutiny Board will consider the referral and the date of the meeting at which that consideration will take place; or

26.1.2. inform the referrer that the matter will not be considered by a Scrutiny Board giving reasons for this decision; and

26.2. keep the referrer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter.

27. The Scrutiny Officer will receive requests for Call In in accordance with Part 5 of the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules

#### **H – CONSIDERATION OF REFERRAL**

28. Any matter referred to a Scrutiny Board in accordance with Part G of these rules shall be included in the agenda and discussed at a meeting of that Scrutiny Board.

29. The person making the referral will be invited to attend the relevant Scrutiny Board's meeting to make representations as to why it would be appropriate for the Board to exercise its functions in relation to the matter. The Scrutiny Board Chair will decide how much time will be given for the person to address the Scrutiny Board.

30. The Scrutiny Board shall consider whether to exercise its power to review or scrutinise the matter referred and may have regard to:-

30.1. Any relevant information provided by or representations made by the Referrer as to why it would be appropriate for the Scrutiny Board to exercise any of its powers in relation to the matter; and

30.2. The principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document as part of Article 6.

31. If the Scrutiny Board decides not to exercise its powers in relation to the matter it will notify the Referrer of its decision and the reasons for it.

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<sup>8</sup> Acknowledgement of receipt and all other correspondence will be with the Referrer, in the case of a petition requesting Scrutiny this will be the petition organiser.

**Labour Councillor Andrew Scopes  
Beeston & Holbeck Ward**

Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

Contact [andrew.scopes@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.scopes@leeds.gov.uk)  
Civic Tel 0113 37 88810

Date 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Cllr P Truswell  
Chair  
Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure,  
Investment and Inclusive Growth)  
Labour Group Office  
Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

Dear Councillor Truswell,

I am writing in my role as Chair on behalf of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, to request that your Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) consider a referral under Rule 25 of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules.

During consideration of matters arising from the Annual Assurance Report on Planning Decision Making and Enforcement Arrangements, Cllr Illingworth raised concerns in relation to the cumulative impact of dispensations permitting development on green space in return for pledges in relation to housing mix. I understand that your Board has previously considered a range of matters relating to housing mix, however my Committee would be grateful if you would revisit the subject with particular reference to the cumulative impact of dispensations on both green space and local infrastructure.

Councillor Illingworth would be more than happy to discuss this with you further should you need any further details.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew Scopes

Chair, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

CC Cllr J Illingworth

## **Appendix 2a: Email from Cllr Illingworth with supplementary information (12/01/21)**

My immediate concern is planning in Kirkstall Ward, but I believe that similar problems afflict most inner city wards, and many brownfield sites. This issue is therefore of more general interest than a single ward.

Kirkstall is a long, thin ward whose western boundary is the River Aire. At the inner-city end, in Burley, there is a chronic shortage of greenspace and recreational open space. Housing densities are much higher in the inner city than in the outer suburbs and land ownership is often fragmented, so it is physically difficult for developers to provide land for greenspace, even if they were minded to do so.

Each planning application is dealt with on its merits, and developers will often argue that no suitable land is available for a greenspace contribution. Planning officers may accept a cash payment for off-site greenspace provision, or enhancement of existing greenspace, although this is often poor value for money when we really need larger areas of land. More recently planning officers have simply abandoned greenspace contributions and accepted the developer's claim that it can't be done.

It is very difficult for ward members to argue a contrary view. The rules for speaking at Plans Panel provide "equality of arms" between applicants and objectors, but for greenspace provision the real argument is often between the ward member and the planning officer's written recommendation. The issue to be decided is important - the officer is often recommending that the Panel ignore the Council's published planning policies. The officer has unlimited time, slide projector, printed materials and maps, the ward member is limited to 3 or 4 minutes and is not even allowed to submit a printed summary. The outcome of these contests is rarely in doubt.

What makes this worse is that the independent consideration of individual planning applications allows huge cumulative deficiencies to build up, affecting a wide area, without any satisfactory way to flag up what is happening. It is not the task of the present applicant to remedy previous planning mistakes. In Kirkstall this has resulted in planning officers allocating existing greenspace contributions from previous developments as new building land.

Latterly developers have a second arrow for their bow, by claiming that a standard greenspace contribution will render their scheme non-viable. This results in another highly unequal contest with the District Valuer, who is legally obliged to agree a 25% developer's profit margin and is under little obligation to reveal his or her detailed estimates of what the developer can afford. Inner-city wards lose out at every turn – they attract a lower rate of CIL, they have higher site abnormal costs, and greater difficulty in complying with national and local planning guidance than our colleagues in the leafy suburbs.

It doesn't have to be like this. If the local planning authority identified and assembled worthwhile areas of new greenspace within the inner city, then future developers would have no excuses. They would always be able to make a cash contribution, which could be held in trust until the Council was in a position to proceed. Instead of



pokey scraps of greenspace matching individual developments, the Council could pool developers' contributions to facilitate much larger and more attractive schemes. Larger schemes would also extend the radius of the catchment area where contributions are expected. In the Aire valley, we have, for example, the Council submitted a hybrid planning application 19/00741/FU for environmental and public access works associated with FAS2. This application was validated on 7 Feb 2019 but it remains undetermined and largely unfunded almost two years later. If planning permission were granted it could be soaking up money on our behalf.

FAS2 is a one-off event, but I believe that similar schemes are possible in many inner-city locations. Leeds City Council should be using its compulsory purchase and land assembly powers to improve inner-city environments for the people who live and work there, not just to facilitate built development, important as this may be.

### **Appendix 2b: Email with supplementary information from Cllr Illingworth (13/01/21)**

Thank you for your message and helpful advice. There was one other matter that I raised at CG&A which might be caught by the rule against discussing individual planning applications. Nevertheless I will mention it now, because (1) I don't agree that it is actually ultra vires, (2) I don't want to be asked in future why I failed to raise it when the opportunity was given to me, and (3) it is an important issue, that goes to the roots of good governance where planning applications are concerned.

The Plans Panel made a site visit in 2015 for a retrospective planning application 14/07087/FU. Because this was a retrospective application the development was substantially complete when the Panel arrived. Members of the Panel identified several features that were completely unacceptable (and in some cases partly outside the red line application boundary) and recorded their objections in the Panel minutes. The Kirkstall ward members concurred with the Panel's view. There is no challenge to the Panel's excellent decisions.

The application site is partly owned by Leeds City Council, although the red line boundary lies entirely on private land. Council Development officers have ignored the Panel's recorded decisions, and took no enforcement action on the various features that the Panel and the ward members found unacceptable. Development officers rather than Planning officers are responsible for enforcement on mixed ownership sites. It appears that Council officers are involved in joint projects with the applicant, and this creates a conflict when enforcement action is needed. Despite frequent complaints, wasting much time and considerable money, several unacceptable features are still there.

Effectively, by failing to take timely enforcement action, Development officers have provided the applicant with an "indulgence" to ignore the Plans Panel decisions. I find this outcome completely out of order and unacceptable, and I continue to protest about it at every available opportunity. I would be grateful if you could add this business to my complaint.

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**Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support & Director of City Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board: (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 17th Feb 2021**

**Subject: Planning and Green Space – Explanation of Procedure**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report is in response to matters in relation to Green Space raised by Cllr Illingworth through Cllr Scopes. The report sets out the Policy approach taken by the Local Planning Authority to the provision and protection of Green Space, as set out in the adopted Local Plan for Leeds. It notes that former policies did not consistently deliver new Green Space on-site. This position has now been remedied as part of a selective review of the Core Strategy in 2019. It also sets out that the emerging Local Plan Update is intended to focus on a series of key topics, including Green Infrastructure (also comprising Green Space). This provides an opportunity for further clarifying the role that Green Space plays in the climate, health and well-being and inclusive growth agendas.
2. Scrutiny Boards are encouraged to clearly identify desired outcomes linked to their recommendations to show the added value Scrutiny brings. As such, it is important for the Scrutiny Board to also consider whether its recommendations are still relevant in terms of achieving the associated desired outcomes.

3. The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. The Board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note and comment on this report.

### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the current approach to the provision of new Green Space through the Planning System and in relation to the City Council's adopted Local Plan. In reflecting the issues which have been raised. It also addresses the issues around enhancement and protection.

### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 National Planning Policy and the City Council recognises the importance of Green Space and the role of the planning system in ensuring its protection, enhancement and delivery. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Chapter 8) recognises the importance of Green Space to healthy communities and requires that local authorities should measure and, where necessary (based on evidence) , seek to create, extend and protect Green Space.
- 2.2 The Council's policy approach to Green Space is set out in the adopted Core Strategy (2014) and was partly amended as part of a selective review of the Plan in 2019. In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework the proposals for the Core Strategy were developed through Development Plan Panel and considered by Scrutiny Board (at the time both Sustainable Economy and Culture and Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Boards considered and commented on the proposals) and their comments were reported to both the Executive Board and subsequently Council at an earlier stage in the process. The selective review policies were developed through Development Plan Panel at a meeting of Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) on 20th June 2018.
- 2.3 Leeds currently defines what types of Green Space will be measured, and what standards in terms of distance, amount and quality is expected (Policy G3 of the Core Strategy as Amended (2019)). This allows a surplus and deficiency of Green Space to be calculated on a Ward by Ward basis. For ease of understanding an example is given below of the Moortown Ward. The data is taken from the Site Allocation Plan (SAP). It shows there are deficiencies in Allotments and Outdoor Sports typologies. This work was supported by the Leeds Open Space and Recreation Assessment (2011) ([here](#)) captured and categorised all 1,600+ Green Spaces across Leeds and through consideration and consultation updated this in the SAP Green Space Background Paper (May 2017).

	Population (2014 mid-year estimate)	Parks and Gardens	Outdoor Sports (excluding education)	Amenity	Population (0-16 year olds)	Children & Young People Equipped Play	Allotments	Natural			
Standard		1ha/1000 people	1.2ha/1000 people	0.45ha/1000 people		2 facilities/1000 children	0.24ha/1000 people	Population (MUA and major settlements)	0.7 hectares/1000 people (main urban area and major settlements)	Population (other areas)	2ha/1000 people (other areas)
Moortown	22,251	Surplus 10.90ha	Deficiency -7.12ha	Surplus 19.14ha	4,458	Surplus 0.09	Deficiency -3.78ha	22,173	Surplus 3.33ha	78	Surplus 9.18ha

1

- 2.4 There will only be an adequate supply of Green Space, where the needs of the existing community are satisfied in all space types as set out in Policy G3, and there is an additional capacity of 10% of the total accessible Green Space. With this in mind none of the Wards in Leeds achieves this, and this lack of Green Space underpins some of the justification for the Policies G4 and G5 which create new Green Space to both meet the needs of new developments and of existing communities.
- 2.5 Policies G4 and G5 require Green Space as a result of residential development outside the City Centre and Residential and Commercial development in the City Centre (both within certain criteria). It should be noted that the Policy for outside the City Centre (Policy G4), was recently updated in the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) as a result of development in Leeds not being able to meet the quantum sought. Monitoring of the previous policy for the period 2018/19 revealed that there were 45 applications permitted where either G4 or G5 applied and of these half used a contribution in lieu (totalling £3,100,884.06 cumulatively), a quarter provided Green Space on site (totalling total permitted area of new Green Space created is 5.33 Ha) and a quarter provided neither Green Space nor a contribution lieu due to viability concerns.
- 2.6 In line with national guidance and a local economic viability study (which cumulatively assessed the burdens on development including affordable housing), the policy was revised to ensure a justified and effective approach based on number of bedrooms and density of schemes. As a result it now better reflects the burden that population growth places on existing Green Space across different parts of Leeds.
- 2.7 The ability to measure the efficacy of revised CSSR Policy G4 since adoption in September 2019 has been impacted by the pandemic. This data will be brought promptly up to date when feasible for the monitoring year April 2020 to March 2021.
- 2.8 Finally, Policy G6 is the Policy used to Protect Green Space. This Policy has discrete criteria against which the loss of Green Space is considered acceptable.
- 3. Main issues**
- 3.1 The role of planning is mainly in creating Green Space associated with new development in order to mitigate the burden placed on existing Green Space

<sup>1</sup> Pages 81 onwards of May 2017 Green Space Background Report - ([LINK](#))

by the extra population that the development creates and protect existing Green Space where there is justification to do so. It is important to note that it is not the purpose of Planning or the Policies above to use the development process to remedy the existing Green Space deficiencies in Leeds and provide sufficient Green Space for all residents against standards. In so doing policies need to be deliverable and justified within a balance of competing objectives e.g. for affordable housing, climate efficiency policies and green space. In the same way that affordable housing contributions gained through S106 cannot meet the full needs for affordable housing in the City, new development will not address Green Space deficiencies on its own. Moreover, the planning system does not control the management of the Major Parks<sup>2</sup> and Local Parks<sup>3</sup> which are delivered and maintained by Parks and Countryside.

- 3.2 The Green Spaces that result from development are often attached to the residential development and are relatively small in scale, although they are public spaces for all local users to enjoy and are encouraged to also form multiple roles e.g. for wider Green Infrastructure purposes.
- 3.3 The Local Plan specifically seeks to create Green Space on site. However, each planning application must be dealt with on its merits and individual characteristics and in some cases On Site Contributions in Lieu of on-site may be taken, in accordance with the Local Plan Policy. This may occur when an application for a new housing scheme may be adjacent to a large amenity area and/or nearby a playground in considerable disrepair. As part of the Green Space negotiation with the developer, solutions that help address local qualitative deficiencies may be considered acceptable as an overall net gain for Green Space in the locality, especially if sites do not lend themselves to on-site provision.
- 3.4 It is also important to note that as with other policy areas and in line with national guidance, where schemes demonstrate viability concerns Green Space burden is a planning gain which may be reduced or waived entirely in line with national guidance. In these case the planning report will clearly set out the Policy requirements and the reasons why in the balance of making a planning recommendation they have been off set.
- 3.5 Members should also note that within the operation of national policy on significantly boosting the supply of housing wider considerations such as Green Space can have less weight if authorities do not have a 5 year housing land supply. This was the case for Leeds up until the Adoption of the Site Allocations Plan in July 2019.
- 3.6 Ultimately National Policy dictates that any s106 Contribution has be 'directly related'<sup>4</sup> to the development. For green space Leeds takes the approach that this should be focussed within the Ward where possible. This allows local

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<sup>2</sup> Council Website – Major Parks - ([LINK](#))

<sup>3</sup> Council Website – Local Parks - ([LINK](#))

<sup>4</sup> NNPF – 2019 – Paragraph 56 ([LINK](#))

knowledge e.g. from ward members to help inform the process of where s106 monies are best spent which can also involve considerations of surplus and deficiencies as identified in G3.

3.7 Members will also be aware that the Council is in the early stages of a Local Plan Update. The members of Development Plan Panel and Climate Emergency Advisory Committees have endorsed a proposed scope for policy update as follows. It is currently anticipated that this will be considered by Executive Board on 17<sup>th</sup> March, with a view to public consultation after the local elections. Executive Board will be asked to recommend a scope as follows: carbon reduction (including from buildings, renewable energy and heat generation); flood risk; place making; sustainable strategic infrastructure and green infrastructure. For the latter Green Infrastructure element the Local Plan Update intends to:

- ensuring a strong, clear and consistent approach to the delivery of new green infrastructure as well as the enhancement and protection of existing GI alongside a better understanding of the roles and benefits of individual GI attributes e.g. for play, for well-being, biodiversity (through hedgerow planting), opportunities for local food growing and more attractive routes to encourage less car use;
- ensuring stronger protection for trees for example, through new land for trees, tree retention and replacement which focuses on the carbon sequestration value rather than just their numbers;
- ensuring that local wildlife sites and nature conservation designations are effective at protecting species and habitats and that new development delivers appropriate levels of net gain for biodiversity;

3.8 Scrutiny Board will be specifically consulted on this during the consultation period and its views will help shape the formation of policies. This provides an opportunity to consider any suggested improvements to the Policy or its implementation mechanisms put forward by Cllr Illingworth and Cllr Scopes.

#### **4. Corporate considerations**

##### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The extant and proposed plans that make up part of the Local Development Framework are all governed by very strict consultation and engagement processes laid down by law. Many of these (including those above) are tested by the Secretary of State in an Examination in Public. Any document will have to be adopted by the Council.

##### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 Green Planning Policies:

Age: reasonable supposition as it effects everyone, but is likely to have a positive impact on aspects of the particulars of this protected characteristic.

Disability: Directly related mental health benefits.

All Other PC's: Beneficial effects for all users in terms of physical and mental health. However with regard to the particulars of the protected characteristic no direct link.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 Adopted Planning Documents takes forward the spatial objectives of the Vision for Leeds and the priorities set out in the best Council Plan, particularly in relation to promoting sustainable, inclusive economic growth, health and well-being and Leeds declared Climate Emergency. This is supported through identified land in the adopted Site Allocations Plan (adopted 2019) and Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan. Green Space provision, enhancement and protection is a key element of this process.

### **4.4 Resources and Values for Money**

4.4.1 No implicit resource or Value for money concerns

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report.

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 The approach outlined in this report is in response to matters in relation to Green Space raised by Cllr Illingworth through Cllr Scopes. The report has set out the Policy approach taken by the Local Planning Authority to the provision and protection of Green Space, as set out in the adopted Local Plan for Leeds. Looking forward, the Local Plan Update is intended to focus on a series of key topics, including Green Infrastructure (also comprising Green Space). This will provide an opportunity for further clarifying the role that Green Space plays in the climate, health and well-being and inclusive growth agendas.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to note and comment on this report.

## **7. Background Documents**

7.1 None.



**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 17 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 The Board will be considering a referral to scrutiny from Cllrs Scopes and Illingworth at this meeting. Should Board members determine that they do want to scrutinise the issue as set out before them in further detail, the work programme will require amendment to reflect that additional item of business at a future meeting.

### Developing the work schedule

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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

- 3.5 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 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 documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

### Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

June	July	August
<b>Meeting Agenda for 25 June at 10.30 am.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 16 July at 10.30 am.</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting scheduled.</b>
<p>*REMOTE SESSION*</p> <p>Update on decision making during the emergency pandemic response and recovery plan as it pertains to the remit of the Board – verbal update from the Director of City Development.</p> <p>Transport Update from Chief Officer (Highways &amp; Transportation)</p> <p>Sustainable Development – Recommendation Tracking</p>	<p>*REMOTE SESSION*</p> <p>Inclusive Growth Update</p> <p>Digital Inclusion Update</p>	
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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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

**Inclusive Growth Strategy**

**PEOPLE**, **PLACE** and **PRODUCTIVITY** - Relevant **BIG** Ideas **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10**



## Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

### Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

September	October	November
<b>Meeting Agenda for 23 September at 10.30 am.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 14 October at 10.30 am.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 18 November at 10am</b>
<p>*REMOTE SESSION*</p> <p>Director's Update</p> <p>Leeds Public transport Investment Programme - Update</p> <p><i>*updates also requested on proposals for Lawnswood Roundabout and a response to previous recommendations relating to the Powered Two Wheeler Access To With Flow Bus Lanes*</i></p>	<p>Advancing Bus Service Provision</p> <p>Budget consultation – review of EB proposals</p>	<p>Flood Risk Management</p> <p>Housing Mix Update</p>
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
	<p><b>1 October 1-3pm – Budget</b></p> <p><b>21 October – Planning Proposals</b></p>	<b>Budget Consultation</b>
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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## Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

### Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

December	January	February
<b>No meetings Scheduled</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 20 January at 10.30 am.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda 17 February at 10am</b>
	Performance Monitoring: Transport & Travel KPIs Financial Health Monitoring Initial Budget Proposals Referral to scrutiny (Cllr Firth – East Lodge)	Inclusive Growth update BCP Performance (excluding transport and travel) Referral: Cllr Scopes & Cllr Illingworth
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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**Inclusive Growth Strategy**

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## Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

### Work Schedule for 2020/2021 Municipal Year

March	April	Notes
No meetings scheduled	Meeting Agenda for 7 April at 10.30am	
	Smart Cities Update  Digital Inclusion	Best Council Plan – deferred until Sept 2021 EB  Number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads – focused on those campaigning for improvements in road safety. <i>Deferred until the next municipal year.</i> - Vision Zero update - Camera Partnership Review outcome
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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**Inclusive Growth Strategy**

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