



**A meeting of the Council will be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 14th September, 2022 at 1.00 pm**

**Members of the Council are invited to attend and transact the following business:**

- 1 Minutes of the last Meeting** 5 - 22

To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 2 Declaration of Interest**

To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.
- 3 Communications**

To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor, the Leader, Members of the Executive Board or the Chief Executive consider appropriate.
- 4 Deputations**

To receive deputations in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.
- 5 Report on Appointments** 23 - 26

To consider the report of the City Solicitor on appointments.
- 6 Report on Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report 2021-22** 27 - 42

To consider the report of the Chief Planning Officer presenting to Council the 2021-22 Plans Panel annual report.
- 7 Executive Questions**

To deal with executive questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

8	<b>Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board</b>	43 - 56
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To receive the minutes in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

9	<b>White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lamb) - Developers</b>	57 - 58
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This Council is concerned by increasing reports of housing developers delivering new homes that are not up to the required standards of the new occupiers. This can be individual houses or issues across whole developments that are left uncorrected by the same developers time and time again, leaving residents frustrated and potentially out of pocket.

Council is further concerned that hard-working plans panels are working through detailed planning applications and applying appropriate conditions only for this work to be ignored or not fully implemented. Council therefore believes residents on new developments are being treated as second class citizens through a failure to enforce planning conditions and through a lack of ambition in the use of conditions, for example, to introduce brown bin collections on new developments.

This Council calls for a refreshed, robust and proactive planning enforcement policy to correct any perceptions of under delivery in the application of planning conditions and to include the naming and shaming of developers who are repeat offenders by publishing their names through the Plans Panel Annual Report or appropriate committee.

Council calls for a report to be brought before Executive Board at the earliest opportunity setting out this new approach and the timescale for its introduction.

10	<b>White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Golton) - Cost of Living Crisis</b>	59 - 60
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This Council is alarmed at the prospect of a year long economic recession, consumer price inflation predicted to reach 22%, and the prospect of the average annual family energy bill reaching £5600 in January 2023.

Council recognises that the major responsibility for responding to the escalating cost of living crisis to improve the prospects for Leeds citizens lays with national government, and we will use our local leadership role to seek to maximise the effective delivery of government policy as it develops.

Council also notes the “Understanding and addressing the cost-of-living crisis” paper agreed at the Executive Board meeting on 27th July, and the spectrum of ‘Food, Fuel, Housing and Digital’ poverty activity the Council is involved in.

This Council believes that the scale of potential fuel and food poverty on citizens, and the unsustainable fuel and inflationary pressures on local businesses, call for a scale of localised focus and effort similar to that which was set up to confront the social and economic impact of the Covid Pandemic.

Council therefore calls on the administration to make immediately available to community committees a significant injection to well-being funds to specifically respond to the needs of their community in the face of the developing economic downturn. Such an investment will direct the experience of elected councillors as community leaders to the task of supporting local businesses, engaging charities and volunteers, and creating partnership initiatives to better support those suffering from fuel and food poverty both this year and next.

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**White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Carlill) -  
River Pollution**

61 - 62

This Council is very concerned the Government continues to allow raw sewage to be dumped into rivers flowing through Leeds.

Council is shocked Environment Agency figures show raw sewage has been pumped into Yorkshire's natural environment once every 18.75 minutes since 2016 and the number of spills has increased by over 100,000% in that time.

Council notes that the Government's failure to implement effective regulation, as well as Government cuts to the Environment Agency budget since 2010 have reduced the amount of surveillance of water companies aimed at stopping pollution in rivers and caused an increase in raw sewage dumping.

Council calls on the Government to end this disgraceful practice by allowing unlimited fines, holding water company bosses legally and financially accountable for their negligence, and by toughening up regulations that currently allow the system to be abused.



Tom Riordan CBE  
Chief Executive

Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

To Note: Please do not attend the meeting in person if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and please follow current public health advice to avoid passing the virus onto other people.

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

[Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/council-and-democracy)

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the City Council's website on the internet - at the start of the meeting the Lord Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training purposes by the Council. Generally the public gallery is not filmed. However, by entering the Council Chamber and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the City Solicitor.

### **Third Party Recording**

Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the clerk.

#### Use of Recordings by Third Parties– code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Leeds City Council held  
Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 20th July, 2022

**PRESENT:** The Lord Mayor Councillor Robert Gettings MBE JP in the Chair.

**WARD**

**ADEL & WHARFEDALE**

Barry John Anderson  
Caroline Anderson  
Billy Flynn

**ALWOODLEY**

Dan Cohen  
  
Peter Mervyn Harrand

**ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD**

Karen Renshaw  
Mike Foster  
Lisa Mulherin

**ARMLEY**

Alice Smart  
James McKenna  
Lou Cunningham

**BEESTON & HOLBECK**

Annie Maloney  
Gohar Almas  
Andrew Scopes  
**BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY**

Kevin Ritchie  
Caroline Gruen  
Julie Heselwood  
**BURMANTOFTS & RICHMOND HILL**

Luke Farley  
Asghar Khan  
Denise Ragan

**WARD**

**CALVERLEY & FARSLEY**

Amanda Carter  
Peter Carlill  
Andrew Carter

**CHAPEL ALLERTON**

Eileen Taylor  
Mohammed Rafique  
Jane Dowson

**CROSS GATES & WHINMOOR**

Pauleen Grahame  
James Gibson  
Jessica Lennox

**FARNLEY & WORTLEY**

Mark Swards  
David Blackburn  
Ann Forsaith  
**GARFORTH & SWILLINGTON**

Mark Dobson  
Sarah Field  
Suzanne McCormack  
**GIPTON & HAREHILLS**

Salma Arif  
Arif Hussain  
Kamila Maqsood  
**GUISELEY & RAWDON**

Eleanor Thomson  
Paul Alderson  
Paul John Spencer Wadsworth

**HAREWOOD**

Matthew James Robinson  
Sam Firth  
Ryan Stephenson

**HEADINGLEY & HYDE PARK**

Jonathon Pryor  
Alison Garthwaite  
Neil Walshaw

**HORSFORTH**

Emmie Bromley  
John Garvani  
Jackie Shemilt

**HUNSLET & RIVERSIDE**

Ed Carlisle  
Mohammed Iqbal  
Paul Wray

**KILLINGBECK & SEACROFT**

John Tudor  
David Jenkins  
Katie Dye

**KIPPAX & METHLEY**

Mary Elizabeth Harland  
James Lewis  
Mirelle Midgley

**KIRKSTALL**

Hannah Bithell  
Fiona Elizabeth Venner  
John Anthony Illingworth

**LITTLE LONDON & WOODHOUSE**

Kayleigh Brooks  
Javaid Akhtar  
Abigail Marshall-Katung

**MIDDLETON PARK**

Wayne Dixon  
Sharon Burke  
Paul Anthony Truswell

**MOORTOWN**

Mahalia France-Mir  
Sharon Hamilton  
Mohammed Shahzad

**MORLEY NORTH**

Robert Gettings MBE JP  
Robert Finnigan  
Andy Hutchison

**MORLEY SOUTH**

Oliver Newton  
Jane Senior  
Wyn Kidger

**OTLEY & YEADON**

Colin Campbell

Ryk Downes

**PUDSEY**

Simon Seary  
Dawn Seary  
Trish Smith

**ROTHWELL**

Barry Stewart Golton  
Conrad Hart-Brooke  
Diane Chapman

**ROUNDHAY**

Jordan Bowden  
Zara Hussain  
Lisa Martin

**TEMPLE NEWSAM**

Debra Coupar  
Helen Hayden  
Nicole Sharp

**WEETWOOD**

Izaak Wilson  
Emma Flint  
Chris Howley

**WETHERBY**

Norma Harrington  
Alan James Lamb  
Linda Richards

**18 Announcements**

(a) The Lord Mayor welcomed members to this meeting of Full Council and also any members of the public who were joining the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was to be streamed live.

(b) The Lord Mayor informed Council that in his first seven weeks as Lord Mayor he had attended more than 80 events and he had been struck by the diversity and community cohesion across the City making Leeds such a rich cultural place to live.

(c) The Lord Mayor congratulated Farsley Celtic Football Club on their achievement in winning the Deaf Final of the FA Disability Cup.

(d) The Lord Mayor congratulated all those recipients from Leeds or who work and volunteer in Leeds and who had been recognised in Her Majesty the Queen's 2022 Birthday Honours list. The Lord Mayor offered his congratulations on the receipt of the award.

(e) The Lord Mayor reported that he was delighted to learn that the Leeds Armed Forces Covenant had been awarded silver status by the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This was a fantastic recognition for the work of the council to support members of our Armed Forces and the Lord Mayor thanked all those involved who had worked hard to support this.

(f) The Lord Mayor informed Council of the recent death of Honorary Alderman John Hamilton.

Council stood in silent tribute.

**19 Procedural Motion**

It was moved by Councillor Lennox, seconded by Councillor Cohen and

**RESOLVED** - That Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 22.1 (Suspension of CPRs), that CPR 12.2 (motions and amendments) be suspended to allow the introduction of an additional not for debate White Paper on Twinning with Kharkiv to be heard at the start of the meeting.

**20 Not for Debate White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lewis)**

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Andrew Carter and supported by Councillors Golton, Hutchison, Dobson and Blackburn and

**RESOLVED** – That this Council notes Leeds has a long tradition of building strong international partnerships in a show of friendship and has a number of long-standing twinning agreements and sister city relationships across the world.

Council continues to condemn the invasion of Ukraine and welcome Ukrainian refugees, as the humanitarian situation worsens.

Council requests officers to explore a twinning between Leeds and Kharkiv to support closer ties of friendship confirming the City's commitment to show support and solidarity with Ukraine.

**21 Minutes of the last Meeting**

It was moved by Councillor Lennox, seconded by Councillor Cohen and

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be approved.

**22 Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests.

**23 Communications**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(d) Councillor Venner drew to the meetings attention communications which had been received from Ofsted to both the Director of Children and Families and the Children and Young People of Leeds.

In accordance with a whips agreement Councillor Andrew Carter replied to the Communication.

The Chief Executive informed Council that responses had been received regarding 2 white paper resolutions in March, from Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport on the Transport White Paper and George Eustice MP Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Trees White Paper copies of which had previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

**24 Deputations**

Two deputations were admitted to the meeting and addressed Council, as follows:-

- 1) National Endometriosis Survivors Support
- 2) Zest

**RESOLVED** – That the subject matter in respect of deputation 1 be referred to the Director of Adults and Health for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member and that the subject matter in respect of deputation 2 be referred to the Director of Adults and Health and Director of Public Health for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

**25 Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee - Amendments to Article 17 of the Constitution, Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference and Council Procedure Rules**

The report of the Director of Adults and Health recommending amendments to Article 17 of the Constitution, The Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference and Council Procedure Rules was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the proposed amendments to Article 17 of the Constitution, The Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference and Council Procedure Rules as set out in the appendices to the report be approved.
- (b) That the mandatory appointment on the Health and Wellbeing Board of Tim Ryley (Place Based Lead, Leeds Health & Care Partnership) who is the nominated representative of the Leeds Committee of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board be noted.

**26 Report on Appointments**

The report of the City Solicitor on appointments was moved by Councillor Lennox, seconded by Councillor Venner, an amendment was moved by Councillor Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Cohen;

To amend the Report on Appointments to include the following recommendation:



(c) to request that the Children & Families Scrutiny Board appoint a non-voting social worker staff representative as a co-opted member.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Stephenson was declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the City Solicitor on appointments be approved including those listed on the order paper, namely;

- 1 To note the following appointments to various West Yorkshire Combined Authority Committees and the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group;
  - Councillor Sam Firth to the Economy Scrutiny Committee
  - Councillor Izaak Wilson to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee.
  - Councillor Jess Lennox to replace Councillor Izaak Wilson on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Scrutiny Committee
  - Councillor Scopes to replace Councillor Martin on the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group
  
- 2 To note the following appointment to a Committee, Board or Panel
  - Councillor B Flynn be appointed to fill the vacancy on Corporate Governance & Audit Committee.
  - Councillor Almass to replace Councillor Maqsood on the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
  - Councillor Lennox to fill the Labour vacancy and Councillor Lay to fill the Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board.
  - Councillor Dowson to replace Councillor Smart on the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

On the requisition of Councillor Stephenson and Councillor Cohen the voting on the amendment was recorded as follows;

YES – 28

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Amanda Carter, Andrew Carter, Cohen, Dixon, Dobson, Downes, Finnigan, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Golton, Harrand, Harrington, Hutchison, Howley, Lamb, Newton, Richards, D Seary, S Seary, Senior, Shemilt, Smith, Stephenson, and Wadsworth.

NO – 55

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Cunningham, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Swards, Shahzad, E Taylor, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson and Wray.

ABSTAIN – 5

Blackburn, Carlisle, Forsaith, Field and McCormack

**27 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

It was moved by Councillor Coupar, seconded by Councillor Lewis and

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the Head of Democratic Services presenting to Council the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be received and the recommendations set out agreed, namely;

- a) The level of Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) should be 35% of that of the Leader of Council.
- b) The level of Special Responsibility Allowance for the Shadow Chair of CEAC should be 15% of that of the Leader of Council.
- c) The continuation of indexation arrangements to June 2026, which currently permit the annual adjustment of allowances in line with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Council for Local Government Employees (or equivalent).

**28 Report on Scrutiny Annual Report**

It was moved by Councillor Coupar, seconded by Councillor Lennox and

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the City Solicitor presenting the Scrutiny Boards Annual Report for 2021/22 to Council be received and noted.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 15.30 to 15.45.

**29 Report on the Annual Report of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee**

It was moved by Councillor Wray, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

**RESOLVED** - That the report of the Chief Officer Financial Services be received and the matters set out in the annual report reflecting the work of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in the 2021-22 municipal year be noted.

**30 Executive Questions**

Q1 Councillor Stephenson to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships):-

Can the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships inform Council how many formal grievances have been received from children's social workers so far this year; and where these were group grievances how many employees were included in the grievance?

The Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships) replied.

Q2 Councillor Golton to the Leader of Council :-

Does the Leader of Council share my dismay that despite having control of a £multi-million bus investment and subsidy budget, leadership of a supposedly innovative and ground-breaking 'West Yorkshire Bus Enhanced Partnership', and a close professional relationship with the Unite Union, the West Yorkshire Mayor has refused to use her position of influence to intervene and arbitrate

an end to the Arriva strike which has adversely affected the lives of Leeds workers, students and elderly residents since June 6th in wards such as Rothwell, which are totally dependent on Arriva services, and has still not been resolved?

The Leader of Council replied.

Q3 Councillor Mulherin to the Executive Member (Adults and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships):-

Please could the Executive Member for Adults and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships comment on the recent high court judgement on the Government's policy to discharge hospital patients into care homes without testing for Covid-19?

The Executive Member (Adults and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships) replied.

Q4 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Resources):-

In an age when Elected Members are faced with more and more challenges to our personal safety, does the Executive Member for Resources agree with West Yorkshire Police that when we are duty bound to progress casework to them on behalf of a resident, our role as conduits should be routinely shared with the person(s) against whom the complaint has been lodged?

The Executive Member (Resources) replied.

Q5 Councillor Khan to the Executive Member (Communities):-

Please could the Executive Member update Council on the support provided in Leeds to Ukrainian refugees?

The Executive Member (Communities) replied.

Q6 Councillor Richards to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships):-

Can the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships inform Council how many children's social workers have resigned from their post so far this year; how many of those were newly qualified; and how many returned exit surveys or completed exit interviews?

The Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships) replied.

At the conclusion of question time, the following questions remained unanswered and it was noted that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.6, written answers would be sent to each Member of Council:-

Q7 Councillor Downes to the Executive Member (Communities).

Q8 Councillor Flint to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education)

Q9 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Resources)

Q10 Councillor Hamilton to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).

- Q11 Councillor Harrington to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q12 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q13 Councillor Bithell to the Executive Member (Public Health & Active Lifestyles).
- Q14 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education).
- Q15 Councillor Carlill to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q16 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q17 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q18 Councillor Scopes to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q19 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q20 Councillor D Seary to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q21 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q22 Councillor Dobson to the Leader of Council.
- Q23 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q24 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q25 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q26 Councillor Wadsworth to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q27 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q28 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q29 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q30 Councillor Wadsworth to the Leader of Council.
- Q31 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q32 Councillor Robinson to the Leader of Council.
- Q33 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q34 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).

- Q35 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Public Health & Active Lifestyles).
- Q36 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Public Health & Active Lifestyles).
- Q37 Councillor Stephenson to the Executive Member (Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships).
- Q38 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q39 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Public Health & Active Lifestyles).
- Q40 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q41 Councillor Firth to the Leader of Council.
- Q42 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education).

**31 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board**

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Lennox that the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

An amendment was moved by Councillor Andrew Carter, seconded by Councillor Flynn

To add the following at the end of item 11:

To request that Executive Board reconsiders the decision in respect of Minute 10, Social Value Fund Proposal, of the Executive Board meeting held on 22 June.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Andrew Carter seconded by Councillor Robinson

To add the following at the end of item 11:

To request that Executive Board reconsiders the decision in respect of Minute 9, Leeds Station Sustainable Travel Gateway Scheme, of the Executive Board meeting held on 22 June.

A third amendment was moved by Councillor Stephenson seconded by Councillor Richards

To add the following at the end of item 11:

To request that Executive Board reconsiders the decision in respect of Minute 13 of the Executive Board meeting held on 22 June.

Upon being put to the vote the amendments (references back) were declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

Council Procedure Rule 4, providing for the winding up of business, was applied prior to any notified comments on the minutes having been debated.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 16.50 to 17.25

### 32 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Andrew Carter) - Highways**

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Carter, seconded by Councillor Lamb that this Council is concerned that the mean average highways maintenance backlog in the city is 19.8 years, pointing to significant under investment in the city's roads by the current administration.

Council is further concerned that budget amendments to increase highways capital investment have been repeatedly ignored suggesting that the administration do not see highways investment as a priority. This is particularly the case when set against a backdrop of massive borrowing and debt incurred by the authority since 2010, meaning that in 2022/23 up to £63.5m will be spent on MRP debt and interest, money that could have been spent on frontline services or prioritised towards highways investment.

Council further notes significant Government investment in highways and transport in recent years both in Leeds and nationally:

- £173.5m of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme
- £200m for development and delivery of a mass transit scheme in Leeds
- £4.8m in pothole grant funding allocated in 2021/22
- £2.7 billion in local highways maintenance funding between 2022/23 and 2024/25 to local authorities outside of London and the 8 largest city regions
- £20m Levelling Up funding for West Leeds transport improvements
- CRSTS funding of £830m announced in April 2022

This Council believes that Leeds residents see highways maintenance as a major priority both in terms of road safety, amenity and to prevent damage to vehicles. Council therefore calls for a report to be brought to Executive Board setting out how highways maintenance will be prioritised and how much additional investment the Council will make in the city's roads in the coming years.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Downes

In the first paragraph insert the words 'and pavements' after '...city's roads'

In the second paragraph delete everything (including bullet points) after '...as a priority.'

Retain the final paragraph and insert after '...highways maintenance' the words 'residential parking capacity, and pedestrian accessibility' and insert the words 'and pavements' after the words '...city's roads'

The amended White Paper would then read as follows:

"This Council is concerned that the mean average highways maintenance backlog in the city is 19.8 years, pointing to significant under investment in the city's roads and pavements by the current administration.

Council is further concerned that budget amendments to increase highways capital investment have been repeatedly ignored suggesting that the administration do not see highways investment as a priority.

This Council believes that Leeds residents see highways maintenance, residential parking capacity, and pedestrian accessibility as a major priority both in terms of road safety, amenity and to prevent damage to vehicles. Council therefore calls for a report to be brought to Executive Board setting out how highways maintenance will

be prioritised and how much additional investment the Council will make in the city's roads and pavements in the coming years."

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hayden, seconded by Councillor Carlill

Delete All after "This Council" and replace with:

....."welcomes the decision by the Labour Administration to increase highways funding in Leeds since 2010, meaning the city tops the list of all councils nationwide for highways investment with over £20m programmed to be spent in wards all across the city this year alone.

Council notes investment in highways would have been significantly higher had the Conservative Government not imposed severe cuts to local authority budgets, including for highways, with £2.2bn cut from council services in Leeds since 2010.

Council calls on all political groups to support a communication to whoever the Conservative Party select to be their new Prime Minister to call on them to provide better, long-term, secure funding to address over a decade's worth of cuts, rather than ad hoc one off grants that are woefully small in the face of the £200M the city's roads need.

This Council also notes that Highways Maintenance is just one area where cuts to Leeds have been to the detriment of Leeds residents and calls on the Government to give the people of Leeds the funding they deserve."

The amendment in the name of Councillor Golton was declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Hayden was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That this Council welcomes the decision by the Labour Administration to increase highways funding in Leeds since 2010, meaning the city tops the list of all councils nationwide for highways investment with over £20m programmed to be spent in wards all across the city this year alone.

Council notes investment in highways would have been significantly higher had the Conservative Government not imposed severe cuts to local authority budgets, including for highways, with £2.2bn cut from council services in Leeds since 2010.

Council calls on all political groups to support a communication to whoever the Conservative Party select to be their new Prime Minister to call on them to provide better, long-term, secure funding to address over a decade's worth of cuts, rather than ad hoc one off grants that are woefully small in the face of the £200M the city's roads need.

This Council also notes that Highways Maintenance is just one area where cuts to Leeds have been to the detriment of Leeds residents and calls on the Government to give the people of Leeds the funding they deserve."

### **33 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Forsaith) - Fair Votes**

It was moved by Councillor Forsaith, seconded by Councillor Carlisle that this Council notes that the First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections.

Council supports fair votes for all and further notes that:

- the UK's First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice and leaves millions feeling unrepresented by their elected representatives. This growing disillusionment amongst voters is evidenced by low turn outs, particularly in local elections. These factors have contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic process.
- Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener. PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation. MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 when more people voted Labour than Conservative, yet the Conservatives formed the government.
- PR is already used to elect the Parliaments and Assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as London and the Welsh Senedd is reviewing legislation on Single Transferable Vote for local councils.
- There is a growing movement of supporters for Proportional Representation, with the Unite and Unison unions now backing PR.
- There is a range of options for implementing Proportional Representation systems, any of which would deliver a fairer and more representative democracy for electors.

Council believes

- that it is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see both Parliament and Councils as fairly reflecting their views
- that our First Past the Post voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith which prevents the balance of opinion among the electorate being reflected in Parliament and local councils
- that a system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament and local councils in proportion to their level of public support

Council therefore resolves to write to HM Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general and local elections.

Council further resolves to ask all the MPs who represent Leeds residents to support changing our electoral system to a fairer Proportional Representation system.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Richards



**Delete all after “First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system” in the first line, and replace with the following:**

“is a tried and tested method for determining UK general elections that is well understood by voters, maintains a valuable geographic link between electors and their representatives, and is more likely than the alternatives to produce clearer results leading to stable government.

“Council notes that PR voting systems have their own disadvantages including providing a platform for extremist parties, a tendency to produce unstable coalitions, and a weakening of the link between MPs and their constituents.

“Council further notes that UK voters comprehensively rejected a proposal to change the voting system, by 68 percent to 32 percent, in a 2011 referendum and believes this result should be respected.

“Council therefore does not support any moves to change the current voting system for general and local elections.”

**Motion would read:**

“This Council notes that the First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system is a tried and tested method for determining UK general elections that is well understood by voters, maintains a valuable geographic link between electors and their representatives, and is more likely than the alternatives to produce clearer results leading to stable government.

“Council notes that PR voting systems have their own disadvantages including providing a platform for extremist parties, a tendency to produce unstable coalitions, and a weakening of the link between MPs and their constituents.

“Council further notes that UK voters comprehensively rejected a proposal to change the voting system, by 68 percent to 32 percent, in a 2011 referendum and believes this result should be respected.

“Council therefore does not support any moves to change the current voting system for general and local elections.”

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Campbell

In the second to last paragraph delete the words ‘...Proportional Representation’ and replace with ‘the Single Transferable Vote system in multi-member wards and constituencies.

The amended White Paper will then read:

This Council notes that the First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections.

Council supports fair votes for all and further notes that:

- the UK’s First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice and leaves millions feeling unrepresented by their elected representatives. This growing disillusionment amongst voters is evidenced by low turn outs, particularly in

local elections. These factors have contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic process.

- Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener. PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation. MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 when more people voted Labour than Conservative, yet the Conservatives formed the government.
- PR is already used to elect the Parliaments and Assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as London and the Welsh Senedd is reviewing legislation on Single Transferable Vote for local councils.
- There is a growing movement of supporters for Proportional Representation, with the Unite and Unison unions now backing PR.
- There is a range of options for implementing Proportional Representation systems, any of which would deliver a fairer and more representative democracy for electors.

Council believes

- that it is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see both Parliament and Councils as fairly reflecting their views
- that our First Past the Post voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith which prevents the balance of opinion among the electorate being reflected in Parliament and local councils
- that a system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament and local councils in proportion to their level of public support

Council therefore resolves to write to HM Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable the Single Transferable Vote system in multi-member wards and constituencies to be used for general and local elections.

Council further resolves to ask all the MPs who represent Leeds residents to support changing our electoral system to a fairer Proportional Representation system.

A third amendment was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Wilson

Delete all after "This Council" and replace with:

".....recognises the frustration of people not represented through the electoral process and notes that changes to voting systems is a national government

question to answer. Council further notes that there are strong views on all sides of the debate on electoral reform.

“Council is very concerned by the Conservative Government’s Elections Act 2022 which risks suppressing voter turnout by introducing Voter ID, meaning many Leeds residents may no longer be able to vote, including some older and disabled people.

Council supports the lowering of the voting age to 16 to increase engagement in the electoral process and opposes the Government’s decision to limit engagement through Voter ID.

Council calls on the Government to implement measures to increase voter turnout by withdrawing the requirement for Voter ID and lowering the voting age to 16.”

The amendments in the name of Councillor Cohen and Councillor Golton were declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Lewis carried and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That this Council recognises the frustration of people not represented through the electoral process and notes that changes to voting systems is a national government question to answer. Council further notes that there are strong views on all sides of the debate on electoral reform.

“Council is very concerned by the Conservative Government’s Elections Act 2022 which risks suppressing voter turnout by introducing Voter ID, meaning many Leeds residents may no longer be able to vote, including some older and disabled people.

Council supports the lowering of the voting age to 16 to increase engagement in the electoral process and opposes the Government’s decision to limit engagement through Voter ID.

Council calls on the Government to implement measures to increase voter turnout by withdrawing the requirement for Voter ID and lowering the voting age to 16.

**34 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Harland) - Household Support Fund**

It was moved by Councillor Harland, seconded by Councillor Farley that this Council believes funding allocated by the Government to Leeds City Council for the Household Support Fund to help residents in financial difficulties is not enough given the current Cost of Living crisis which has followed 12 years of austerity.

Council is very concerned that the amount allocated to support residents in Leeds works out at no more than £9 per person meaning many families will not receive the support that they need at an increasingly difficult time financially for many people.

Council calls on Government to urgently increase funding allocated via the Household Support Fund to ensure residents in Leeds who need support both now and through the winter can afford to meet the price of food, heating and essential living costs.

An amendment was moved by Councillor B Anderson, seconded by Councillor Smith

Delete all after "This Council" and replace with the following:

"notes the range of global factors affecting the cost of living for households nationally and in Leeds and welcomes the actions being taken by the government in response.

"Council welcomes government action that saw a £150 non-repayable reduction in Council Tax bills for all households in Bands A-D in England but regrets that the ruling administration were unable to administer this, resulting in thousands of people receiving double payments totalling £3.7m and unknown costs in officer time to deal with the consequences.

"Council welcomes the unprecedented levels of support provided by the government through the pandemic. In addition, measures announced by the government in the Autumn Budget and subsequently will help vulnerable households in Leeds, such as:

- Increasing the National Living Wage to £9.50 an hour
- Cutting fuel duty following 11 years of freezing it
- £15bn energy bill rebate package worth up to £550 each for around 28 million households
- £650 Cost of Living payment for those on benefits
- £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment to 8 million pensioner households
- £140 million in Discretionary Housing Payments supporting families with rent or housing costs, and an extra £65m to support low-income households with rent debts
- Increased generosity of the Local Housing Allowance for housing benefit, with more than 1.5m households benefiting from an additional £600 a year.
- £150 disability cost of living payment
- £1bn in Household Support Fund

"Council notes that there have been two rounds of Household Support funding since November 2021 amounting to £7.1m each for Leeds, meaning total allocated funding through this scheme is £14.2m in the past 8 months. Council further notes that funding is targeted at those most in need meaning that the funding will broadly be targeted at the 63,000 households that claim Council Tax Support in Leeds which would equate to approximately £225 per household.

"Council remains concerned about increasing inflation and the potential consequences for interest rates, mortgages for Leeds residents and debt, particularly given Leeds City Council's £2.165bn net external debt.

"This Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to bring a report to Executive Board this year setting out the implications of higher inflation and higher interest rates on MRP and net external debt.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hart-Brooke, seconded by Councillor Howley

Replace all after "This Council" with:

"notes that:

On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.

In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).

On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Leeds an additional £600 a year.

The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning Leeds pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost pensioners in Leeds hundreds of pounds.

Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a 'Windfall Tax' on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was first proposed by Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, in May 2022. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in Leeds a further £600 this year.
- Immediately re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support Leeds pensioners.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20 per week, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the re-introduction of the pensions triple-lock and for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored.

Finally, Council calls for a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, and Chambers of Commerce and will invite local MPs to attend this hybrid meeting.

The amendments in the name of Councillor B Anderson and Councillor Hart-Brooke were declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That that this Council believes funding allocated by the Government to Leeds City Council for the Household Support Fund to help residents in financial difficulties is not enough given the current Cost of Living crisis which has followed 12 years of austerity.

Council is very concerned that the amount allocated to support residents in Leeds works out at no more than £9 per person meaning many families will not receive the support that they need at an increasingly difficult time financially for many people.

Council calls on Government to urgently increase funding allocated via the Household Support Fund to ensure residents in Leeds who need support both now and through the winter can afford to meet the price of food, heating and essential living costs.

On the requisition of Councillor Lennox and Councillor Coupar the voting on the motion was recorded as follows;

YES – 71

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Cunningham, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Swards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Smart, E Taylor, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson, Wray, Dixon, Blackburn, Carlisle, Forsaith, Finnigan, Kidger, Newton, Senior, Downes, Golton, Campbell, Chapman, Hart-Brooke, and Howley.

NO – 15

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Amanda Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Harrington, Lamb, Richards, D Seary, S Seary, Smith and Stephenson.

ABSTAIN – 0

Council rose at 7.40 pm

## Appointments

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### **What is this report about?**

#### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

- 1 Appointments to Boards and Panels and to Joint Authorities are reserved to Council.
- 2 There is a need to change an appointment on the Health and Wellbeing Board following the appointment of Julie Longworth as the Interim Director of Children & Families and also change the substitute on the LEP Board.

### **Recommendations**

Council is asked to approve the appointments referred to in paragraph 1 of the report.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The proposal is for Council to approve the following appointments a Committee, Board or Panel;
  - Julie Longworth on the Health and Wellbeing Board following the appointment of Julie Longworth as the Interim Director of Children & Families.
  - That Councillor Pryor replace Councillor Coupar as the substitute on the LEP Board.

What impact will this proposal have?

### Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 1 The various appointments will ensure Leeds has appropriate representation on external organisations and also Committees Boards and Panels.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 2 Consultation has taken place with the relevant groups on the Council.

## What are the resource implications?

- 3 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report.

## What are the legal implications?

- 4 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 5 The key risks would have been incomplete representation on local Committees, Boards and Panels or external organisations. The risk is being managed by the appointment(s) in this report.

## Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth  Health and Wellbeing  Climate Emergency

- 6 Fully operational and quorate Committees, Boards and Panels and representation on external bodies are in line with the Council's Policies and the priorities.

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

- 7 There are no other options in this regard.

### How will success be measured?

- 8 Not applicable.

### What is the timetable for implementation?

- 9 The implementation of the decision would be immediately after the decision is made.



## **Appendices**

10 None

## **Background papers**

11 None

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## Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, 2021-22

Date: 14 September 2022

Report of: Chief Planning Officer

Report to: Full Council

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### What is this report about?

#### Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Annual Report, covering the period 2021-22 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- The report describes the work of the three Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel, within the context of the terms of reference for each Panel. The report is not intended to describe the work of the planning service generally but instead provides information on activity, workloads, delivery of key schemes and projects and considers the contribution of the Panels to Best City Ambitions.
- The work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel is key in the delivery of Best City Priorities, either directly or indirectly through the delivery of high-quality homes, employment land (inclusive growth), health and wellbeing, responding to the Climate Emergency and through sustainable place-making, to deliver safe, strong communities.

### Recommendations

- a) Council is asked to receive and note the Annual Report.

### Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Following changes to Council Procedure Rules agreed by full Council in May 2016, an Annual Report reporting the work of Plans Panels (one report to jointly cover the Panels) for the consideration of full Council. This Annual Report covers the period 2021-22.

#### Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

### What impact will this proposal have?

The report is for member information and comment

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 2 The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, the three Plans Panel Chairs and Development Plan Panel Chair have been consulted on this report. This report is presented for information and comment.

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 3 This report has no specific resource implications.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 4 This report has no specific legal implications.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 5 The Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel operate within formal Terms of Reference and other protocols as set out in the Council's Constitution, therefore there are no specific risks identified.

### **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

- 6 The work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel in delivering planning policies and planning permissions for social housing and assisted living accommodation as well as delivering permissions for new schools, supports the Council to meet its ambitions. Through Section 106 planning obligations employment opportunities for local people can be delivered. The planning process is closely tied with the health and wellbeing and climate change agendas through the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy and the role of the Development Plan Panel is key in policy development. Through the Local Plan Update, as a priority, policies to tackle the scale and urgency of the Climate Emergency are being updated and refreshed.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 7 Not applicable

### **How will success be measured?**

- 8 There is ongoing monitoring of systems and processes as well as an annual review of the Panels terms of reference to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are robust.

### **What is the timetable for implementation?**

- 9 Not applicable

## **Appendices**

- 10 Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, 2021-22

## **Background papers**

- 11 None

# Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report 2021- 22



## Introduction

Welcome to the sixth report to Council on the work undertaken by the Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel. This report is not intended to reflect the work of the Planning Service per se but instead focuses on the work and activity undertaken by the three Plans Panels and the Development Plan Panel and provides the opportunity to highlight and review last year's activity and describe some of the key achievements in helping deliver the Best City ambitions for Leeds. As well as reflecting on the reporting period, the Annual Report also looks ahead to 2022-23 and describes some of the key challenges coming forward.

The reporting period (2021-22) has been another challenging year, recovering from the impacts of the pandemic and dealing with the aftermath of a surge in planning applications being submitted. This has created a number of significant challenges for the service, in providing continuity and delivery, whilst managing ongoing resourcing and capacity issues, exacerbated by a national shortage of Planners. Leeds is not alone facing these challenges with Local Authorities across the country reporting significant issues.

Whilst these circumstances have led to some delays, overall good progress is being made in determining a host of applications consistent with the City Council's adopted Local Plan and Best Council priorities. This process has been assisted by the continued refocus on those applications which meet the Exceptions in the Chief Planning Officer's Delegation Scheme, means that the appropriate time and attention has been afforded to the most strategically important and sensitive applications in the City.

Within this wider context, the Plans Panels have a challenging role: balancing the current and future needs of the District, delivering the inclusive growth needed, whilst still taking account of local communities, within a national legislative and policy driven framework. In facilitating this process, through the Plans Panel Chairs (and Panel members), a framework is being provided which enables opportunities for pre-application presentations, position statements and the ability for community representatives to address the Panel to share their concerns and ideas, in addition to the public speaking rights at the final determination stage.

A significant application presented to City Plans Panel in March 2021, was the Leeds Bradford Airport application (for a new Terminal Building); the consideration of this application was one of the most complex applications leading to the one of the lengthiest debates to ever be considered by the Panel. The consideration of the application was made even more challenging due to the need for the Panel meeting to be held remotely, due to the COVID restrictions in place at the time. Whilst the consideration of the application was not in the reporting year, there was significant activity surrounding this scheme in 2021-22, with the application subsequently being Called In by the Secretary of State, with a Public Inquiry due in September 2022 and then the withdrawal of the application by the applicant in March 2022.

The role of the Development Plan Panel is key in ensuring that the City Council's Development Plan and Planning Policies are kept up to date. Within this context, a priority for the Plan has been a Local Plan Update, to respond to the City Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency. The priority therefore is to introduce, update and improve existing policies to address climate change, to help achieve net zero emissions by 2030. Between July – September 2021, the service carried out initial statutory public consultation on the scope of the Plan (Local Plan Update 1). This included update themed planning policies for carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure (including biodiversity), place making and sustainable infrastructure. Detailed policies will now be drafted in line with consultation responses, the evidence base, planning guidance, the consideration of reasonable alternatives and sustainability appraisal, prior to further consultation on draft policies due early Autumn 2022. It is anticipated that subject to the comments received and resources available, that the Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State this year for formal independent examination in 2023.

At a national level, the wider Planning picture remains uncertain with the publication in May 2022 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, continuing the Government's planning reform agenda. The Bill, currently progressing through the legislative process, already raises concerns around claims the Bill will lead to a centralisation of the planning system (with the proposed introduction of nation Policies for Development Management) and questions how effective it will be longer term, in making progress on the levelling-up agenda. Whatever finally is in the Act, will have significant implications for the Local Planning Authority and consequently the Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel, who will respond accordingly.

As a final reflection, whilst there have been many challenges this year (both for the Planning Service and the Council as a whole), the work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel continue to deliver positive outcomes for the District and the people of Leeds. Through the work of the Panels, long term investment is secured, environmental improvements are made and any negative impacts upon communities are mitigated. The continued process of updating the Local Plan aims to ensure also that that the Council's Planning Policies provide a framework for sustainable development, for the benefit of both current and future generations. This approach therefore reflects the priorities of the adopted Local Plan and the Council's Best City ambitions for inclusive growth, responding to the climate emergency and health and wellbeing. We look forward to another successful year ahead.



Councillor Helen Hayden

Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate

## Plans Panel activity 2021-22



**31 Plans Panel meetings and six Development Plan Panel meetings**



**61 items considered including 44 applications**



**48 decisions made**



**Granted permission for around 2,000 new homes**



**14 Pre-application presentations including Yorkshire Bank, Merrion Way, former International Swimming Pool, Quarry Hill**

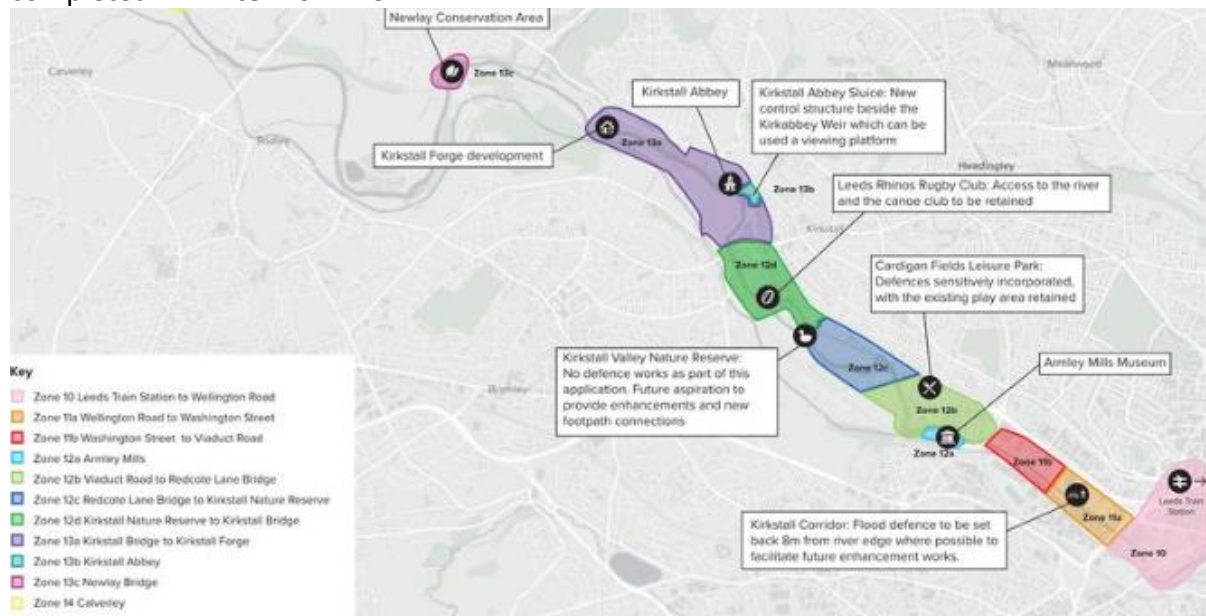


## Significant schemes considered by the Plans Panels

The Plans Panel determine those schemes not delegated to the Chief Planning Officer. As such they usually relate to the largest and more sensitive developments. The role of the Panel can be challenging, making robust decisions in the context of adopted local and national policy. Some examples of schemes considered by the Panels are detailed below:

### Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2

The multi-million pound plans developed by Leeds City Council, Bradford Council and Environment Agency, include a new flood storage area between Horsforth and Rawdon and flood defences at Apperley Bridge. The proposals are part of a series of measures to reduce flood risk to 1,048 homes and 474 businesses along the River Aire. The scheme is due to be completed in winter 2022-23.



### Barnsdale Soar, Allerton Bywater

Installation and operation of a solar park with associated infrastructure and upgraded access



at land off Barnsdale Road, Allerton Bywater. This will be the largest Solar (photovoltaic energy generation) Park in West Yorkshire covering circa 50 hectares with an installed capacity of up to 50MW, which would generate enough electricity to cover the annual electrical consumption of approximately 12,000 homes each year.

**Mixed use development on former international swimming pool site**

£270 million development proposal on the site of the former Leeds International Pool building which was demolished in 2009. Plans

including a 33-storey residential tower, a hotel, offices and student accommodation.



**Acanthus Golf Club, Thorpe Lane, Tingley**



Erection of a Garden Centre incorporating a restaurant, indoor soft play, outdoor play area, outdoor sales area, service area, outdoor adventure play area and associated access improvements, car parking and landscaping. Change of use of the existing golf club house to

Adventure Play Centre and demolition of the existing driving range bay structure, netting and other ancillary structures.

### **Prince Henrys Grammar School, Farnley Lane, Otley**

Development of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, hardstanding area, storage container, acoustic barrier fence, access pathway; environmental benefits include the wildlife buffer zone, including swift boxes, bat corridors, a wildlife pond and apple orchard.

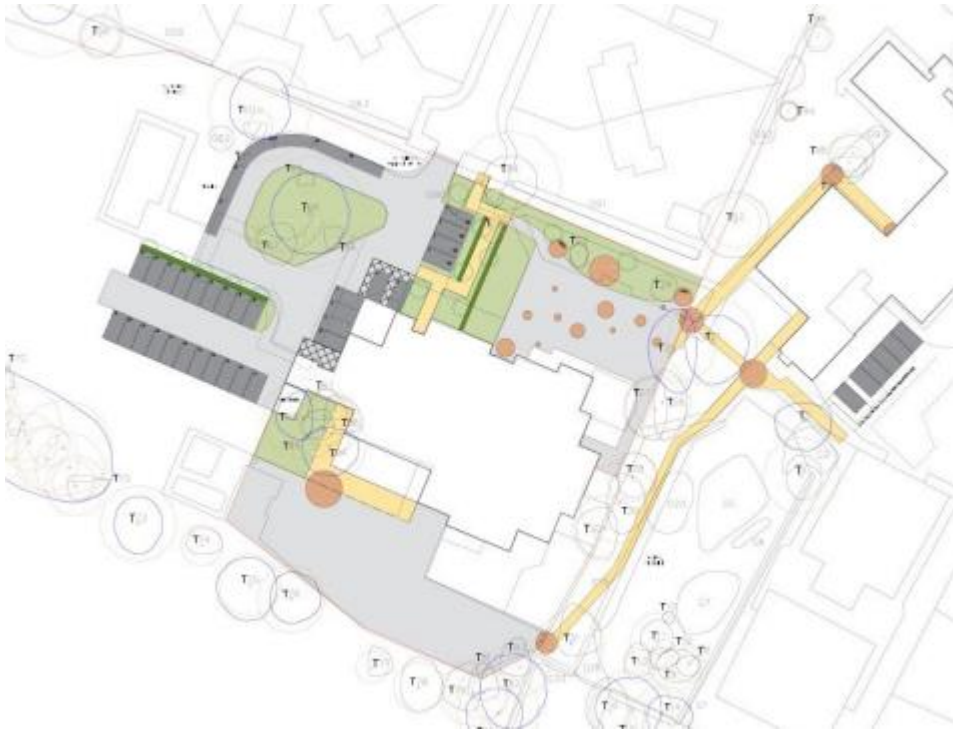
### **Erection of a 62-unit Extra Care housing facility land to the North of Holmsley Lane Woodlesford**

Including associated community facilities, parking, access, landscaping and infrastructure.



### **Bramhope Primary School, Tredgold Crescent, Bramhope**

Proposed alterations and extension to the existing school including new landscaping and reconfiguration of site access and car parking, new 2.4m boundary fencing.



### **Conversion and extension of Belmont House**

Conversion and extension of Belmont House to create 11 residential apartments; demolition of Round House and Coach House buildings and replaced by two residential buildings providing 7 and 6 apartments respectively;



### **Land at Leeds Road, Collingham**



Reserved Matters application following the grant of outline planning permission on appeal in December 2016. The application dealt with the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the development. The Panel deferred and delegated the determination to officers subject to further negotiation, and consultation with ward Members on matters including the inclusion of housing for the elderly, design, details relating to the design and access to the open spaces and mix of affordable housing. Following further discussions and the revision of the scheme the Reserved Matters were approved in December 2021.

**Demolition, extension and new build to create 175 new flats at Mount St Marys Church, Church Road, Richmond Hill**



Having been originally reported to North and East Panel in February 2021. the application was further considered by Panel in December 2021 as the applicant wanted to vary the scheme to include the provision of build-to-rent units. The development involved the partial demolition and extension to Mount St Marys Church, a

Grade II\* listed building to create 62 residential units, and the demolition of a grade II listed presbytery and its replacement with a five-storey block of 113 flats. One key aspect of the scheme was its lack of viability, which was the justification for partial demolition as the

buildings were in such a poor condition and the revenue from the scheme would go towards the restoration and refurbishment of the most important elements of the grade II\* listed building. The Legal Agreement was to include financial review clauses during the carrying out of the development so that in the event of a certain level of profit being achieved then the delivery of affordable units could be reviewed. Changes that Panel secured included saving a Celtic Cross and its re-use as part of the redevelopment, and funding for the restoration of steps that formed part of a historic footpath that would be reopened as part of this development.

## Development Plan Panel (DPP)

The main focus of activity for Development Plan Panel has been as follows:

- Local Plan Update 1 focusses on developing new planning policy to help address the climate emergency and meet Leeds' ambition to have made rapid progress towards carbon neutrality. The Panel endorsed the Local Plan Update 1 scoping consultation material and recommended it to Executive Board, with the consultation taking place from July to September 2021. The consultation helped steer a path towards policy options and incorporated a series of well-received measures including webinars and mobile-phone friendly consultation material. DPP received a report of the consultation in January 2022 and have been working through policy issues and options with officers as part of the drive towards having a full suite of draft policies. This full suite of policies, formally known as a Publication Draft will be consulted on in Autumn/winter 2022. The Plan will propose policies that require new developments to be zero carbon, to monitor their embodied carbon, to ensure that trees lost as a result of development are replaced by an amount of new planting commensurate with the amount of carbon storage lost, amongst many other measures that will improve the quality and sustainability of new development;
- The Site Allocations Plan Remittal Examination in Public took place in September 2021, following which Development Plan Panel considered and recommended to Executive Board a consultation on a schedule of Inspector Main Modifications to the Plan, which took place from December 2021 to January 2022. Following this consultation, the Inspector re-opened the hearing sessions for a single session to discuss the implications of the Integrated Rail Plan on the proposals within the Plan, which took place in May 2022;
- Throughout the year Government announced a series of confirmed and proposed changes to the planning system. Members of Development Plan Panel were informed of these changes, including information sessions on the National Model Design Code, a revised National Planning Policy Framework, the inclusion of the First Homes concept within national guidance, and the Environment Act, which has introduced the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain through new development;
- Development Plan Panel considered the updated Local Development Scheme which reflected that preparatory work has now begun on Local Plan Update 2, which aims to ensure that the Leeds Local Plan is up to date and in accordance with national policy, with the full scoping of the subject of the Plan to take place in autumn winter 2022;
- The Council had adopted an interim Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to ensure the robust continuation of public consultation during the pandemic. However, as restrictions have eased, work has progressed on a full update to the SCI, which seeks to formalise more modern, responsive and engaging methods of consultation into the process. Panel considered and commented on the draft documentation and structure in January 2022 before endorsing formal consultation

on the document from March to April 2022. Following consultation, officers are currently making final changes before the document is adopted;

- DPP also considered the draft Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which seeks to combine and streamline a number of existing policy documents, reflecting on comments received at the previous round of consultation and endorsing the material for a further (and final) round of consultation from March to April 2022. Following this consultation, officers are currently implementing final changes before the adoption of the SPD.



## **Reflecting on the year and looking ahead**

### **Member training**

Part 2 Article 8.2.2 of the Council's Constitution, states that Members of the Plans Panels must complete all compulsory training prior to taking part on a Plan Panel. All Plans Panel members and substitute Plans Panel members in 2021-22 have undertaken the prescribed compulsory training. A programme of discretionary member training was produced for 2021-22. Four well-attended sessions were made available to all members of the Council as follows:

- Introduction to Climate Emergency and Planning
- Biodiversity and Trees
- Viability and Housing
- Planning Enforcement

### **Meeting of the Joint Plans Panel (JPP)**

JPP is a consultative meeting of all three Plans Panels and the Development Plan Panel which considers planning performance, service improvement matters and changes to the planning process. There have been two meetings in the reporting period. Matters brought before these meetings included:

- Half year and end of year Planning and Sustainable Development Performance Reports
- VU CITY presentation
- Design Matters presentation

### **The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB)**

The Government is currently proposing a range of new measures which will impact on the service through the LURB. Whilst the Bill has already received criticism for a lack of detail of the changes, the service is trying to anticipate some of them and is already developing a digital planning strategy which will use automation and the latest technology to drive efficiencies and provide a better and quicker customer experience, this includes both for development management and plan making.

### **Policy progress**

As referred to above, with regard to the work programme of Development Plan Panel, the Council is still awaiting the Inspector's report for the Site Allocations Plan Remittal. Early correspondence from the Inspector in July 2022 indicates that they may seek further modifications to the Plan.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 27TH JULY, 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, D Coupar, S Golton,  
M Harland, H Hayden, J Pryor, M Rafique  
and F Venner

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Carter

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBER:** Councillor A Lamb

**15 Substitute Member**

Under the provisions of Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 3.2.6, Councillors A Lamb was invited to attend the meeting on behalf of Councillor A Carter, who had submitted his apologies for absence from the meeting.

**16 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There was no information contained within the agenda which was designated as being exempt from publication.

**17 Late Items**

Late Item of Business – ‘Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds’

With the agreement of the Chair, a late item of business was admitted to the agenda entitled, ‘Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds’ to be considered within the ‘Adults and Children Social Care and Health Partnerships’ portfolio. Given the significance of this matter, it was deemed appropriate for the Board to receive an update at this meeting. This report was coming to Executive Board as a late item of business to ensure that Board Members received detailed information on this issue as requested, and as undertaken by the Executive Member for Adult and Children Social Care and Health Partnerships at the recent meeting of full Council. (Minute No. 34 refers).

**18 Declaration of Interests**

In relation to Agenda Item 6, ‘Refreshing Leeds’ Cultural Investment Programme’, Cllr Pryor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, and as such, Councillor Pryor did not participate in the consideration of that item, and left the meeting room for the duration of that consideration. (Minute No. 20 refers).

**19 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 be approved as a correct record.

## **ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

### **20 Refreshing Leeds' Cultural Investment Programme**

Further to Minute No. 9, 23 June 2021, the Director of City Development submitted a report that sought approval for a one-year cultural grants programme for 2023/24 whilst a comprehensive review and refresh of the Council's current cultural funding programmes, arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired, was undertaken, prior to a revised funding programme being launched for the period 2024-27.

By way of introduction to the report, the Board received information on the key reasons as to why the proposal for a one year programme was being put forward. It was noted that the one year programme would operate within the existing budget envelope and that organisations would be required to apply for grants. However in doing so, it was emphasised that there would be an extensive application window and that organisations would be supported through this process.

Responding to an enquiry, Members received further information regarding the guidance and supportive measures which were currently available to organisations, with it being noted that consideration was being given to the ways in which cultural organisations could be signposted and supported in accessing other funding streams, where appropriate.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information and assurance regarding the role which would be played by the Leeds 2023 Neighbourhood Hosts, with it being noted that the Hosts were currently being recruited for each Ward, which was a process being undertaken by the Leeds 2023 organisation.

Also, in response to a specific enquiry officers undertook to provide the Member in question with details of the current financial position regarding the funding of the Leeds 2023 initiative.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the delivery of a one-year arts@leeds programme for 2023/24, which supports the transition towards a refreshed cultural funding programme, be approved;
- (b) That the necessary authority be delegated to Director City Development in order to enable the Director to approve funding decisions for the one year programme, 2023/24;
- (c) That the development of a refreshed three-year Culture Investment Programme for 2024-27, be approved, with the development and adoption of the Cultural Investment Programme being subject to open consultation and engagement with the sector prior to Executive Board approval being sought in 2023.

(Further to the declaration of interest as detailed at Minute No. 18, Councillor Pryor took no part in the consideration of, or voting upon this matter and left the meeting room for the duration of this item)

**21 Outcome of consultation to permanently increase learning places at Leeds City Academy from September 2023**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report on a proposal to increase learning places at Leeds City Academy, brought forward by The White Rose Academies Trustees working in partnership with Leeds City Council. The report detailed the outcomes of the associated consultation undertaken and which sought agreement to related Authority to Spend proposals.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted and welcomed the popularity of the school, which had led to the submitted proposals of expansion.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposal to permanently expand Leeds City Academy from a capacity of 750 to 1050 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 150 to 210 with effect from September 2023, be noted; and that it also be noted that The White Rose Academies Trust Board, as the decision maker, have considered the outcome of that consultation and approved the proposal to expand Leeds City Academy;
- (b) That approval for authority to spend (ATS) up to £8.9m to deliver the proposed permanent expansion at Leeds City Academy, be granted, with final approval of expenditure being confirmed by the Director of Children and Families (in consultation with the Director of Resources and Director of City Development) following receipt of further detailed design work and planning applications;
- (c) That it be noted that The White Rose Academies Trust intends to self-deliver the build scheme and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2023.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES**

**22 Living with Covid - What does 'Living with Covid' mean for Leeds?**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report outlining what 'Living with Covid-19' meant for Leeds, and which sought the Board's support for continuing to promote safer behaviour messaging and the Covid vaccination programme in communities. The report also highlighted the robust and resilient plans and systems in place to protect the highest risk settings and groups from the impact of Covid, and the structures that were in place to respond to any change in circumstances.

Members received an introduction to the report which provided an overview of the key points, with it being noted that work continued on the preparation and management of winter pressures in this area.

Responding to a Member's comments regarding the Council's post-pandemic ways of working and the need to ensure that customer facing roles continued, it was highlighted that many services across the Council continued to be delivered in person. Further to this, the Board was assured that work continued in liaison with Scrutiny on this matter, with a view to submitting a related report to a future Executive Board.

Emphasis was placed upon the need to ensure that the impact of the pandemic on young people remained a priority. In response, assurance was provided that this was the case and it was noted that this would be further addressed in the subsequent agenda item (*Leeds – A Mentally Healthy City: Update Report*). Further to this, assurance was provided that a key principle to the approach taken remained the need to strike the correct balance between minimising the risk from the virus and infection whilst at the same time looking to preserve an individual's overall wellbeing.

Tribute was paid to the Director of Public Health and her team for the work which had been undertaken throughout the pandemic to the present day. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of the work undertaken by the Leeds Health Protection Board together with the guiding principles of that work, and how that had been used as a platform for the wider actions taken in response to the pandemic across the city.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the proposed approach for the Leeds system going forward, as set out in section 11 of the submitted report, be approved, which looks to ensure that people are supported as we move into 'Living with Covid'.

#### **23 Leeds - A Mentally Healthy City: Update report**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which provided an update on the current position regarding mental health in Leeds and the provision in place to support good mental health across the city. In addition, the report outlined the actions being taken to further develop a partnership approach in this area, in line with the 'Best City Ambition' and which aimed to ensure that Leeds was a Mentally Healthy City which created conditions for positive mental health in all our communities.

In introducing the submitted report, the Board received an overview of the current position in Leeds, how that position had been affected by the Covid pandemic, and the actions being taken to address the challenges faced. Members received further information on the Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy: 'Future in Mind', and it was noted that the 'All Age Leeds Mental Health Strategy' was currently scheduled to be relaunched on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, which was World Mental Health Day.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board was provided with further information on how the relaunch of the 'All Age Leeds Mental Health Strategy' would be promoted.

The importance of further liaison taking place with partners across the city to continue the development of self-support networks in Leeds was highlighted as an area to focus upon and promote moving forward.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the current and future challenges around promoting good mental health in the city, be recognised, together with the fact that Leeds City Council has invested in programmes of work in the city that promote good mental health and prevent mental ill health;
- (c) That the mental health work being undertaken across Leeds be promoted, with support being provided for the continued creation of conditions for positive mental health in local communities.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE**

##### **24 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which presented a range of actions being taken across the Council, and with partners, to better understand and deliver on the city's ambition to strengthen resilience against the impacts of climate change locally, and in doing so, which sought the Board's approval for the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, based upon the approach outlined. The report also sought agreement to enhanced city-wide engagement in Leeds on the Council's activity to support both climate mitigation and adaptation.

By way of introduction to the report, the Board received an overview of the key challenges faced as a result of climate change, and the range of actions being taken to adapt to the current position and become more resilient. However, it was highlighted that at the same time, work continued on progressing towards a position of net zero emissions.

Regarding Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC), a Member noted the recent change in Chair of that committee. In response to a Member's comments encouraging Executive Member attendance at CEAC meetings, it was noted that the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate was a member of CEAC and a regular attendee. Further to this, clarification was sought as to whether this comment related to other Executive Members.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information regarding the range of key areas which were intended to be included within the proposed programme of engagement over the coming 12 months.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, based upon the approach as outlined within the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) That a programme of enhanced citywide engagement in Leeds over the next 12 months on the Council's activity to support both climate mitigation and adaptation, be supported.

**COMMUNITIES**

**25 Understanding and addressing the cost of living crisis**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report providing an overview of the current position regarding the cost of living crisis and which highlighted measures being undertaken nationally to address such issues. The report also focussed upon the local approach being undertaken from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective, highlighting the key actions and programmes.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted the current position in Leeds with regard to the cost of living crisis and provided an overview of the key actions being taken and proposed to address the challenges faced.

Members discussed the role of Government in such matters. Also, the Board considered the importance of reflecting on the experience gained from the supportive approach taken during the pandemic and how that could be utilised when looking to support communities throughout the cost of living crisis.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board further considered the role of the Council in this area and received details on how the supportive approach taken by the Council continued to adapt to current circumstances, and the ways in which this approach would continue to evolve, with officers undertaking to provide further detail to the Member in question, if required. In discussing the proposed key areas of focus moving forward, specific reference was made to the establishment of a cross-cutting welfare group, with further detail being provided on the intended work programme, timeframe and reporting mechanisms for that group.

In conclusion, Opposition Groups were invited to become involved in the welfare group and the associated work that it would undertake.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted, and that the approach being adopted, as outlined within the report, be endorsed;
- (b) That the next steps, as set out fully in paragraphs 94-99 of the submitted report, be endorsed, which will accelerate progress towards the mission set out in the Best City Ambition through:-



- Ensuring the three pillars of the Best City Ambition strongly and consistently reflect the challenges of tackling poverty and inequality.
- Transitioning to a new performance framework for the Best City Ambition to reinforce and embed linkages between the three pillars in tackling poverty and inequality.
- Establishing a breakthrough priority with the aim of: “working together across sectors to harness the capacity and capability in the city, its communities and those with lived experience to develop a city solution to welfare provision and addressing the cost-of-living crisis – with a specific focus on food, fuel, housing and digital inclusion”.

- (c) That it be noted that the Chief Officer for Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the actions and recommendations as detailed above and included within the submitted report.

### **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

#### **26 Review of Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making**

The City Solicitor submitted a report setting out proposed amendments to the Council’s Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making, following a review which had been undertaken as an action arising from the Annual Governance Statement approved in 2021. The purpose of the proposed amendments was to ensure that the protocol remained up to date and fit for purpose.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the amended Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making, as presented at Appendix A to the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) That the authority to make future amendments to the Protocol be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Leader of Council, Opposition Members of Executive Board and the Chief Officer Financial Services; with it being noted that the Monitoring Officer will amend Article 15 of the Council’s Constitution to reflect this resolution.

#### **27 Annual Corporate Risk Management Report**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided the Board with an update on the most significant risks currently featured on the Council’s corporate risk register. In addition, the report provided summary assurances which described the key controls in place to manage those risks and also provided information on further actions planned in this area.

**RESOLVED –** That the Annual Risk Management Report together with the assurances provided on the most significant corporate risks, as presented

within the submitted report and appendix, be noted, in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy and the Board's overarching responsibility for their management.

## **28 Annual Corporate Performance Report 2021/22**

The Director of Resources submitted a report presenting the Annual Corporate Performance Report for 2021/22 which reviewed the progress made in delivering the Council's ambitions, outcomes and priorities, as set out in the Best Council Plan (BCP) during the 2021/22 financial year. The report also noted that for performance reporting purposes, 2022 would be a transitional year given that there would be a shift from existing reporting frameworks based on the Best Council Plan towards a revised approach to support the Best City Ambition.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry, the Board received further detail on the work currently being undertaken on the refresh of the target and performance framework as the Council transitioned from the Best Council Plan to the Best City Ambition.

In response to an enquiry, the Board noted that some of the performance data compiled could be broken down to Ward level, and that the Member in question could be provided with further information on this, if required. In addition, Members discussed the range of priorities that the Council had, and the ways in which the Council's day to day decision making and establishment of wider policies linked to such priorities.

**RESOLVED** – That the Annual Performance Report, be received, and that the progress made during 2021/22 in delivering the ambitions and priorities set out in the Best Council Plan, as detailed within the submitted report and appendix, be noted.

## **RESOURCES**

## **29 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Quarter 1 Update**

The Chief Officer (Financial Services) submitted a report providing an update on the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account, as at Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 financial year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the key points within it. The Board also received details of the final pay offer from the National Employers which had recently been announced, and it was noted that work was being undertaken to identify the potential financial impact of this upon the Council. An undertaking was provided that the Board would be kept updated on such matters and that the intention was to submit a report on this, together with the impact of other inflationary pressures, to the September 2022 Board.

Responding to a specific enquiry, it was reiterated that an update report would be brought to Executive Board 6 months after the implementation of the

amendments made to aspects of the Council's non-residential Adult Social Care charging policy.

A Member requested that as part of the monthly financial health update report to Executive Board, further detail was provided within those reports to the current position regarding the 'Business As Usual' savings proposals.

Responding to a Member's comments, the Board received an update on the work being undertaken to manage the identified budget pressures referenced in the report within the Children and Families directorate, with specific reference to the 'Little Owls' nurseries and the provision of semi-independent living placements for 16 – 17 year olds.

In conclusion, the Executive Member for Resources highlighted the cross-directorate approach that continued to be taken when looking to manage and overcome the significant financial challenges that continued to be faced.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That it be noted that at Quarter 1 the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £1.8m for 2022/23, which is comprised of directorate pressures of £2.3m, netted down by a strategic saving of £0.5m;
- (b) That it be noted that directorates will be required to present action plans to mitigate the £2.3m pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019, which are scheduled to be received at the September 2022 Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that the position as detailed within the submitted report does not reflect the potential effects of the 2022/23 pay award negotiations, other inflationary rises or the wider impact of rising cost of living pressures on the Council's financial position, above that which has already been included within the 2022/23 Budget; with it being noted that any pressures arising from emerging issues will be reported to a future Executive Board. Furthermore, it be noted that proposals will need to be identified by directorates in order to absorb such pressures, which will be included in the action plans as referenced in resolution (b) above.

**30 Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27 Quarter 1 Update**

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report setting out the Council's updated Capital Programme for 2022-2027, which was split between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA), with a forecast of resources available over that period. The report also included a specific update on the 2022/23 programme and sought agreement to several injections into the Capital Programme, as detailed.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received details on the proportion of the Capital Programme that was funded via borrowing, and with regard to a related enquiry regarding the impact upon Minimum Revenue

Provision (MRP), officers undertook to provide this further information to the Member in question.

In response to a specific enquiry, the Board received clarification and further detail regarding the 'City Development Public Realm' entry within the 'Major Programmes & Other Directorate Schemes' section of the report.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the following injections into the Capital Programme, as detailed at Appendix A (iii) to the submitted report, be approved:-
- £2,000.0k of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Grant for the 'Fitting The Future' Housing Leeds scheme;
  - £150.0k of additional Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Grant from WYCA for the Public Bike Hire Scheme; and
  - £100.0k of Department for Education Grant for Sustainable Drainage at two Schools in Otley.
- (b) That it be noted that the above resolution to inject funding of £2,250.0k into the Capital Programme will be implemented by the Chief Officer Financial Services;
- (c) That the latest position on the General Fund and HRA Capital Programme, as at Quarter 1 of 2022/23, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted.

**ADULTS AND CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS**

**31 Leeds City Council Fostering Service: Annual Fostering Report, April 2021 to March 2022**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting an overview of the work of the Fostering Service during 2021/22, and which invited the Board to adopt the 2021/22 Fostering Service Annual Report, as appended, together with the priorities set out for the forthcoming year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the key points detailed within the Fostering Service Annual Report, with it being noted that attracting more foster carers remained a key priority moving forward.

Members welcomed the contents of the report, and highlighted the valuable role played by foster carers across the city.

Responding to an enquiry, the Board received further detail on the processes in place and the range of data that was available to identify the reasons why foster carers had left the Council, and how that data could be used when looking to recruit more foster carers.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the 2021/22 Fostering Service Annual Report, as appended to the submitted report, be adopted, together with the service priorities for

next year; with it being noted that this resolution will be implemented during 2022-23;

- (b) That the Fostering Service's plans to increase the range of carers and placements available, be noted and supported, with it being noted that this resolution will be implemented during 2022-23;
- (c) That it be noted that the responsible officer for such matters is the Head of Service, Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting.

### **32 Adults & Health Service Review 6 - Care Delivery: Care Homes, Implementation**

Further to Minute No. 25, 23 June 2021, the Director of Adults and Health submitted a report providing an update on the implementation of the decommissioning of services at Home Lea House residential long stay care home, in Rothwell, and Richmond House Short Stay Residential Care Home, in Farsley.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update on the expected timeframe of the current refurbishment of Dolphin Manor and the management of that process in terms of the residents living there.

Regarding the site of the former Richmond House in Farsley, it was requested that officers continue to work with local Ward Councillors on the development of proposals. Also, responding to an enquiry, officers undertook to investigate whether it would be feasible for the site to be used for extra care housing, considering that an adjacent facility was used for the same purpose, and provide the findings to the relevant Members.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the successful transfer of all customers to alternative services where that was their preference, be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the closure of both care homes has been achieved without any compulsory redundancies, with staff having made a successful transition to their new posts within the Council where they have chosen to remain in employment, a process which has been supported through the Council's Managing Staff Reductions policy;
- (c) That the achievement of financial savings of £165k in 2021/22, and £1.531m per annum from 2022/23 following the closure of the two care homes, be noted;
- (d) That it be noted that work is ongoing in relation to the future use of the sites.

(As detailed within section 34 of the submitted report, this report was not eligible for Call In on the grounds that the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that 'The power to Call In decisions does not extend to decisions which have been the subject of a previous Call In').

### 33 **Leeds Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report which recommended to Executive Board the approval and formal sign-up to the Leeds Health and Care Partnership (LHCP) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU formally presented the approach towards working together that the Leeds Health and Care Partnership was taking to achieve the agreed vision for Leeds to be “*a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest will improve their health the fastest*”.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the reference to ‘Scrutiny’ in the diagrams at section 14 of the submitted report, with a recommendation that the Memorandum of Understanding document, as presented at Appendix 1 be amended to incorporate appropriate reference to Scrutiny, in line with the illustration within those diagrams.

Responding to a Member’s comment that aspects of the approach were complex, the Board received further information on the reasons for this approach, with assurance being provided that the Council would continue to work collaboratively with partners in this area, look to maximise the benefits of this model for the people of Leeds and West Yorkshire, and that the approach taken would be made as comprehensible as possible.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That subject to the comments above regarding the inclusion of appropriate reference in the Memorandum of Understanding document to ‘Scrutiny’ being taken into consideration, the Board approves and signs up to the Leeds Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, as presented within the submitted report and appendices;
- (b) That the draft Leeds Integrated Care Board (ICB) Committee Terms of Reference (which were approved by the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board on 1 July 2022), be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out the strategic priorities in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Pillar of the new City Ambition, is due to be refreshed later in the year.

### 34 **Late Item of Business: Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report providing an overview of the national and regional context together with the current position in Leeds regarding Children’s Social Work Services. The report also outlined the actions being taken by Children and Families to ensure that the service was able to continue to support vulnerable children and young people to enjoy good outcomes.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that this was a report that she had undertaken to submit to Executive Board at the recent meeting of full Council. Further to this, the Executive Member provided a

detailed summary of the key points within the report in terms of the challenges being faced in this area both on a national and local level, together with the range of actions being taken to address them. The Executive Member emphasised the crucial role played by all those involved in the outstanding delivery of children and families social work across the city which it was acknowledged was being undertaken in very challenging circumstances.

In considering the report, Councillor Lamb brought to the Board's attention that he was attending Executive Board in a non-voting capacity, whilst also being Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. Given the timing of this report's submission, he advised that he was not aware that the Board would be considering this item when agreeing to attend the Executive Board meeting, however, he emphasised that in approaching this matter he would endeavour to keep both of his respective roles in mind.

Officers responded to several questions which were put by Members. In summary, the answers provided were as follows:-

- With regard to a number of enquiries around caseload levels, assurances were provided that cases would remain open whilst it was felt that a child or family continued to require support or protection;
- Regarding the level of vacancies reported, it was noted that the vacancies existed in teams across the service;
- With regard to the approach taken towards co-working, it was confirmed that this practice continued, with the benefits of that approach being highlighted;
- Responding to an enquiry, further to the details within the report, Members received an update on the current position with regard to the grievance submitted by a group of social workers;
- The Board received an update regarding the work which was being undertaken regionally and nationally, in terms of collaborative working with other Authorities and also as part of Leeds' role to help shape the service going forward.

From a national perspective, emphasis was placed upon the need for Local Government funding structures to be reviewed, and specifically regarding Local Authority delivered children and families social care, it was highlighted that in terms of the resourcing of such services there needed to be a parity of esteem with that delivered by the NHS.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the lateness of the report, those comments were acknowledged, and the Executive Member highlighted that it had been deemed appropriate to submit the report to this meeting, following the undertaking at the recent full Council meeting and in order to demonstrate that the concerns raised were being taken seriously and to formally provide assurances in response to them.

Emphasis was placed upon the integral and highly valued role played by social workers in the safeguarding of children and young people across the city which was being undertaken under very challenging circumstances. Further to this, assurances were provided that the Council would continue to

listen to and work through the concerns that had been raised, both in the short and longer term.

Members discussed the importance of an open approach being taken when considering such important matters, which it was noted was the key factor to submitting this report to the Board as a late item of business.

In conclusion, the Executive Member reiterated the Council's appreciation for the integral role played by all those involved in the delivery of children and families social work across the city and the outstanding service that was being provided in very challenging circumstances. In addition, the Executive Member reiterated the importance of championing the services provided by children and families social care in Leeds and promoting the service as a positive place to work.

**RESOLVED** – That the assurances regarding the Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds, as outlined within the submitted report, be noted.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN  
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022





## COUNCIL MEETING – 14th SEPTEMBER 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP1	5/9/22	6/9/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Alan Lamb
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate)
Relevant Director	Director of City Development

This Council is concerned by increasing reports of housing developers delivering new homes that are not up to the required standards of the new occupiers. This can be individual houses or issues across whole developments that are left uncorrected by the same developers time and time again, leaving residents frustrated and potentially out of pocket.

Council is further concerned that hard-working plans panels are working through detailed planning applications and applying appropriate conditions only for this work to be ignored or not fully implemented. Council therefore believes residents on new developments are being treated as second class citizens through a failure to enforce planning conditions and through a lack of ambition in the use of conditions, for example, to introduce brown bin collections on new developments.

This Council calls for a refreshed, robust and proactive planning enforcement policy to correct any perceptions of under delivery in the application of planning conditions and to include the naming and shaming of developers who are repeat offenders by publishing their names through the Plans Panel Annual Report or appropriate committee.

Council calls for a report to be brought before Executive Board at the earliest opportunity setting out this new approach and the timescale for its introduction.

Councillor Alan Lamb

### Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
  - Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
  - Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
- (including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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## COUNCIL MEETING – 14th SEPTEMBER 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP2	5/9/22	6/9/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Stewart Golton
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Communities)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

This Council is alarmed at the prospect of a year long economic recession, consumer price inflation predicted to reach 22%, and the prospect of the average annual family energy bill reaching £5600 in January 2023.

Council recognises that the major responsibility for responding to the escalating cost of living crisis to improve the prospects for Leeds citizens lays with national government, and we will use our local leadership role to seek to maximise the effective delivery of government policy as it develops.

Council also notes the “Understanding and addressing the cost-of-living crisis” paper agreed at the Executive Board meeting on 27th July, and the spectrum of ‘Food, Fuel, Housing and Digital’ poverty activity the Council is involved in.

This Council believes that the scale of potential fuel and food poverty on citizens, and the unsustainable fuel and inflationary pressures on local businesses, call for a scale of localised focus and effort similar to that which was set up to confront the social and economic impact of the Covid Pandemic.

Council therefore calls on the administration to make immediately available to community committees a significant injection to well-being funds to specifically respond to the needs of their community in the face of the developing economic downturn. Such an investment will direct the experience of elected councillors as community leaders to the task of supporting local businesses, engaging charities and volunteers, and creating partnership initiatives to better support those suffering from fuel and food poverty both this year and next.

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### Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
- Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting

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(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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## COUNCIL MEETING – 14th SEPTEMBER 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP3	5/9/22	6/9/22

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Submitted by:	Councillor Peter Carlill
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Environment and Housing)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

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This Council is very concerned the Government continues to allow raw sewage to be dumped into rivers flowing through Leeds.

Council is shocked Environment Agency figures show raw sewage has been pumped into Yorkshire's natural environment once every 18.75 minutes since 2016 and the number of spills has increased by over 100,000% in that time.

Council notes that the Government's failure to implement effective regulation, as well as Government cuts to the Environment Agency budget since 2010 have reduced the amount of surveillance of water companies aimed at stopping pollution in rivers and caused an increase in raw sewage dumping.

Council calls on the Government to end this disgraceful practice by allowing unlimited fines, holding water company bosses legally and financially accountable for their negligence, and by toughening up regulations that currently allow the system to be abused.

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### Deadlines for submission

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