

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 17th January, 2024 at 1.30 pm

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

1 Minutes of the last Meeting 5 - 20

To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th November 2023.

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 the Calculation of the Council Tax and Business Rates Tax Bases for 2024/25 21 - 70

To consider the report of the Chief Officer - Financial Services a) seeking agreement to the proposal that a Long-Term Empty Premium of 100% be levied on dwellings that have remained empty and unfurnished for more than one year rather than the current two years, b) seeking agreement to the 2024/25 council tax bases for Leeds and the parish/town councils set out in the report, c) providing indicative business rates shares for 2024/25 and to request Council to give delegated authority to the Chief Officer – Financial Services to finalise the shares and to submit them in the National Non-Domestic Rates 1 Return 2024/25 on or before 31st January 2024.

6 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel** 71 - 82

To consider the report of the City Solicitor presenting to Council the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) following a meeting on 11th December 2023 setting out their conclusions and recommendations.

7 **Report on Appointments** 83 - 84

To consider the report of the City Solicitor on appointments.

8 **Report on the Annual Report of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** 85 - 98

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces introducing the Annual Report of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, which demonstrates the work of the committee undertaken throughout the 2023/24 municipal year to date.

9 **Executive Questions**

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

10 **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board** 99 - 120

To receive the minutes in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

11 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Buckley) - Transport** 121 - 122

This Council is concerned by the current approach to transport policy in our district centres and the city centre. Instead of making it easier for people to get where they want to go, this administration seems intent on pursuing a "Disconnecting Leeds" strategy which is increasingly ineffective, anti-motorist, and damaging to the local economy.

Proposals to introduce parking charges in Guiseley and Rawdon, Wetherby, and Adel and Wharfedale wards would harm outer areas, discouraging people from visiting our district centres and local attractions. Council is concerned that similar proposals to introduce charges may follow in other district centre cars parks in Calverley and Farsley, Ardsley and Robin Hood, and Pudsey. This short-sighted policy comes at a time when the local buses serving outer areas are more unreliable than ever, with timetable changes and cuts to routes that have made travelling to and from these areas of Leeds much more difficult.

Meanwhile our City Centre is frequently in a state of gridlock, particularly around the railway station, with visitors to Leeds often left confused and frustrated by new road layouts and disruption.

This Council calls for a rethink of the city's approach to transport policy and strategy, and asks that a report is brought to Executive Board setting out options that will achieve the following:

- Improved connectivity to, from, and within our town and district centres;
- Cancellation of any and all plans to introduce new charging in town and district centre car parks, parks and attractions;
- A pause to any future planned transport schemes in the city centre while a review into their effectiveness is conducted, drawing on lessons learned from disruption caused by recent schemes;
- Making the city centre more accessible by car for shoppers, theatre, restaurant and bar goers, so that all can enjoy our amazing city centre.

12 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Dixon) -** 123 - 124
Sports Clubs

This council agrees that, subject to legal considerations, community sports clubs in Leeds shall be granted the right to lease their sports grounds owned by the local authority on a long-term lease at a peppercorn rent – giving clubs long term security of tenure necessary to grow.

13 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Harland) -** 125 - 126
Household Support Fund

This Council calls on the Government to extend the Household Support Fund (HSF) before it runs out in March 2024.

Council notes the fund provides a lifeline to tens of thousands of households in Leeds struggling to afford energy, food, clothing and other essentials. Council is concerned that across Leeds families are living under the threat of losing this vital lifeline, especially given one in five children in Leeds are living in poverty.

Council further notes many charities and third sector organisations in Leeds depend on HSF to deliver emergency cost of living support to families who are at risk of financial hardship.

Council is deeply concerned that the Government did not use its Autumn Statement or draft Local Government Finance Settlement to confirm an extension of the fund, and therefore calls for the Government to provide urgent clarity and reassurance to these families, and extend the Household Support Fund beyond its current end date of March 2024.



Tom Riordan CBE
Chief Executive

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.

Note to observers of the meeting – to remotely observe the meeting please use the link below and click 'link to the view the meeting recording'

[Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](http://leeds.gov.uk)

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.