



SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on
Thursday, 19th September, 2024 at 10.30 am

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

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr S Ali	- Beeston and Holbeck
Cllr B Anderson	- Adel and Wharfedale
Cllr L Cunningham	- Armley
Cllr L Farley	- Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
Cllr S Golton (Chair)	- Rothwell
Cllr K Haigh	- Farnley and Wortley
Cllr A Hannan	- Headingley and Hyde Park
Cllr N Harrington	- Wetherby
Cllr Z Hussain	- Roundhay
Cllr M Iqbal	- Hunslet and Riverside
Cllr A Maloney	- Beeston and Holbeck
Cllr A McCluskey	- Farnley and Wortley

Note to observers of the meeting: We strive to ensure our public committee meetings are inclusive and accessible for all. If you are intending to observe a public meeting in-person, please advise us in advance by email (FacilitiesManagement@leeds.gov.uk) of any specific access requirements, or if you have a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) that we need to take into account. Please state the name, date and start time of the committee meeting you will be observing and include your full name and contact details'.

To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'To View Meeting' 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.

[Scrutiny Board \(Environment, Housing & Communities\) - 19 September 2024](#)

Principal Scrutiny Adviser:
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A G E N D A

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

3

LATE ITEMS

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

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

4

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

5

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

MINUTES - 18 JULY 2024 AND 31 JULY 2024

5 - 22

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024 and the minutes of the call-in meeting held on 31 July 2024.

7

WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

23 - 36

To receive an update from the Chief Officer (Environmental Services) in relation to Leeds' Household Waste Strategy.

8

FOOD STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE

37 - 114

Members are asked to consider Leeds Food Strategy Progress Report.

Members are asked to note that the full report is provided in the agenda pack for context and information. However, it is anticipated that this will inform a discussion focused on the elements of the strategy associated with the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) – particularly the theme of sustainability and resilience in the context of the Council's climate action plan.

9

WORK SCHEDULE

115 -
140

To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2024/25 municipal year.

10

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) will take place at **10.30am** on **23 October 2024**. There will be a pre-meeting for Scrutiny Board members at **10.00am**.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S Golton in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, A Maloney,
A Hannan, A McCluskey, N Harrington,
S Ali, L Cunningham, Z Hussain and
M Iqbal

13 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

14 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items excluded from the public domain.

15 Late Items

There were no late items.

16 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Cunningham requested that the record notes she is an addiction nurse at Forward Leeds.

17 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies were received from Cllr Luke Farley. Cllr Eleanor Thomson attended as a substitute.

The Scrutiny Board also noted apologies from James Rogers (Director, Communities, Housing & Environment) and Cllr Mary Harland (Executive Member, Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).

The Chair sent the best wishes of the Scrutiny Board to Cllr Harland.

18 Minutes - 20 June 2024

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of 20 June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 31st July, 2024

19 Progress Against the Priorities of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

Those in attendance for this item were:

- Alison Lowe (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime)
- Julie Reid (Head of Policing and Crime)
- Wendy Stevens (Research and Policy Manager)
- Katherine Bates (Research and Performance Officer)
- Chief Superintendent Stephen Dodds (Leeds District Commander, West Yorkshire Police)
- Paul Money (Chief Officer, Safer, Stronger Communities)

Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe provide introductory comments in relation to t progress made against the Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 24. She advised the Scrutiny Board that under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Mayor must produce a Police and Crime Plan, which sets out the strategic policing and crime priorities for West Yorkshire and how she plans to meet them.

She outlined the consultation process that had informed the Police and Crime Plan and reminded the Board of the four priorities that were the focus of the three-year strategy.

Alison Lowe reiterated her commitment to transparency in terms of how she holds the police to account on behalf of the West Yorkshire Mayor. She noted that Scrutiny has a role to play in reflecting the views of local people and therefore informing the way in which she seeks to hold West Yorkshire Police to account.

In response to member queries, she clarified the governance arrangements relating to herself, the Mayor, the Police and Crime Panel and West Yorkshire Police.

Members sought more information about the way in which West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and West Yorkshire Police work with partners to address cross border crimes. They were reassured by Alison Lowe and CSI Stephen Dodds that Leeds District Police and the Mayor work closely with counterparts in other localities across all tiers of their organisations.

The Scrutiny Board explored the balance between encouraging the public to report a crime and ensuring that the public do not put themselves at risk in the process of doing so.

Members raised concern about dangerous driving and obstructive parking near schools in the context of the local and regional Vision Zero ambitions. Alison Lowe outlined the regional activity in relation to Vision Zero but acknowledged the long term challenge of delivering societal change in relation to driving behaviours.

The Scrutiny Board was advised that colleagues on the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board would be examining Vision Zero in detail in September as part of their remit relating to highways.

Members welcomed the establishment of a Safer Travel Team and queried how the 15 PCSOs within that team are deployed across the region. The Scrutiny Board was informed that their work is informed by data provided through the Bus Safety Feedback Tool, which is available to passengers through the MCard app and website. Further information was provided about the communication strategy that supports and promotes this initiative.

Members requested a more detailed breakdown from the Deputy Mayor about where the Safer Travel team have been deployed to date and the reasons that have informed decisions about their deployment. Alison Lowe agreed to share information about the first six months of the project once that data is available.

Paul Money proposed that awareness raising of projects such as the Safer Travel Team could be considered as part of the refresh of the role of community safety champions, as part of the Community Committee review.

Members examined the approach to engagement with young people as part of the development of the new Police and Crime Plan. The Deputy mayor informed the Scrutiny Board that the current Police and Crime Plan had been created with young people in mind and young people remain an important consideration.

Alison Lowe outlined the role of the Violence Reduction Partnership in leading on interventions that have young people as a target audience. She also outlined the way in which WYCA engage with young people throughout the region via schools, youth groups and community organisations. She highlighted the role of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Group.

The Deputy Mayor advised the scrutiny members about the upcoming launch of the combined authority's Child First framework, which will advocate a new approach across all workstreams.

Members raised ongoing concerns about the safety of women and girls, noting the way in which Safer Parks guidance - produced by the University of Leeds and funded by WYCA - had informed the Scrutiny Board's approach to the design of greenspaces.

It was noted that £10k has been allocated to each West Yorkshire district to lever in further funding to support best practice in public realm design. Members expressed concern about the level of impact this funding could deliver.

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged the limited funding available for projects linked to parks. However, she provided examples of improvements across two

community parks in the region which have been developed in accordance with the Safer Parks Guidance and in consultation with local women and girls.

Members welcomed the increase in the proportion of frontline officers and staff recruited from ethnic minorities, while recognising that this still needs to increase further.

Members examined information relating to contacts with West Yorkshire Police. Improvements in call waiting times for 101 were highlighted, although the Mayor and CSI Dodds acknowledged waits could be longer than average during peak periods.

It was suggested that a reduction in 101 calls may reflect the fact that there are now more ways in which to report crimes. Members acknowledged the positive performance in relation to answering 999 calls with the service achieving the second fastest average answer time in the country during the last quarter.

In response to member queries, it was confirmed that the Mayor has surpassed her target for increasing the number of officers and staff in comparison to April 2021.

Concerns were outlined about organised crime, trap houses and drug dealing in some areas of the city. Partners considered the importance of a multi-agency response to such issues and recognised the impact on residents.

Similarly, a targeted response to reports of anti-social behaviour by groups of men in Roundhay Park was also discussed.

The Chair sought more information about the process of evaluation of performance and learning from the last three years that will inform the development of the next Police and Crime Plan.

The Chair thanked partners for their attendance and for the comprehensive report provided to members ahead of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that:

- a) The report be noted.
- b) Paul Money will reflect on opportunities for the refreshed remit of the Community Safety Champions to include engagement relating to schemes such as the Safer Travel Team.
- c) Deputy Mayor's office will provide further information about the deployment of the Safer Travel Team once data is available. Safer Travel Team once data is available.

20 Leeds Neighbourhoods & Partnerships policing update to Scrutiny Board 2024

Those in attendance for this item were:

- Chief Superintendent Stephen Dodds (Leeds District Commander, West Yorkshire Police)
- Chief Inspector Natasha Tierney (West Yorkshire Police)
- Paul Money (Chief Officer, Safer, Stronger Communities)

At the invitation of the Chair, CSI Stephen Dodds provided an introductory overview of the current activities, successes and challenges associated with Leeds District's Neighbourhood and Partnerships work to support community safety in the city.

He advised the Scrutiny Board that there has been a 9% reduction in crimes as compared to the previous 12-month period, which represented a fall of more than 28,000 offences. He went on to outline the structure of the teams in Leeds, highlighting the additional resources deployed to support the Off-Road Bike Team.

Key headlines identified in his comments included:

- Reductions in arson, residential burglary, criminal damage and theft of motor vehicles.
- A rise in rape and sexual offences attributable to more confident reporting and better police recording.
- An increase in shoplifting, albeit that the increase is at a lower rate than reported last year.
- The introduction of Solving Problems in Neighbourhoods (SPIN) meetings has been rolled out across the district and is seen as an example of best practice across the wider force.
- Targeted work in East Leeds has sought to tackle drugs related crime and has resulted in 35 arrests.
- Partnership working with Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team continues to be a significant part of the response to anti-social behaviour in the city.
- Domestic violence incidents have reduced but those being reported are increasingly complex. There has also been an increase in Claire's Law referrals.
- An update was provided on a partnership intensification month focused on knife crime which included bringing the Knife Angel to Leeds.

- Protests linked to current global events continue to require a neighbourhood policing presence, which involves diverting police officers from their core neighbourhood duties.

The Scrutiny Board thanked police partners for the thorough and encouraging report and welcomed an anticipated uplift in PCSOs and constables in Leeds.

At the request of members CSI Dodds provided an overview of the way in which officer resource is allocated across the district. He informed members that a formula is used centrally to deploy officers to district commanders – this considers issues including recorded crime, population, demand and environmental factors. Resource is then allocated locally according to need – CSI Dodds noted the need to have a minimum level of staff to meet on call demand for 101 and 999 calls, and to maintain staffing of safeguarding teams.

Members noted the reported decrease in antisocial behaviour linked to nuisance motorcycles and suggested this was contrary to the perception of residents in many communities in Leeds.

In response, members were advised that the efforts of the off-road team have delivered results and additional officers will be allocated to support their work to tackle the misuse of motorcycles and quads. The Scrutiny Board was advised that much of the work of the team relies upon gathering local evidence about perpetrators, particularly in areas identified as ‘hot spots.’ It is anticipated that there may be an increase in reports linked to more serious crimes such as vehicle thefts.

Other issues linked to the use of motorcycles and electric bikes included links to drug related crimes, the use of drones to follow perpetrators, and the most appropriate routes for reporting intimidatory but not necessarily criminal behaviours.

Members sought and received clarity around the financial challenges facing the force and expressed concern that pressure on the Council’s community budgets would further reduce the availability of funding for local officers.

Arrangements for training related to domestic violence, financial exploitation and coercive control were confirmed.

The Scrutiny Board explored the work of the multi-agency partnership group in response to anti-social behaviour linked to the Otley Run. During May action days were held to address behaviours that are known to increase in the summer. This approach was supported, included financially, by local members and will be replicated in August.

Members of the Board sought further information about whether a similar multi-agency response could be provided where regular incidents of anti-social behaviour are identified in town and district centres.

The Scrutiny Board acknowledged the detailed information about hate crime in the report and noted that a further session specifically examining hate crime was scheduled for December.

The Chair thanked partners for their attendance and for the substantial detail in the report presented to members, including the RAG rated data.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Request further information from West Yorkshire Police about the number of domestic violence incidents and convictions in Leeds.

21 Safer Leeds Annual Update

Individuals in attendance for this item were:

- Paul Money (Chief Officer, Safer Stronger Communities Team)
- Nadeem Siddique (Head of Community Relations and Cohesion)
- Claire Smith (Head of Safer Neighbourhoods & ASB)
- Mark Charlton (Head of Community Safeguarding)
- Chief Superintendent Stephen Dodds (Leeds District Commander, West Yorkshire Police)
- Chief Inspector Natasha Tierney (West Yorkshire Police)

Paul Money provided introductory comments in relation to both:

- a) Final annual update against priorities included in the Safer Stronger Communities Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024.
- b) Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024 – 2027.

He reiterated the priorities reflected in the Safer Stronger Communities Leeds Plan 2021-2024 and emphasised the understanding amongst the team of the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on individuals and communities.

He noted the alignment of the priorities within the Safer Stronger Communities Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024 with the Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027. He highlighted the importance across both strategies of early intervention and preventative activity informed by strong community intelligence.

Paul summarised the progress made against key deliverables within the current strategy. Work over recent years has included a focus on long term problem solving in communities, tackling violence against women and girls, and tackling serious youth violence.

The Scrutiny Board reflected on the strong partnership arrangements in place in Leeds and recognised that these are integral to delivering progress in relation to shared priorities. Members acknowledged the need for alignment between the Safer Stronger Communities Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024 and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024.

Members welcomed the victim satisfaction measures presented in both reports and the reflections on the lived experience of those affected by crime. It was noted that it would be helpful to understand the distribution of crimes in terms of more localised geography as well as by the type of crime.

Claire Smith provided an overview of the Capable Guardian Service including the number of officers, patterns of work and the impact of high visibility patrols.

In response to member queries, Claire Smith confirmed that the collaborative approach to noise nuisance in areas occupied by the student population will be continued given the significance impact on the work. The agreement has led to a reduction in noise complaints and the introduction of a 'Capable Guardian' in the area has led to a significant reduction in crime.

It was noted that funding for the capable guardian service is provided via the UKSPF until March 2025.

Members welcomed the innovative partnerships delivering effective interventions in specific areas of the city. Claire confirmed that such approaches could be replicated in other areas such as town and district centres if specific concerns are identified and activities can be delivered using existing resources.

In response to member queries about future engagement with Scrutiny, Paul noted the importance of engagement with elected members in their capacity as community advocates who can reflect the concerns of local people.

Members again welcomed the detailed information relating to hate crime and highlighted that this would be subject to detailed consideration later in the municipal year.

Claire Smith agreed to consider whether the powers included in the city wide PSPO for vehicle nuisance could be applied more broadly to tackle the anti-social use of motorcycles and electric bikes.

RESOLVED:

Members noted the contents of the report and reiterated their commitment to examine hate crime in more detail as a standalone item later in the municipal year.

22 Community Safety Strategy

This report was discussed in conjunction with the Safer Leeds Annual Update with details included under minute 21.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to note the content of the report and endorse the planned approach ahead of the final version being considered by Executive Board.

23 Work Schedule

RESOLVED: Members noted the draft work programme 2024/25.

24 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next public meeting of the Scrutiny Board will take place on **19 September 2024** at **10.30am**. There will be a pre meeting for all board members at **10.00am**.

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SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JULY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S Golton in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, A Maloney,
A Hannan, A McCluskey, L Cunningham,
L Farley, K Haigh, Z Hussain, S Firth,
R Jones and A Rontree

25 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

26 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

27 Late Items

There were no late items.

28 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations.

29 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Ali and M Iqbal. Councillors R Jones and A Rontree were in attendance as substitutes.

Apologies were also submitted on behalf of Councillor N Harrington who was in attendance as lead signatory to the Call In. Councillor S Firth was in attendance as substitute.

30 Call In Briefing Paper

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report advising the Scrutiny Board on the procedural aspects of Calling In the decision.

Members were advised that the Call In is specific to the key decision in question, and issues outside of the decision, including other related decisions, were not to be considered as part of the Board's decision regarding the outcome of the Call In.

Members were also advised that the options available to the Scrutiny Board in respect of this particular called in decision were as follows:

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Thursday, 19th September, 2024

Option 1- Release the decision for implementation

Having reviewed this decision, the Scrutiny Board may decide to release it for implementation. If the Scrutiny Board chooses this option, the decision will be immediately released for implementation and the decision may not be called in again.

Option 2 - Recommend that the decision be reconsidered

The Scrutiny Board may decide to recommend to the decision maker that the decision be reconsidered. If the Scrutiny Board chooses this option a report will be submitted to the decision maker.

In the case of this officer decision, the report of the Scrutiny Board will be prepared within three working days of the Scrutiny Board meeting and submitted to the relevant Director.

In reconsidering the decision and associated Scrutiny Board report, the Director may vary the decision or confirm the original decision. In either case, this will form the basis of the final decision and will not be subject to any further Call In.

Failure to agree one of the above options

If the Scrutiny Board, for any reason, does not agree one of the above courses of action at this meeting, then Option 1 will be adopted by default, i.e. the decision will be released for implementation with no further recourse to Call In.

RESOLVED – That the report outlining the Call In procedures be noted.

31 Car Park Charges - Golden Acre Park, Middleton Park, Roundhay Park, Otley Chevin and Temple Newsam

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented background papers to a key decision made by the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment, which had been Called-In in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The decision had been called in for review by Councillors N Harrington, L Buckley, W Dixon, M Dobson, C Anderson, W Kidger, S Lay, O Newton and M Robinson

The Scrutiny Board considered the following written information:

- Copy of the completed Call In request form.
- Copy of the Delegated Decision Notice of the Director of Communities, Environment and Housing - 'Car Park Charges – Golden Acre Park,

Middleton Park, Roundhay Park, Otley Chevin and Temple Newsam' – dated 11th July 2024

- Copy of the report of Head of Commercial and Estates to Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces; Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) and Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory – Car Park Charges – Golden Acre Park, Middleton Park, Roundhay Park, Otley Chevin and Temple Newsam dated 14th May 2024 associated with the key decision.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor N Harrington – Lead signatory to the call in
- Councillor C Anderson – witness accompanying Councillor Harrington
- Mr Dean Hardy – witness accompanying Councillor Harrington
- Councillor M Rafique – Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment & Green Space
- James Rogers – Director of Communities, Housing and Environment
- Polly Cook – Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Spaces
- Gary Bartlett – Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation
- Chris Way – Principal Traffic Engineer
- Jason Singh – Head of Regulatory and City Centre Services
- Mark Jefford, Senior Manager, Environmental Services
- Nikki Deol – Head of Service, Legal Services

Councillor Harrington addressed the Board as lead signatory to the call in to set out the reasons for calling in the decision. Concerns highlighted by Councillor Harrington included the following:

- The public consultation undertaken in autumn/winter 2023/24 revealed overwhelming opposition to the proposals. , Given the scale of public opposition to the plans, it was questioned whether due regard had been given to the consultation as part of the decision-making process.
- It was also questioned whether the responses to the consultation had been consistently applied given that proposals relating to Middleton Park had been modified as a result of feedback received and yet others remained the same.
- It was considered unclear which groups connected with the parks had been consulted and whether there had there been any face to face meetings held too.
- There needs to be more consideration of the potential impacts on those businesses that operate in the parks.
- There is a lack of a good public transport alternative for reaching many of the parks.
- Older visitors in particular would be discouraged due to the lack of a cash option to pay on site at the parks.
- There would be problems with parking on surrounding streets, which has happened elsewhere when parking fees have been introduced. There is insufficient detail as to how this might be mitigated. It was recognised that the proposals were due to the wider budget position

but there was a lack of detail regarding other options that could have been considered to maintain and improve these car parks.

Councillor C Anderson also addressed the Board and raised the following concerns:

- Paying for parking could be the final straw for some people as to whether they would use these parks and others may simply decide to offset this cost by not making purchases at cafes or other businesses operating in the parks.
- There are clear health benefits for people using parks including improved mental health, aerobic benefits and reduced blood pressure. Parks also offer opportunities for social gatherings/interactions.
- Lots of older people do not have smart phones and find paying electronically complicated. Phone signals are not always good in parks which can also lead to frustration.
- There was no evident business case for implementing parking charges, and factors such as the cost of implementing traffic regulation orders, collection of charges, enforcement work and any potential loss of revenue to cafes and businesses remain unclear.
- people who regularly use these parks are likely to have better health outcomes and a reduced need to access medical treatment to manage ill-health. This should be a considered factor too.
- This decision went against the findings of the 'Ageing Well: Our Lives in Leeds' Director of Public Health Annual Report which was recently presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is unclear whether the Leeds Age Friendly Board had been consulted or what its views had been.
- There are either no bus services or limited and unreliable bus services to the parks concerned.

Mr Hardy then addressed the Board on behalf of Temple Newsam Golf Club and raised the following points:

- Temple Newsam Golf Club is managed independently and pays fees to Leeds City Council for the use of the course.
- The main source of income for the Golf Club was from the bar. This included social members, many of whom were elderly. People would be put off from using the facility if parking charges were introduced.
- Users of Leeds City Council leisure centres did not have to park.
- Should golf course users have to pay for parking this would put their overall fees to a level that was similar to that of a private golf club.
- It is unclear whether the parking charges will be applied to those living at the golf club premises too. Having already invested in improving the park's cycling facilities and café, people may now feel discouraged from using them if car parking charges are introduced.
- While the existing car park is sub-standard, earlier proposals to tarmac the car park had been met with concerns around potential flood risk

issues and therefore existing plans are likely to be met with similar concerns.

As Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment & Green Spaces, Councillor Rafique responded to the reasons for the call in. In doing so, reference was made to the Council's unprecedented financial challenges, with a forecast overspend of £19.9 million in the current financial year. With local government finances in a critical state nationally, it was explained that the decision to introduce modest parking charges has not been taken lightly. Parks and Green Spaces had seen a cut in funding in recent years and this has remained the only viable option to help maintain parks and open spaces so that people could continue to enjoy and benefit from them.

Polly Cook - Chief Officer, Climate Emergency and Green Spaces also provided a response which included the following key points:

- Parking charges would be applied between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. and would be £1 for up to 2 hours, £2.50 for up to 4 hours and £4 all day. There would be options to purchase a monthly or annual season ticket, with the annual ticket being the equivalent of £1.50 per week. Blue Badge holders would continue to be allowed to park for free.
- The income from car parking charges would be ringfenced for spending on the improvement of the sites, including improving disabled access and cycle facilities.
- The consultation was undertaken at the formative stage of proposals and so feedback had helped shape the proposals. How many objected is not of itself a reason not to proceed with a proposal. Professional advice had also been sought from colleagues in legal, finance, highways and equalities.
- Within the consultation, there was a question asking for alternative proposals to fund the car park maintenance work required and within the responses received, there were no options that were considered viable.
- Without a viable alternative, the only other option left to the council would be to close the car parks when they become unusable. This would have a worse outcome for accessibility and use of green spaces.
- Due regard had been given to the consultation. There had been amendments including the exclusion of the Middleton Park car park near to the visitor centre and the proposed charges had also been changed to reflect consultation feedback.
- The proposals supported health and wellbeing in a number of ways. Without the charges, the car parks would eventually be unusable and access to the sites would be limited. There would also be the encouragement for people to walk and cycle with enhanced cycle facilities available. There would also be the potential to reduce local air pollution.
- Where reference had been made to the availability and use of public transport to these parks, it was highlighted that the proposed price for a 2 hour stay would be less than a single bus ticket.

- Due to the high risk of vandalism and theft, it was not viable to install cash machines but there was the option to pay by card. A recent local study showed that only 15% of users choose to pay with cash and there would be the opportunity to pay for a pre-paid card with cash.
- An analysis of data showed that those classed as the most deprived were less likely to have the use of a motor vehicle and therefore would more likely be less impacted by the proposals.
- The highways department is currently surveying areas where displacement of parking could cause concern. This would also be monitored after the implementation to consider any measures that may need to be taken. The re-design of the car parks would maximise capacity available.
- There had not been a noticeable drop in footfall when similar schemes had been implemented in other core cities.
- The proposals would contribute to the Council's challenging budget position. The service covers two thirds of its budget by income generation. However, any additional revenue raised from non-parking activities will have to support the budget gap for the service and cannot be used for car park repairs.
- In response to questions from the speakers, it was reported that consultation had included 'Friends of' groups, volunteer groups and businesses. Where meetings had been requested these had taken place. There had also not been any concerns expressed about the proposals from the Director of Public Health. With regard to improvements to the car park at Temple Newsam, it was explained that alternatives to tarmac could be explored to prevent flood risk.

Further to questions and comments from the Board, discussion included the following:

- It was not unreasonable to assume that the overwhelming majority of people with a car would be able to pay by card.
- There would be multiple machines at each car park to cover any machines that were out of order.
- Pre-paid tickets would be able to be purchased from various locations and this would be widely communicated before the scheme was operational.
- The business case had been prepared on a blended approach taking account of the number of spaces available at each park and the likely usage.
- Evidence from other core cities had shown that these types of schemes provided income with minimal issues.
- Detailed business modelling from core cities had not been received or used in developing the proposals as it was important to consider each site on its own merits and local issues/challenges arising.
- There was not currently a specific car park maintenance budget.
- The consultation responses had been objectively processed and the process was considered to be reasonable.

- Concern that these additional charges were being introduced at a time when people were already suffering from the cost of living crisis and so may result in a fall of usage in these parks .
- Feedback from the consultation had helped to inform the proposals.
- There would be health benefits for people who chose to walk or cycle instead of using a car to access parks.
- There would be multiple locations where pre-paid tickets could be purchased.
- Difficulties accessing parks and their attractions by public transport due to distance.
- The consideration of potential discounts for park attractions. This would still be considered as part of the statutory consultation process.
- Members attention was brought to the fact that information relating to the consultation was referenced in the Executive Board report as part of the background papers and was therefore taken into consideration when the key decision was made.
- Concern that not all parties were consulted at the budget stage and other options explored in light of the consultation.
- Concern that it may deter people from using Temple Newsam Golf Course due to the extra cost of parking charges, resulting in the Council losing revenue.
- Enforcement would be self financing as income could be retained within the service. The service generated a surplus amount of money and had recently been used to employed five more staff.
- The parks were accessible by public transport although this may include some walking.
- Parking was still free for blue badge holders and the cost of a bus ticket would generally also cost more than a two hour parking ticket.
- The money collected would be ringfenced to the parks service within the proposal.
- All objections would be responded to as part of the statutory consultation process. There would also be a report summarising the objections made.
- The consultation had shaped the proposals and though there was a high number of objections, it was to be expected as few people were likely to agree to the implementation of parking charges.
- There had been multiple and in-depth conversations with community groups and they had been asked to set out their objections in full during the statutory consultation.
- There was confidence in the terms of modelling that revenue generated would meet expectations.
- Previous proposals to introduce parking at parks were much broader and included community parks. This decision focussed on key parks across the city. Further to a question of whether there had been consideration to make access free to people who lived locally to the parks, it was felt that they would ordinarily access the parks by walking.
- The proposals had been devised on the needs of the service and the need to maintain green spaces and meet health and safety obligations.

- There had been some analysis on the impact on golf courses and season ticket costs had remained competitive. There would be more analysis as part of the statutory consultation.
- Recent information on the number of people using the parks concerned was not available due to the difficulty in reliably collecting this information. However, numbers could be provided for the visitor attractions in the parks.
- A minimal surplus was made from golf club fees. However, it was felt that this proposal would undermine the future of Temple Newsam Golf Club and if costs kept increasing people may opt to use private facilities which would reduce revenue for the council.

James Rogers, Director of Communities, Housing and Environment was invited to make a closing statement. He thanked Members for their questions and reiterated the scale of the challenge due to unprecedented financial pressures and the need for savings and income generation. It was acknowledged that introducing any kind of charges would not be popular but it was felt this decision would have the least impact and help protect parks and green spaces into the future. The consultation responses had been carefully considered and had also led to some changes. Charges would be modest and there would be options for monthly and annual tickets. Many other authorities had introduced similar charges without any major issues. The next stage of the process would involve further statutory consultation.

Councillor Harrington was invited to make a closing statement. She thanked Members and officers for the in-depth discussion but felt there were still unanswered questions and differences of opinion. It was felt that the consultation was not as broad as it should have been and that volunteer and community groups should have had more involvement and have been able to provide proposals of their own. It was requested that the decision be referred back to the decision maker for further consideration.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with comments from Members, be noted.

32 Outcome of the Call In

The Scrutiny Board considered whether or not to release the decision for implementation. A vote was subsequently held and the Scrutiny Board agreed (by majority decision) that the decision be released.

RESOLVED – That the decision be released for implementation.

33 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 19 September at 10.30 a.m. There will be a pre-meeting for Board Members at 10.00 a.m.

Leeds Household Waste and Recycling Collection Strategy Update

Date: 19th September 2024

Report of: Chief Officer (Environmental Services)

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment and Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in?

Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes No

Brief Summary

This report provides the Scrutiny Board with a further update on relevant national policy, strategy and legislation; together with a draft strategy for managing household waste in Leeds in a way that meets national Simpler Recycling requirements and helps Leeds residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce that is not re-used or recycled.

In particular, the report seeks the views of the Board in relation to the proposed way forward for kerbside collection of household waste in Leeds, through a “3-bin” approach to provide residents with the opportunity to recycle more at home without the need for more bins.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and comment on:

- a) the updated national position in relation to implementing the national Resource and Waste Strategy, revised/new recycling collection requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021) and the associated Simpler Recycling policy.
- b) progress made so far in Leeds in meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements; including the recent introduction of glass bottles and jars as items now accepted in the green, household recycling bins;
- c) the option presented for a “3 bin” approach for inclusion within the Leeds Household Waste Strategy, including adding food waste to the list of items allowed in the brown bin.

What are the main issues to be aware of and consider?

1. Regular updates on the development of an updated Waste Strategy for Leeds have been provided to the Scrutiny Board, as summarised in Appendix A.
2. Following a Working Group meeting in October 2022, at the November meeting, the Board agreed that “...any future Leeds Waste Strategy would need to ensure it fulfilled the requirements of the Government’s National Resources and Waste Strategy”.
3. At the July 2023 meeting, a detailed update was provided that included the latest position of the national strategy and implementation of the associated Environment Act (2021). This included news of the delay of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging to 2024, food waste collections to 2025, and Deposit Return Scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers to late 2025 (all these have since been pushed back at least a further year by Government; see section 8 for the revised implementation dates).

Updated national context.

4. The national Resource and Waste Strategy was published for consultation in 2019.
5. The related Environment Act (2021) includes the following key sections that will have the greatest impact of how household waste is managed:
 - Producer responsibility obligations and responsibilities for disposal costs.
 - Deposit return schemes.
 - Separate collection of household waste.
6. Each of these key sections have significant implications in terms of new ways waste will be collected and processed which will impact on the consumer/householder, the producers of packaging, the bodies that collect waste (e.g. councils), those who sort the waste and those who actually recycle/use the separated materials.
7. The Act included a requirement for councils to offer separate (i.e. not in the black bin) kerbside collections of the following waste streams:
 - (a) glass (a new requirement);
 - (b) metal;
 - (c) plastic;
 - (d) paper and card;
 - (e) food waste (a new requirement);
 - (f) garden waste (a new requirement).
8. The Act allows for the option of combining (co-mingling) the collection of items (a) to (d), and items (e) and (f). However, it stipulates that food waste must be collected at least once a week.
9. Initially titled “Consistency of Household Recycling”, the Government’s overarching policy was relaunched in late 2023 as “Simpler Recycling”.
10. The Government has made clear through the new Simpler Recycling approach that it expects councils to minimise the number of different bins that households have to sort their waste into, and to keep residual waste collections to at least fortnightly.

11. In [May 2024, DEFRA published further updates and announced that:](#)

“Today the government has set out how the drive to better and simpler recycling will work, listening to councils who want to avoid streets cluttered with bins while doing what is best for the local community. Councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper and card in one bin in all circumstances. Similarly, food and garden waste will also be allowed to be co-collected.

This will reduce confusion over what items can be recycled, as people will no longer have to check what their specific council will accept for recycling. It will also reduce complexity for councils and other waste collectors, ensuring they retain the flexibility to collect recyclable waste in the most appropriate way for their local areas.”

“This means that local authorities and other waste collectors in England will provide a minimum of three bins to households: residual (black bin bag), dry recyclable and organic waste.”

12. In May 2024 the Government also published the much delayed statutory commencement regulations/statutory instrument relating to the Managing Waste sections of the Act which set out commencement dates as follows:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026
Food	31 March 2026
Garden	31 March 2026
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027

(* Plastic film to be added to the plastics waste stream by 31 March 2027)

13. The latest position for each of the key national mechanisms to enable the funding and delivery of the above requirements is:

a. Packaging reforms: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

The implementation of the proposed scheme has been put back a further year to 2025. However, DEFRA has continued the development of the fee-based scheme, and producers of packaging are now required to provide data/returns to DEFRA on the amounts and type of packaging they are using. Fees will be payable from 2025 and DEFRA has informed Councils to expect notification in November 2024 of the indicative amount of on-going revenue funding they will receive from 2025/26 to pay for the collection, processing and recycling of packaging (including glass). Under the plans, fees charged to producers will be modulated to further incentivise change and payments to councils subject to efficiency and effectiveness challenge.

b. Food waste:

In March 2024, DEFRA provided councils with a share of the one-off capital allocation to support the purchase of infrastructure required to collect food waste, i.e. refuse collection vehicles, bins and caddies. Leeds has been allocated £7.1m. The Government has committed to providing councils with ongoing, new burden revenue funding to pay for the collection of food waste, but has yet to provide any information on how much that would be. An update is expected

following the Spending Review in November 2024. In terms of collection models/options, as highlighted in sections 5-8, the expectation from DEFRA has moved towards the comingled collection of organic garden and food waste where that makes the most sense locally and supports the Simpler Recycling aims. The future requirement remains for a weekly collection where food waste is included, despite fortnightly comingled garden/food collections being successfully delivered already in places such as Hull, East Riding and the Manchester area.

c. Plastic and metal drinks containers: Deposit Return Scheme (DRS):

The scheme will be for single use, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and steel/aluminium cans (restricted to bottles/cans of between 50ml-3 litres). Indications are that DEFRA are looking at a deposit value in the region of 20p per container/item. As well as improving recycling rates for these items, the main aim is to reduce litter, and to combat the effects of plastic pollution. In terms of impact for Leeds, we will need to factor in the reduction in plastic bottles and drinks cans from our green bins and the effect on collections, as well as the net cost of the recycling materials sorting contract and future EPR payments. DEFRA has announced the further delay of the scheme, pushing back the planned implementation to October 2027.

14. As the above updates demonstrate, there still remain uncertainties about timescales and a critical lack of detail about the revenue funding to be allocated to councils to meet new burdens.

What does this mean for household waste in Leeds?

15. A paper outlining an option for a “3 bin” solution as part of a Household Waste Strategy for Leeds is provided in Appendix A.

16. It proposes an incremental way forward to improve the options available to residents to recycle more from their home through their kerbside collections, but in a way that makes that is simple as possible for the customer and minimises the need for more bins or containers inside and outside the house.

17. The proposed way forward would include the addition of food waste to the items allowed in the brown bin, in a similar way glass has recently been added to the green bin list. This would be part of a incremental approach towards all households being able to recycle food waste, starting with the opportunity for up to 80% of households to begin the habit of recycling food waste and without the need to present another, separate bin or container.

18. Crucially, the proposals would lead to the council meeting the new, national Simpler Recycling requirements, improve recycling rates, be deliverable within the resources known to be available at each stage and make the most of existing resources and infrastructure.

19. The proposals would result in the following kerbside bin collections in Leeds:

Bin colour	Waste accepted	Frequency
BLACK	Non-recyclable household, residual waste	90% fortnightly

		10% weekly
GREEN	Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics	90% fortnightly 10% weekly
BROWN	Garden and food waste	80% fortnightly* 20% weekly (food only)

* note: current Simpler Recycling requirements are for the weekly collection of waste with food waste included in it. The frequency of comingled garden and food collections in Leeds will be reviewed and increased to weekly once sufficient funding is confirmed and the necessary infrastructural and contractual changes can be made. The proposals assume that garden waste collections will remain free in Leeds.

20. The appended paper provides a possible timeline, including modelling assumptions for waste flow changes and impact on recycling rates, towards meeting the full Simpler Recycling requirements. The timeline can be summarised as follow:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:	Achieved in Leeds by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026	1 st August 2024
Food	31 March 2026	April 2025 - 80% of households to have fortnightly collections offered; April 2026 – solution for remaining 20% of households 2027 onwards – all collections increased to weekly
Garden	31 March 2026	April 2025 - 100% of households that have a sufficient size garden/demand.
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026	Leeds already delivers a minimum of fortnightly residual bin collections..
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027	Subject to implementation of the national scheme,

21. Information previously provided to the Board showed how waste flows would be affected as the different elements of the Simpler Recycling requirements are delivered. The latest modelling as referred to in the appendix predicts that the amount of residual waste presented in the black bins across Leeds would reduce by around 20% when glass and food waste are removed. There would a further, albeit lesser, effect when the national Deposit Return Scheme is introduced for plastic and metal drinks containers, probably reducing green bin (and litter bin) contents more than the black bins.

22. In terms of glass, the Council recently took the opportunity to add this to the list of materials accepted in the Leeds green, recycling bin. This means that Leeds is already

fully meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements in relation to kerbside collection of the specified dry recyclable materials (i.e. glass, metal, paper and card, and plastics).

23. The first collection of glass in the green bin were made on August 1st 2024. An analysis of the first few weeks of data show that the amount of waste being collected in the green bins has risen by just over 30%, with about 700 tonnes of glass being separated and sent for remelt and recycling in August, We would expect that figure to rise as more residents become accustomed to using the green bin for glass and we do further targeted work to change behaviours focussing on those residents still using their black bin for glass.
24. Further analysis will be done once more data has been gathered, and over a longer period. This will tell us how much of the glass in the green bin has been diverted from bottle banks and how much from the black bins. We will also have better information on how much of the sorted glass is remelted and recycled.
25. As the Simpler Recycling requirements include for councils to deliver a minimum fortnightly residual bin collection, the predicted future reduction in black bin waste will mean a redesign of the routes based on the revised, reduced tonnages whilst maintaining the minimum, fortnightly scheduled collection. Ideally this would be implemented at the same time as food waste collections are introduced, with food waste currently accounting for 29% of black bin contents/tonnages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The Board is asked to note and comment on:
 - a) the updated national position in relation to implementing the national Resource and Waste Strategy, revised/new recycling collection requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021) and the associated Simpler Recycling policy;
 - b) progress made so far in Leeds in meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements, including the recent introduction of glass bottles and jars as items now accepted in the green, household recycling bins;
 - c) the option presented for a “3 bin” approach for inclusion within the Leeds Household Waste Strategy, including the addition of food waste as an item allowed in the brown bin.

DRAFT LEEDS HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS STRATEGY

CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY BOARD ON A “3-BIN” APPROACH TO MEETING NATIONAL SIMPLER RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

The main ways the council currently helps residents to responsibly dispose of their household/domestic waste and recycle where possible are:

- Kerbside collection through the refuse service – residual waste (black bins), dry recyclable waste including glass (green bins) and free garden waste (brown bins).
- Eight free-to-use Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) open 7 days a week all year round.
- A network of bring banks, mainly for glass but also small electrical items, batteries, textiles and cardboard.
- One free annual collection of unwanted bulky items per household, with further collections bookable for a small fee and further free collections for households in receipt of housing support.
- Operation of the online Leeds Accredited Waste Carrier scheme, enabling residents to find responsible and council checked local waste removal companies/people.

In addition, the council directly supports the reuse of unwanted items to avoid them becoming waste in a number of ways, for example:

- Partnership with Revive for 3 dedicated re-use shops at Kirkstall and Seacroft HWRCs and in Hunslet.
- Payments to local re-use charities to support them in the collection and re-use and resale of unwanted furniture and other household items, diverting them from waste disposal.
- Contract with Seagull Paints to collect and recycle paint from the HWRCs.

This paper focusses on the kerbside collection of household waste. It proposes an incremental way forward to improve the options available to residents to recycle more from their home through their kerbside collections, but in a way that makes that as simple as possible for the customer and minimises the need for more bins and sorting of waste materials in the house. Crucially, the proposals will lead to the council meeting the new, national Simpler Recycling requirements, improve recycling rates, be deliverable within the resources known to be available at each stage and make the most of existing resources and infrastructure.

National context:

The Government has made clear through its new Simpler Recycling approach that it expects councils to minimise the number of different bins households must sort their waste into, and to keep residual waste collections to at least fortnightly. Following consultations that started back in 2019 and the approval of the Environment Act (2021), DEFRA announced in May 2024:

“The government has set out how the drive to better and simpler recycling will work, listening to councils who want to avoid streets cluttered with bins while doing what is best for the local community. Councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper and card in one bin in all circumstances. Similarly, food and garden waste will also be allowed to be co-collected. This will reduce confusion over what items can be recycled, as people will no longer have to check what their specific council will accept for recycling. It will also reduce complexity for councils and other waste collectors, ensuring they retain the flexibility to collect recyclable waste in the most appropriate way for their local areas.”...“This means local authorities and other waste collectors in England will provide a minimum of 3 bins to households: residual, dry recyclable and organic waste.”.

Simpler Recycling delivers the updated waste collection and recycling requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021). We still await publishing of the final exemptions and statutory guidance for Simpler Recycling, together with critical detail on the promised funding. However, on May 14th 2024 the Government published the

much delayed statutory commencement regulations/statutory instrument relating to the Managing Waste sections of the Act which set out commencement dates as follows:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026
Food	31 March 2026
Garden	31 March 2026
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027

(* Plastic film to be added to the plastics waste stream by 31 March 2027)

Local Context:

In terms of what that means locally, Leeds has a number of challenges and opportunities in deciding on the best “Simpler Recycling” delivery option for its residents.

Practical challenges for bin storage and presentation:




































Leeds is a large city, both in population and geography. As well as inner city and suburban areas, it has many towns and villages. Many estates/neighbourhoods have very limited space for households to store bins, together with shortage of space/places to present bins for collection without causing obstructions on pavements. There are huge areas of terraced housing in places such as Harehills, Headingley, Hyde Park and Beeston, with no driveways and small or non-existent garden/yard space. Estates such as Miles Hill, Cottingley and Holt Park have been designed and built with little regard to how refuse wagons can safely manoeuvre to access bins for collection. Cars compete in such areas for precious parking space making access even more challenging. Leeds also has numerous high-rise flats and expanding city centre living, mostly served by large numbers of communal bins. Some of the villages in the outer areas of the city present similar presentation and access challenges.

The Council has invested in recent years in ways to improve access to bins and therefore the reliability of collections, including use of new Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and the planned trebling of streets served by smaller, “hard to access” refuse collection vehicles.

The capacity for additional bins/collections is therefore already limited, with households perhaps better served by having the option of an extra recycling (green) bin rather than being required to have additional colour bin(s) and further collection days.

Three bin solution – the options:

Leeds has opportunity to build on the existing infrastructure and approach to how household waste is collected across the city, potentially to deliver the 3-bin and customer-based solution aspired to through Simpler Recycling. This could be delivered as shown in the table below:

	Option 1a	Option 1b	Option 2	Dense Housing Areas Option 1	Dense Housing Areas Option 2
Residual	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Weekly	 Weekly
Glass					
Plastics					
Metals					
Card/ Paper	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Weekly	 Weekly
Garden			 Fortnightly and Seasonally (option to charge)		
Food	 Fortnightly (all year around)	 Weekly (all year round)	 Weekly	 Weekly	 Weekly

There are three significant, interdependent factors that will ultimately determine which option the Council chooses, and whether an incremental approach to get to that option is required. These are:

- **Funding.**

Any changes/additions need to be affordable within existing budget provision plus any new burdens/EPR funding promised by Government. The additional funding required will be both one off capital (purchase of wagons, bins, depot expansion etc) and on-going revenue (operational/running costs such as staff/crews, fuel, net sorting and disposal costs for dry recyclables). Although specific capital funding for food waste collections has been confirmed and allocated (LCC has £7.14m which can be spent on fleet, bins and caddies), there is no budget approved by Treasury for the ongoing revenue requirements for food collections from 2026/27 and DEFRA have said that will be subject to future Government Spending Reviews. DEFRA have announced they will be distributing to councils a share of transitional funds from 2024/25. This should be paid in 2024/25 and, although no detail has been provided by DEFRA, we would expect to be able to use this to offset some of the set-up costs for Year 1 (e.g. caddy liners, bin/caddy delivery costs, and project management costs).

- **Depot requirements.**

Depending on the option(s) chosen, there could be a requirement for significant additional fleet/staff and therefore additional depot and welfare facilities. For example, to move to weekly food collection for the whole city would need accommodation for up to an extra 30 refuse collection vehicles/crews. Whereas an interim solution of a fortnightly co-mingled food and garden waste collection would require only 4 extra vehicles/crews by utilising existing infrastructure and could be accommodated within the existing depot and welfare/office facilities at Newmarket House.

- **Fleet requirements.**

If a significant number of new collection vehicles were required (e.g. +30 for separate weekly food collections or weekly co-mingled food/garden collections) then a full order could not be placed until the required ongoing revenue/operational funding was confirmed by Government and a completion date for the extra depot facilities needed was confirmed. For food only collections a different type of refuse collection vehicle would be required, which would make fleet management more costly. For a comingled collection, a standard RCV could be ordered/used using the existing DEFRA capital allocation.

Preferred 3-bin option: Potential implementation plan/timeline (based on modelling of Option 1a moving to 1b):

This implementation plan and timeline (as shown in the appended table) sets out how it is possible to move incrementally to a position in Leeds where all the Environment Act (2021) and Simpler Recycling requirements are met by 2026 in terms of the collection of the 6 waste streams separate from the residual (black) bin; and through the three existing coloured bins (black, green and brown).

The only requirement that would not be met by 2026 would be for food to be collected weekly; instead the majority of the city would have its food collected fortnightly at this stage, in the same brown bin as the garden waste.

The final incremental phase of the plan would be developed to address this when Government funding for food collection is clear and the viability of weekly co-mingled collections better known/understood. There are a number of authorities across the country who already successfully collect garden and food waste together on a fortnightly basis and where it is shown to be effective.

Information and guidance on how Hull City Council currently delivers a fortnightly garden and food waste collection service through its brown bins can be found at [Hull brown bin recycling](#). Manchester's guidance can be found at [Manchester garden and food waste collections](#) and East Riding's at [East Riding brown bins](#).

This plan would result in significant reduction in the amount of residual (black bin) waste due to the transfer of glass and food to the green and brown bins. This is likely to enable the collections routes for black/green bins to

be reduced, and a preference for the implementation of revised residual/black bin routes to coincide with the introduction of co-mingled garden/food waste collections.

The customer benefits/headlines from the above approach would be:

- In 2025 the number of households with a brown bin collection would increase from 219k (60%) to 291k (80%).
- From 2025 the 291k households with a brown bin would receive a year-round fortnightly collection of garden waste and have the option to add food waste to the bin.
- From 2026, the 77k households who do not have a brown bin will be eligible for a weekly food waste collection should they wish one (subject to economic viability).
- From 2026 Leeds will be delivering the full set of the 7 waste streams required for collection by Simpler Recycling for all of the city with a max of 3 bins required by a household (with the outstanding requirement to move the co-mingled food waste to weekly).
- Leeds will continue to collect residual waste (black bins) on a minimum fortnightly basis, with weekly collections in the areas of most densely populated housing stock.

Financial implications:

Charging for garden waste collections.

A significant consequence of the Option 1 is that the co-mingling of food and garden waste in the brown bin initially appeared to restrict the ability for the Council to charge for the collection of garden waste. However, DEFRA have since indicated that there may be circumstances in which the garden provision within a co-mingled garden/food service could be chargeable, presumably with a free, food only collection service available to non-subscribers. For the purpose of this option and the waste flow and financial modelling involved, it is assumed that Leeds will continue to provide a free garden waste service.

Affordability.

The incremental changes required to move to meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements in full, must be achieved within the resources available at each stage.

As already stated, the most significant annual funding required to ensure sustainable affordability are the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) payments and, critically, the Food Waste new burdens funding. DEFRA have indicated that information will be provided on this funding in November 2024, following the Spending Review.

In the meantime, any further progress in delivery is reliant on using existing resources and infrastructure, and savings forecast to be achieved through the operational/financial modelling.

The modelling assumes that we will receive the ongoing new burdens funding committed to by DEFRA from 2026/27 for the cost of food waste related collections; and so the cost/funding related to how the remaining 20% of households receive a food collection service from 2026/27 and any future cost to increase co-mingled food/garden waste collections from fortnightly to weekly will be met in full as a new burden.

Increase in recycling rate:

The model for Option 1a (the 3-bin solution) forecasts the following improvements in the Leeds recycling rates:

- Current baseline rate = 35.4%
- Further expansion of fortnightly green bin collections and new weekly green bin collections = 36%
- Introduction of glass to the green bin = 39.2%
- Introduction of food to the brown bin and expand to all year round/to 72k extra households = 50.2%
- Introduction of separate food collections to remaining households = 52.3%

Risks/other considerations:

1. The affordability of the option to add food waste to the items allowed in brown bins from 2025/26 includes the assumption that the delivery of new 23 RCVs can be made in time.
2. The model makes a number of assumptions re the amount of food waste that will be put in brown bins and the how the expansion of the brown bins to 291k households and all year round will affect waste tonnages etc. A key assumption that has the greatest impact on the level of savings is that about 50% of the estimated food waste currently in the black bins will be put in the brown bin instead. Based on the best quality data comparator we have of a council who is delivering a fortnightly, comingled garden/food collection, this seems a realistic assumption. However it should be noted that the disposal costs would increase/decrease by approximately £0.4m for every 10% difference in that 50% assumption of the waste moving from black to brown bins.
3. The model assumes an overall reduction in black bin waste of around 20% (when added to the lesser effect of glass moving to the green bin). This will require the AWC routes to be redesigned on these new forecast tonnages from March/April 2025. It is assumed this will result in a reduction of 3 AWC routes, the savings for which will help fund the co-mingled garden/food waste collections.
4. The plan assumes that from 2026/27 we introduce a weekly separate food collection offer to the remaining 77k households without a brown bin, which includes households in flats/high-rise/terraced housing. The financial modelling assumes this has no net cost to LCC. Once funding has been announced by DEFRA, we can look at the options for how this is delivered, and whether that includes consideration of procuring this service.
5. DEFRA are aware of our preferred phased approach and we have sought assurances about their support for introducing fortnightly food waste collections as a step toward eventual full compliance with Simpler Recycling as a practical and financial necessity.
6. Due to the expected movement/change in tonnages, it would be necessary to coincide the introduction of co-mingled garden and food waste (brown bin) collections with the implementation of redesigned black and green bin routes citywide.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES FOR 3-BIN SOLUTION TO DELIVER SIMPLER RECYCLING IN LEEDS

THREE BIN SOLUTION (BLACK/GREEN/BROWN)												
Key dates Action	Env Act 2021 Required Waste Streams						City re- cycle rate (%)	Extra RCVs needed	Key assumptions made in modelling			
	Green bin				Brown bin				Black	Tonnage changes	Yield assumptions	
	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Card	Food				Residual			
Fortnight					Weekly	Garden						
2024 - January Baseline position							219k households (Mar-Nov)		35.4	0	Recycling changes based on 23/24 full year tonnages.	
2024 – Mar-Jun 12k to AWC 20k to weekly green/black							219k households (Mar-Nov)		36	0	Extra 1,955t/year diverted from black to green	12k props increase in recycling yield to match AWC. 20k props increased to 60% capture rate of recyclates.
2024 - August Add glass to green bin							219k households (Mar-Nov)		39.2	0	9.119t/year of glass from black to green bin (80% capture rate). 1,149t existing glass in green bin becomes recycling.	100% of the glass is recycled. 70% of the glass is remelted
2025 - March Allow food in the brown bin, collect all year round and expand service from 60% to 80% of households.					291k households co-mingled collections		Increase by 72k to 291k households (all year round)	20% less black bin waste – remove 3 routes	50.2	22 (an increase of 4 on current brown bin fleet) (DEFRA capital allocation)	24,536t/year of food diverted from black bins to brown bins. Extra 10,093t/year of garden, based on 7,084 for additional props, 3,009t for Dec-Feb collections (8,589t diverted from black to brown, 752t 'new waste', 752t from HWRCs)	Extra 77k props with brown bin. Assumes 25% of the +3 months garden waste is diverted from HWRCs, 50% from black bins & remaining 25% is 'new waste'. Garden waste from new props (excl. the additional 3 months) is diverted from residual. Food assumes 84 kg/hh/yr diverted from residual.
2026 – by March Offer weekly food only to non-garden waste households.					291k households co-mingled collections	77k households food only in brown bin	291k Households (all year round)		52.3	Unknown at this stage (DEFRA)	6,522/year of food diverted from black to brown	Assumes 84kg/hh/yr food waste yield per household with a x% take up rate.
2027 onwards* Move remaining food collections to weekly					Weekly co-mingled and/or separate food bin collection to all 368k props		291k house holds		?	Unknown at this stage (DEFRA)	Further modelling on option to increase co-mingled collections to weekly to be undertaken with learning expected from introduction of fortnightly collections and from weekly trials by other councils already delivering fortnightly co-mingled garden/food collections.	

*A date to move to 100% weekly food collections is not possible to estimate until sufficient detail and commitment is received from DEFRA in relation to funding for the necessary additional depot facilities to cope with the required increase in fleet and staffing, and the annual operation/running costs for the weekly collection of food waste. The depot (capital) and annual collection cost (revenue) funding would need to be confirmed at least 2 years in advance of a possible start date to allow a site to be developed, fleet procured and staffing recruited etc. The annual revenue funding would need to be approved by HM Treasury, presumably as part of the national Spending Review/Budget process. DEFRA have estimated the national requirement to be about £1b/year.

Appendix B: Timeline of updates to Scrutiny on the development of the Waste Strategy

- As part of the Board's programme of work in 2022/23, a joint inquiry into Waste Services was undertaken with Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
- Most of the detail of this work was conducted through a joint working group, which reported to the respective Boards.
- The detail provided to the working group included information on the carbon impact of how environmental services are delivered in Leeds and the results of a comprehensive composition analysis of the types of waste being presented by residents in their black and green bins. Guest representatives from the materials recovery/sorting industry (HW Martins) also provided evidence and advice to the working group on challenges they face in sorting different materials and sourcing sustainable recycling markets.
- The Board also received updates on the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) and the Environment Act (2021), and related consultation exercises being undertaken by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- At the Board meeting in March 2022, Members agreed that *"Given the outstanding information required to inform further scrutiny of the future design of local waste services it is recommended that the successor board progresses scrutiny of these matters in the next municipal year"*.
- Following discussion at the October 2022 meeting of the working group, Members agreed at the November 2022 meeting of the Board that *"...any future Leeds Waste Strategy would need to ensure it fulfilled the requirements of the Government's National Resources and Waste Strategy – the final details of which have yet to be confirmed"*.
- The report to the July 2023 meeting provided a further update on the critical progress of the RWS and requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021); in particular the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, consistency of collections (inc separate food and garden collections) and the proposed national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).
- The July 2023 report also provided a summary of current national timelines associated with the new requirements.

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Leeds Food Strategy – Report on Progress

Date: 19 September 2024

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) is asked to reflect upon the appended Leeds Food Strategy Progress Report.

The report is appended in the format presented to [Executive Board on 18 September 2024](#) and covers a wide breadth of subjects.

Members are therefore asked to consider the report so far as it relates to the [remit of the Scrutiny Board \(Environment, Housing & Communities\)](#), particularly with regards to the themes of sustainability and resilience in the context of the Council's climate action plan.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to consider and provide comment upon the appended Leeds Food Strategy Progress Report, so far as it relates to the remit of the Scrutiny Board.

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Leeds Food Strategy - report on progress

Date: 18 September 2024

Report of: The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Leeds Food Strategy (LFS) was adopted by the Council in 2023, following consultation and approval at Executive Board. LFS was developed as a collaborative strategy with a wide range of city food partners and stakeholders, the strategy and associated actions will be delivered, monitored and measured with the same partnership approach within the Council and beyond. The strategy is a long-term vision for the sustained provision of healthy and affordable food in the city and extends to 2030. It aligns very closely to the council's three strategic pillars, with three overlapping food missions of:

Health and Well-being – Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing through eating well.

Food Security and Economy – Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive and vibrant food economy.

Sustainability and Resilience – Ensuring the Leeds Food System is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

This report updates Executive Board on the governance and delivery of the strategy by the council and local partner organisations. It includes amendments to the objectives, progress against the actions contained in the strategy and key performance indicators.

The report draws attention to several key issues through the strategy delivery plan, notably of the need to take actions in the context of food poverty and health inequalities, the benefits of healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food, the impact of commercial determinants of health and the Council's leadership and place-shaping role in the provision and promotion of nutritious food across settings (healthy food environment) in Leeds.

Recommendations

- a) That Executive Board approve the governance, delivery and key performance indicators of the Leeds Food Strategy.
- b) That Executive Board note the progress against the actions in the strategy and approve the amendments to both the objectives and action plan.

What is this report about?

1. The Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30 was adopted by the Council as the lead organisation in 2023 following a process of consultation, and partnership working.
2. Executive Board agreed to receive updates against the strategy progress, which extends to 2030. This report is the first of several updates planned through to 2030 on the progress of the strategy.
3. The Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30 sets out a shared vision for delivering a strong, vibrant and prosperous food system, where the true value of food is celebrated. Good, healthy, accessible food is vital for health and wellbeing, economic growth, the reduction of inequality and for protecting the planet. All three of the Leeds Food Strategy missions are of equal importance and interdependent upon one another, providing essential foundations for the city to prosper.
4. This report seeks Executive Board support for the continued progress of the strategy, including its governance and delivery. The report sets out the specific actions, progress and indicators of progress. **Appendix A** provides more detail on the actions, initiatives and challenges.

What impact will this proposal have

5. The vision of the Leeds Food Strategy is for *'Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies'*.
6. The [Leeds Food Strategy](#) has three core missions to achieve our vision, developed to mirror the Best City Ambition strategic pillars: Health and Wellbeing, which mirrors the council pillar; Food Security and Economy, which corresponds closely to our Inclusive Growth pillar; and Sustainability and Resilience, which aligns with our Net Zero pillar.
7. The [United Nations highlight the importance of food to worldwide sustainability](#), including food security. Food is a key component of a wide range of policy areas – wellbeing and healthy living, schools and educational attainment, the cost of living and financial inclusion, sustainability, waste and emissions and therefore contributes to many aspects of people's lives in Leeds.
8. The [UK government Food Strategy](#) highlights the importance of food in relation to the cost of living, recovery from the Covid pandemic and energy price inflation. It also discusses the issues that arise from the current food system, including the impact of the commercial sector in promoting highly palatable processed unhealthy foods. The UK government aims to maintain food standards post Brexit, halve childhood obesity by 2030, reduce the gap in

healthy life expectancy between richest and poorest areas, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions arising from the food system.

Governance

9. The proposed governance of the Leeds Food Strategy is illustrated in **Appendix B**.
10. A Senior Group has been established to provide accountability and assurance for the delivery of the Leeds Food Strategy against its objectives. This is chaired by the Elected Member Food Champion with cross-council Chief Officer representation as well as the FoodWise Leeds Chair.
11. The partnership arrangement between FoodWise Leeds and the Council is fundamental to the delivery of the Leeds Food Strategy. Central to the Leeds Food Strategy governance is [FoodWise Leeds](#) which acts as a steward for a wider network of local groups, businesses and organisations. It also has an independent role as a dynamic, multi-agency partnership dedicated to inspiring and advocating for transformative change towards a more sustainable and resilient food system. It primarily represents the third sector, but also involves the universities, and local businesses. **Box 1** includes specific information from the FoodWise Leeds Terms of Reference.

Box 1 Extract from FoodWise Leeds Partnership Terms of Reference

Legal Form: Unincorporated Association

Purpose: FoodWise Leeds is a dynamic, multi-agency partnership dedicated to inspiring a transformative good food movement across the city. We lead on the SFP six key priorities and provide visionary leadership for the development, implementation and continuous improvement of the Leeds Food Strategy and Action Plan.

Vision: To create a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for everyone in Leeds.

Mission: To share our appetite for good food by bringing people together from all corners of the city to celebrate and promote the abundance of good food work in Leeds. Together, we will transform policy, contribute to research, motivate businesses and communities to become FoodWise, and inspire pride in our Sustainable Food Places status.

12. FoodWise Leeds has appointed a new chair following an application and interview process to support the partnership governance as an independent group and drive forward its ambitions. Since this appointment, the FoodWise Leeds governance structure has been reviewed by members. In the new structure, there are three groups that form the partnership;

- A core group including; the FoodWise Chair, Chief Executive Officer for Zest (host organisation), FoodWise Leeds Coordinator, and a Communications Lead (hosted by Zest).
- An advisory group; including the members of the core group, the Council mission leads and system representatives from across Leeds. Appendix B lists the organisations working within the FoodWise partnership.
- And the development of an expert network of professionals and individuals with lived experience to represent the communities of Leeds.

13. The Leeds Food Strategy partnership between the Council and FoodWise Leeds holds accountability for delivering the strategy and action plan.
14. Leeds has a well-established food aid network, much of it developed since 2010, in response to increasing poverty and inequality in the city. This network supports the Food Security & Economy mission alongside the Food Security Taskforce. The Leeds [Food Aid Network](#) also has representation at FoodWise alongside additional food aid providers working in the city.
15. The Eat Well Forum, led by Public Health, implements the Health and Wellbeing mission of the Leeds Food Strategy. This involves a range of stakeholders that support health and wellbeing through food and provide support in the community including NHS, third sector and Council colleagues. There are inter-linkages with the other missions through this group.
16. Supporting the Sustainability and Resilience arm of the strategy is Feed Leeds. This is a sustainable food growing network which encourages and connects individuals, communities and organisations in Leeds.
17. Whilst developing the action plan (see **Appendix D**), it became clear that the objectives required some revisions. This included a need to reduce the volume of objectives due to some duplication both within and between the missions. The mission leads have reviewed the Food Strategy objectives, with the FoodWise coordinator and agreed to reduce these from 15 to 12 (detailed in **Table 1** below).
18. A monitoring framework including 16 key indicators has been developed through the Mission Leeds Steering Group to measure progress against the strategy (see **Table 2 and Appendix E**). These include a combination of new and existing indicators, and will require some initial monitoring from baseline with a view to refine and develop as the strategy progresses.

Table 1: Leeds Food Strategy Objectives

Health & Wellbeing	Food Security & Economy	Sustainability & Resilience
1. <i>Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.</i>	5. <i>Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need.</i>	9. <i>Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.</i>

2. <i>Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.</i>	6. <i>Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives.</i>	10. <i>Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.</i>
3. <i>Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing.</i>	7. <i>Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers.</i>	11. <i>Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production.</i>
4. <i>Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.</i>	8. <i>Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.</i>	12. <i>Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.</i>

Equalities

19. Members of the council steering group have undertaken an EDCI assessment, and it is attached at **Appendix G**. The assessment covers the strategy, its three missions, 12 objectives and 36 actions.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

20. The strategy aligns to the Council's three pillars of Health and Wellbeing, Inclusive Growth and Net Zero.

21. The health and Wellbeing mission has a direct role in supporting the Health and Wellbeing pillar of the Best City Ambition. It also supports Public Health priorities to reduce health related inequalities, prevent diet related disease, ensure all children have the best start in life and an age friendly city.

22. Access to nutritious and healthy food is essential for maintaining a healthy weight, assuring quality of life, emotional wellbeing, and productivity. There are government evidence-based recommendations to eat well for optimal health and wellbeing. Unfortunately for a lot of the population this can be challenging to attain due to the significant barriers to eating well. These barriers include the influence of the unhealthy food environment and acquiring the knowledge and practical skills required to prepare healthy foods. People from lower income groups face substantial challenges when it comes to accessing healthy food. The percentage of adults meeting the '5 a day' fruit and vegetable target in Leeds has reduced from 35.1% in 20/21 to 28.3% in 2023.

23. The unhealthy food environment has become increasingly normalised, where processed foods high in fat, sugar and salt is the default. The term 'food environment' is a combination

of physical, economic, and sociocultural surroundings, opportunities and conditions that affect food intake. For example, where food is available, what it costs, how it is sold, government policy, societal norms, and cultural influences. Furthermore, marketing, sponsorship, and promotions are consistently and intensively driven towards the sale of these products with multi-national companies controlling a significant amount of the landscape that shapes behaviour.

24. Improving health and wellbeing through food involves working across the local food system to shift food culture so that the healthiest foods are affordable, available and appealing. Working together the Council, alongside the FoodWise Leeds Partnership, are looking to co-develop solutions, remove barriers, improve quality of life, become more socially connected through harnessing the many benefits that food brings.
25. The Health & Wellbeing mission also has inter-linkages with both the Food Security and Economy and Sustainability and Resilience missions. For example, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust food and drink strategy is in development and has been aligned to the Leeds Food Strategy missions. The NHS contract requires hospital trusts to develop food strategies that cover; the nutrition and hydration needs of patients; healthier eating for the whole hospital community, especially staff and sustainable procurement of food and catering services.
26. HATCH Local Care Partnership (LCP) aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people who live in Chapeltown, Burmantofts, Harehills and Richmond Hill. The LCP is also prioritising action on food inspired by the Leeds Food Strategy including a “Food is Everyone’s Business Training course”, which could be expanded city wide once developed.
27. Fruit and vegetables are often low carbon and contribute to climate friendly actions. Foods that have a high carbon footprint such as dairy, and red meat are only recommended in small quantities due to their associations with increasing risk of cardio-vascular disease and some cancers. There are actions under the Health & Wellbeing mission that support Sustainability & Resilience objectives such as the “Just One More” campaign (see key areas of progress). Additionally, actions regarding the provision and procurement of food under Sustainability & Resilience also supports Health & Wellbeing.
28. The inability to access healthy nutritious foods is a major barrier for adopting a healthy diet as well as increasing stress and affecting overall wellbeing. Therefore, actions to develop and promote the food resilience toolkit under Food Security & Economy supports the Health & Wellbeing mission, whilst the commissioning of health and wellbeing services by Public Health (Better Together Community Development and School Health and Wellbeing services) improve access to food.
29. The Food Security & Economy food mission aims to ensure that everyone in Leeds has access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy. The mission is crucial for contributing economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally to

society. Public Health are leading the development of a Healthy Weight Plan for all ages which supports multiple outcomes that relate to both the Leeds Food Strategy and the Best City Ambition.

30. The Food Security & Economy mission also addresses the challenges of poverty and food insecurity, aiming to ensure that more people can physically access, afford, and prepare healthy nutritious food without compromising other basic needs. It is part of a broader vision to create a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable economy in Leeds.
31. The Sustainability & Resilience food mission aligns to the Zero Carbon pillar of the Council's ambition. The terminology was amended prior to and during extensive public consultation during late October 2022-December 2022 to ensure it was understandable and accessible for residents and responders to the consultation offered online and in person.
32. It is essential for the sustainability and resilience of our food to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan. Our climate is changing. Warmer temperatures, changing rain patterns, and more extreme weather events are already affecting food security across the world—and will increasingly do so until global climate action means that the amount of planet-warming gases in our atmosphere begins to decrease.
33. Leeds declared a climate emergency in 2019, as part of our climate action plan, the Council's ambition is to achieve net zero carbon emissions as quickly as possible and to boost our city's resilience to the changing climate. Enabling the transition to a more sustainable food system by wasting less food, increasing availability of healthier foods, and producing food in better and more environmentally friendly ways we can reduce the 1/5 of our current national carbon footprint impact which is attributable to food.
34. Energy used to transport and process our food contributes to the food sector's carbon footprint, so we will reduce these emissions by transitioning to zero emission transport and power as part of other strategies. However, most greenhouse gas emissions from food are released before produce even leaves the farm gates because of factors like fertiliser use, the methane emissions from livestock, and converting environmentally important land like peat bogs and rainforest into farms. We must consider what foods are grown and how they are grown—not just how far foods have travelled.
35. Ultimately, ensuring the way we produce, consume, and dispose of food is fit for the future is not only necessary and beneficial long-term, and will also help us to improve the quality of life for everyone across the city.
36. In making amendments to the objectives and actions for sustainability and resilience, account was again taken of the extensive public consultation for LFS undertaken in late 2022. This ensured that the priority and order of areas of interest, and their importance commented on and rated by respondents was retained within the amendments made to the Sustainability and Resilience food mission.

37. Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial production, sale and consumption of seasonal, local foods by promoting the economic and social value benefits within the city.
38. Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying embracing and showcasing robust supply chain and buying systems to encourage the city's biggest organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.
39. Since the strategy was approved, a set of 15 performance measures has been developed to assess progress. More information about the measures is provided in **Appendix D**.

Table 2: Leeds Food Strategy Key Indicators

KPI number	Indicator
1	Increase the percentage of adults in Leeds who consume at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables daily. <i>Enquiries are being made with Public Health Intelligence to consider whether this can be categorised by index of multiple deprivation.</i>
2	Increase the percentage of year 6 children recorded with a healthy weight in the 10% most deprived communities compared to the Leeds average and the 10% least deprived communities.
3	Initially monitor the percentage of adults in Leeds living with diabetes (diet-related disease) in the 10% most deprived communities compared to the Leeds average and the 10% least deprived communities.
4	Capture and monitor the number of health promoting and sustainable (planet friendly) community food projects. <i>Consideration is being taken to capturing this by geographical area, with a focus on areas of higher deprivation.</i>
5	Increase the percentage of Hot Food Takeaway (HFT) applications refused using the Council Supplementary Planning Document. <i>Consideration is being taken to the role of dark kitchens and other out of home food outlets that may not be captured in the HFT criteria.</i>
6	Maintain the percentage of eligible children and young people taking up Free School Meals (FSM).
7	Monitor the number and percentage of food aid providers supporting people with food security in Leeds, that are listed on the food aid map and are signed up to the food aid charter.
8	Monitor the number of food and drink / related businesses in Leeds supported across our regional business support services.
9	Monitor the number of hospitality/ food and drink/ related businesses our employment and skills service has partnered/ engaged with.
10	Increase the number of Compost Collective sites and monitor percentage of household capacity that sites are operating at.
11	Monitor the volume of surplus food waste diverted to food aid by Leeds providers over the previous 12 months.
12	Increase the number of new 'grow your own' community initiatives by Incredible Edible
13	Increase the number of Council premises (cafe sites) who include additional food menu carbon impact information for customers.

KPI number	Indicator
14	Increase the rolling number of food procurement contracts supported by the LCC procurement guidelines. <i>Develop system/ method for capturing the value and impact on food provision from the Council procurement guidelines. Consideration to the role of anchor institutions in this indicator will be taken at later stages in the strategy development.</i>
15	Monitor the volume of domestic (April 2026) and non-domestic food waste (April 2025) collected, defined in line with Defra PIs.

40. The report now provides an update on progress for each of the three food missions. A more detailed update including purpose, progress, initiatives and challenges is provided at **Appendix A**.

Health & Wellbeing - key areas of progress

41. The Council and FoodWise Leeds have made the following progress on the Health and Wellbeing food mission.

“Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing”.

42. The Eatwell Forum has been re-established in Leeds to support the delivery of the Health and Well-Being section of the Leeds Food Strategy. It ensures a Leeds-wide coordinated approach to food and health work, enabling the delivery of consistent evidence-based messages and effective practice tailored to meet local community food needs. The group will be responsible for reviewing and developing the resources available to promote healthier eating in the city including cultural food resources.

43. The 3rd year of delivering the local “Just One More” campaign to encourage an additional portion of vegetables across a range of setting including schools, markets, LCC cafes, NHS and Third Sector.

44. Ongoing promotion of Leeds Breastfeeding Friendly by the Leeds Bosom Buddies (breastfeeding peer supporters) have approximately 100 venues signed up.

45. School Health and Well-being service in partnership with the University of Leeds are mapping school breakfast club provision across schools, to consider appropriate actions.

46. There has been a focus on early years and older people which has included the development of an Older People Food Action plan to support the nutrition and hydration needs of older people across settings, and a Healthy Start Action plan to increase uptake of the national Healthy Start scheme. This aims to increase access to fruit and vegetables for low-income families.

“Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating”.

47. FoodWise Leeds are taking a lead on raising awareness of all the fantastic community food activity taking place across Leeds using stories and social media. This includes reviewing the FoodWise website as a portal for all food related information linking to relevant website such as the Food Aid Network.
48. Through the Eatwell Forum community food initiatives are developed and supported including a range of Third Sector provision i.e. Leeds Cooking School at Kirkgate Market, Flourishing Families and West Leeds Recipe Station. Moving forward, the group will map food initiatives and look at opportunities for new projects and ensure appropriate access to signposting information.

“Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing”.

49. Leeds City Council have developed Healthier Vending Standards based on Government Buying Standards for Food (GBSF). The GBSF sets out standards for public sector organisations to apply when procuring food and catering services. These standards relate to food production, processing and distribution, nutrition, resource efficiency, and socio-economic considerations. The Healthier Vending Standards are reviewed annually and enable the availability of healthier food and drink options through vending across the Council.
50. Public Health have undertaken a survey amongst the public to capture views on the food and drinks available from council cafes across leisure services and tourist attractions to inform a Healthier Catering Award due to be launched next year. This will support a range of actions including enabling healthier food availability, considering planet friendly menus and waste management.
51. Public Health have been working with Council colleagues to consider options for implementing an updated Council advertising and sponsorship policy to reduce the promotion of food and drink that are high in fat, sugar or salt. Advertisements of food and drink that meet recommended guidelines would be required to replace those that are high in fat, sugar or salt. Implementing a policy would have benefits across all the missions of the strategy.
52. Planning Services have been working with Public Health to review the Councils Supplementary Planning Document on Hot Food Takeaways (SPD) and consider how this can be strengthened through the Local Plan Update. The SPD provides detailed guidance to businesses, applicants, agents and the local community on how the Council will assess applications for hot food takeaways where planning permission is required. Public Health are leading on the development of a Data Matrix to inform decision making on Hot Food Takeaway applications.

“Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases”.

53. This is led through the coordination and engagement with multi-stakeholders through the Eat Well Forum. The HATCH partnership is currently acting a test site for developing bespoke training focused on food for the workforce.

Food Security & Economy - key areas of progress

54. Since the strategy was formally launched in July 2023, several key initiatives have been progressed under each Food Security & Economy objective, set out in the sections below.

“Tackle factors limiting people’s ability to afford the food they need”.

55. Achieving our goal relies significantly on a collaborative partnership, strategically and operationally. The Food Insecurity Taskforce chaired by the council has realigned its priorities to match those of the Leeds Food Strategy and its action plan. Whilst at an operational level the Leeds Food Aid Network (LFAN) brings together a range of food aid providers, distributors and the Council, to help tackle food insecurity and support people towards food independence effectively in the city of Leeds. LFAN reports into the West Yorkshire Food Poverty Network and is connected to the national initiative Feeding Britain.

56. It is vital that residents and families know where to find appropriate support, advice, and guidance, as well as making sustainable programs that increase access to healthy food available. Activities that support this include the Leeds Advice Contract led by Citizens Advice Leeds in partnership with Better Leeds Communities, Training Awareness Sessions: Facilitated by Financial Inclusion Team continue to be delivered in partnership with relevant organisations/experts on sessions including poverty and financial inclusion, cost of living, food and fuel support.

“Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives”

57. Achieving this goal requires collaboration with stakeholders to develop programmes and projects that provide affordable and inclusive access to food. In addition, working together to offer practical help and support for frontline workers, volunteers and organisations providing food aid to people experiencing food insecurity.

58. The introduction of *Community Shop*, part of Company Shop Group, which helps members save an average of £212 per month on groceries, offers free membership for those in the local area on means-tested benefits, and provides low-cost cafes and courses aimed at fostering independence and employability. It offers products at about one-third of the retail

price, and more than half of its customers move on within a year. Community Shop plans to open at least one location in Leeds.

59. The [FoodSavers scheme](#) which offers high quality fresh and store cupboard food for a low weekly membership fee (typically £6) via a food pantry. Membership also gives the opportunity to attend cookery classes, and save in a recognised Credit Union account. At present, Leeds has five pantries that are part of the FoodSavers initiative, with the first one commencing in October 2023, and there are intentions for another twelve to join the program.
60. There is a Cultural Food Hub Provision within the city, facilitated by organisations such as [Give a Gift](#) and [Hamara](#), which supplies culturally suitable food to groups throughout the city. This contributes to a more inclusive offering of food assistance.
61. The updated Food Aid Provision Map, LFAN, the Council and partners collaborated to update the resource which maps food provision across Leeds to show where projects and services are based, along with further useful information about each provision. The aim of the map is to help direct the public to food support and to help neighbouring organisations collaborate more easily.
62. The collaborative creation and launch of a [Food Aid Charter](#) in partnership with Public Health to set out key principles and best practice to support local food aid providers to work towards the long-term goal of building food resilience.
63. Led by Public Health the revision of the Building Food Resilience toolkit focusing on encouraging the transition from emergency food aid to sustainable options like Food Pantries, fostering long-term resilience in food security.
64. Delivery of programmes including the DWP's Household Support Fund, and DfE's Holiday Activity and Food Programme, in collaboration with council services and the third sector in Leeds to ensure they reach households most in need of support.

“Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers”.

65. We are helping local food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice:
 - Through working with Start-Up West Yorkshire to reflect on its business model, and through grant funding from AD:Venture, local mobile bar business Tchin Tchin has been able to progress from business to customer trading to business to business, targeting weddings and corporate events.
 - As a start-up, local food business Little Bao Boy worked with AD:Venture and received a £25,000 growth grant to invest in their business. Through this support, the company was able to launch an extra arm of their business in wholesale and purchase equipment to continue their business growth.

- Amity Brew Company, a local brew pub, received an AD:Venture growth grant as well as business advice and loans from the partnering Business Enterprise Fund. As a result of this support, the business established its site in North West Leeds, and has also been able to maximise the wholesale potential of the business and recruit new members of staff.

66. We are working to create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food:

- The Leeds Anchor Network was established in 2018 to connect large organisations rooted in the city to increase their collective contribution towards the city's economy and local communities. One of the practical areas that Leeds Anchors are focused on making progress towards is procurement, as Anchors often have large discretionary spend which can be directed towards the local economy.
- Through funding from the Health Foundation, the Council is generating evidence and learning through evaluation, including identifying case studies.
- Leeds Beckett University have amended their Strategy, Policy and Procedures to ensure local and SME suppliers are considered at every spend threshold. Through their support, a local food supplier called Tiffin Sandwiches has grown from a tiny shop to a nationwide supplier employing 450 staff.
- Leeds Beckett University has also supported Artisan Bakes, a wholesale craft bakery, to gain a better understanding of the Higher Education sector and compliance.

67. In 2023, a Business Anchor network was established for the private sector to maximise its positive contribution to the city. There could be a future opportunity to promote local food procurement amongst these businesses given that procurement is an area of interest to the network.

68. We are promoting opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector:

- The Council's Employment and Skills Team continues to support hospitality due to ongoing challenges facing the sector. Despite some positive signs in terms of job postings in the regional hospitality, food and tourism sector in previous months, Deloitte has signalled that nation-wide labour market issues are expected to last beyond 2025.
- Employment and Skills works closely with the Leeds Hotel and Venues association to support the sector including seasonal recruitment campaigns and regular promotion of opportunities.
- The team assists Leeds City College in promoting the Hospitality Ready Programme and in enrolling candidates. This initiative bridges recruitment and skills shortages by providing accredited training, work placements, and guaranteed interviews with hospitality venues.
- Through collaborating with the DWP, the Employment and Skills Team are supporting unemployed residents to access employment opportunities in the hospitality sector.

Activity has included registering new customers for Employment Hub support and a Hospitality Jobs Fair.

- The "Connecting Schools to Hospitality" programme was established to link six Leeds schools with six hospitality venues, aiming to provide experiences that will encourage and inspire students to take up careers within the Hospitality industry. A celebratory event was held in July 2024 at Leeds City Colleges Printworks campus to celebrate the achievements of the students from the schools involved.

“Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture”.

69. The Council is working with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city. The Visit Leeds team is responsible for destination marketing and the visitor economy, with food and drink a key part of this, through recent funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

70. We are celebrating the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer in different parts of the city. The Visit Leeds team recently launched a new campaign called ‘Leeds, the city that loves to entertain’ which has also been bolstered by funding from the UKSPF. A core aspect of this campaign is celebrating ‘a thriving independent food scene you won’t find anywhere else’, and a range of food and drink-centred events and festivals taking place around the city are spotlighted, such as the North Leeds Food Festival, food and drink experiences and tours and Leeds International Beer Festival.

Sustainability & Resilience - key areas of progress

71. The Council and FoodWise Leeds partnership have made considerable progress in this food mission.

“Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food”.

72. The Council’s Environmental Services are developing a long term Leeds Waste Strategy, that will focus on household waste, including food waste. The plans relating to food waste collections will be incorporated into a larger strategy and work programme within Leeds Food Strategy for waste reduction, collection, recycling and redistribution.

73. Food waste issues were also an area of particular interest from participants in the Council’s Catering Mark consultation. The Council Catering Mark currently being coproduced between Public Health and CEGS is intended for implementation in summer 2025 and will also include waste elements, and the survey undertaken in spring 2024 highlighted that food waste was a key area of interest to respondents.

74. Funding has been secured and approved making various community based growing projects and expansion of community composting possible with the Council administered climate grants from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). To date £123,000, specifically for these food and waste related projects, has been approved and initiatives are in a range of areas across the city.
75. Following the Government notice in May 2024 councils are now expected to commence domestic food waste collections by April 2026 unless a transitional arrangement applies. Earlier, in March 2024, DEFRA provided councils with a share of the one-off capital allocation to support the purchase of infrastructure required to collect food waste, i.e. refuse collection vehicles, bins and caddies. Leeds has been allocated £7.1m. The Government has committed to providing councils with ongoing, new burden revenue funding to pay for the collection of food waste, but has yet to provide any information on how much that would be. An update is expected following the Spending Review in November 2024. In terms of collection models/options the expectation from DEFRA has moved towards the comingled collection of organic garden and food waste where that makes the most sense locally and supports the Simpler Recycling aims (in particular to keep the number of bins to a minimum). The future requirement remains for a weekly collection where food waste is included, despite fortnightly comingled garden/food collections being successfully delivered already in places such as Hull, East Riding and the Manchester area.
76. The Council's Environmental Services team has undertaken extensive modelling of service delivery options to prepare and adapt to the changing national position. This work has included the establishment of an annual composition analysis of household residual (black) and recycling (green) bins; which provides invaluable data on the contents of these bins, including how much food waste is in them. As any confirmation or detail on the timing or amount of funding for food waste collections has yet to be provided, it is likely the Council will look at a phased/incremental approach, utilising the existing infrastructure and available resources to enable as many residents as possible to begin the recycling of food waste through their kerbside household waste collections and the change in habits and behaviours that requires.
77. While these final arrangements and plans are being made Environment Services introduced kerbside domestic glass collection services through the green recycling bin in August 2024, thus completing the Simpler Recycling requirements for dry recyclable materials ahead of the 2026 commencement date.

“Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet”.

78. Implementation of additional information regarding carbon impact of food for customers at Temple Newsam (Green Spaces) café in summer 2024.

79. Support for additional developments of community growing opportunities including further sites in Leeds parks.
80. Over the last year July 23-July 24 Incredible Edible (IE) have expanded the number of community led growing groups from 13 to 18 with another 2 due imminently. This totals 20 groups, 68 sites and just over 150 beds exact locations can be found on IE's website [Bed Locations – Incredible Edible Leeds](#).
81. Some of these sites are linked in the Council parks areas with development supported alongside community volunteers with IE by Council Green Spaces officers in line with the Council's reconfirmation of support for community growing developments in our parks sites as highlighted in [Parks and Green Spaces overview to the Council Executive Board](#) in February, 2024. The additional number of IE sites since July 23 has been extensively supported by a successful Lottery award of £70,000, this however has recently come to an end and so progress over the coming year is expected to slow considerably unless a further funding source can be identified. IE has also worked to develop raised bed fruit and vegetable growing in some of the city's community orchard site.
82. There has recently been a resurgence of interest in community food growing in Leeds. We continue to support local food growing, both through the provision of allotments and through identifying other areas of land within 4000 hectares managed by the Green Spaces service that are suitable for community food growing (e.g. for orchards, of which there are over 35 on Council green spaces, or raised vegetable beds). Successful examples of community food growing projects include the 'edible beds' at Grove Road recreation ground which were installed and managed by Halton in Bloom and the orchards at Burley and Kirkstall Abbey parks that were developed by park Friends groups.
83. For the inception of an Allotment Development Plan, initial scoping has begun the development and implementation plan for the city's allotment sites, and this work will continue to be explored over the coming year.

“Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production”

84. Extensive work has been undertaken over the last year seeking to engage sector representative organisations as well as commercial growers/ farmers direct, however this has limited success.
85. Discussions with planning colleagues within the Council have been positive and future consideration will be incorporated into the Local Plan to develop this action further.
86. Further elements of the strategy and how it links to the broader city economy promoting Leeds as a destination city with the focus on consumption of local produce by businesses and institutions is also underway. This has been incorporated into the city's submission as part of the [Global Destination Sustainability Index](#) for the last two years. The GDS-Index is

a destination-level programme that measures, benchmarks, and improves the sustainability strategy and performance of tourism and events destinations.

87. Its purpose is to inspire, engage, and enable destinations to become more regenerative, flourishing, and resilient places to visit, meet, and live in. At our first submission, Leeds was awarded a GDS-Index score of 52.6 across all the environmental sustainability areas giving Leeds a ranking of 5th in the UK and 34th in Western Europe and was recognised for the strength of the detail in an initial submission, particularly for the environment section and adapting to a changing climate.

“Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying”

88. The Council is seeking through contract management discussions to understand and reduce the environmental impact of the food purchased by the Council in line with our food procurement guideline commitments. This is at initial stages to clearly identify where our current suppliers, procured to provide food across the council including schools, council attraction cafés, are currently sourcing foods from.

89. Further work will be undertaken to explore how ‘local’ and ‘seasonal’ this is to determine how further improvement can be made. The Council remains an active and lead organisation in the Leeds Anchors Network (LAN) Climate Sub-Group; through our participation and engagement with other large food buyers and consumers in the city we will seek to explore sustainable and resilient food consumption more widely.

90. Across all our partner engagement and networks, the council is seeking to embrace and showcase robust supply chain and buying systems. Other LAN Climate Sub-Group members will be encouraged to join the council in our procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.

Wards affected: ALL

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

91. The Council consulted on the draft Leeds Food Strategy October-December 2022. The findings of the consultation were reported in the Executive Board report, March 2023. The engagement and consultation involved a range of methods, including face to face events at several locations and surveys. In total, more than 700 people took part. The findings of the survey at the end of the consultation were largely supportive of the proposed missions and objectives of the strategy. Each of the three missions and fifteen objectives had a majority of respondents in support of them, ranging between 70% and 95% in favour.

92. There was a face-to-face re-engagement event in July 2023 to launch the strategy action plan and re-energise all LFS partners in taking forward the objective and actions.

93. The strategy has also been discussed at other fora:

- Climate Emergency Advisory Committee November 2023;
- Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, July 2024

What are the resource implications?

94. There are considerable resource implications of supporting and delivering the actions contained in the Leeds Food Strategy:

- The loss of funding to the Council, e.g. Comprehensive spending review.
- The loss of funding from the council, e.g. departmental budgets, freezes on spending, closure of some budgets
- The loss of external funding to universities, foodwise and other third sector groups, including possible future funding, options for WYCA climate grants, other small funds.
- The resource implications for the steering group, also financial constraints, e.g. severe limitation of the Council's ability to provide seedcorn funding for packages of work.

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

95. There is a risk that FoodWise Leeds is unable to continue or to operate without funding from the Council. The Council would need to forge individual relationships with each of the FoodWise partners, focusing on those actions which would have the strongest impact.

96. Food and health. Risks include constraints on the Council and the partnership's ability to promote healthy affordable foods, and limit unhealthy food availability, adverts, outlets. The risk is being managed through regular procurement and resourcing exercises.

97. Food and poverty. As the Council's Cost of Living reports and the Equality Diversity Cohesion and Integration assessment show, food poverty is closely linked to the increase in poverty and inequality. The Corporate Risk Register houses the most significant and cross cutting risks facing the council and city. The register includes a risk on Escalating Poverty - 'The impact of poverty in the city escalates due to factors such as inflation, fuel, food and energy prices increases.' The risk is managed through a range of activities as outlined in this report, including regular strategic and operational group meetings. The risk is regularly reviewed, updated and reported within the council.

98. The commercial influences that cause a high availability and promotion of processed foods with poor nutrient content pose a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities in Leeds with long term consequences for health and social care. This is being managed through raising awareness of the issue, and through driving forward the local government Healthy Weight Declaration.

What are the legal implications?

99. The recommendations set out in this report are eligible for call in. There are no other legal implications arising.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

100. The Leeds Food Strategy was developed because the partnerships and relationships across the city were so strong and well developed.
101. It is possible that the city could have made progress, for example, on each of the objectives or actions, without an overarching strategy.
102. However, it was considered, in the light of the Covid pandemic, and before the cost-of-living crisis, that by developing a single, long-term food strategy for the city, the Council and partners would be more able to deliver the outcomes.

How will success be measured?

103. Success for the strategy will be measured against the key performance indicators set out in this report and in **Appendices D and E**.
104. The monitoring of the strategy will be reported annually and monitored in line with the steering group meetings for the Council and FoodWise Leeds.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

105. The intention is for the Leeds Food Strategy to run to 2030, and so the strategy contents are expected to change over time, as new objectives, measures and actions are developed.
106. The steering groups for Leeds Food Strategy and FoodWise Leeds will remain responsible for implementation.

Appendices

Appendix A Detailed update on the Food Strategy Missions

Appendix B Governance Structure

Appendix C List of foodwise Leeds members/partners

Appendix D List of objectives and actions

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

Appendix F Leeds Food Strategy Plan on a Page

Appendix G EDCI assessment

Background Papers

None

A Health and Wellbeing Mission

1.1 Health & Wellbeing purpose

1. This mission has a direct role in supporting the Health and Wellbeing pillar of the Best City Ambition. It also supports Public Health priorities to reduce health related inequalities, prevent diet related disease, ensure all children have the best start in life and an age friendly city.
2. Access to nutritious and healthy food is essential for maintaining a healthy weight, assuring quality of life, emotional wellbeing, and productivity. There are government evidence-based recommendations to eat well for optimal health and wellbeing. Unfortunately for a lot of the population this can be challenging to attain due to the significant barriers to eating well. These barriers include the influence of the unhealthy food environment and acquiring the knowledge and practical skills required to prepare healthy foods. People from lower income groups face substantial challenges when it comes to accessing healthy food. The percentage of adults meeting the “5 a day” fruit and vegetable target in Leeds has reduced from 35.1% in 20/21 to 28.3% in 2023.
3. The unhealthy food environment has become increasingly normalised, where processed foods high in fat, sugar and salt is the default. The term ‘food environment’ is a combination of physical, economic, and sociocultural surroundings, opportunities and conditions that affect food intake. For example, where food is available, what it costs, how it is sold, government policy, societal norms, and cultural influences. Furthermore, marketing, sponsorship, and promotions are consistently and intensively driven towards the sale of these products with multi-national companies controlling a significant amount of the landscape that shapes behaviour. These are often referred to as the commercial determinants of health (CDoH).
4. Improving health and wellbeing through food involves working across the local food system to shift food culture so the healthiest foods are affordable, available and appealing. Working together the Council, alongside the FoodWise Leeds Partnership, are looking to co-develop solutions, remove barriers, improve quality of life, become more socially connected through harnessing the many benefits that food brings.
5. This mission also has inter-linkages with both the Food Security and Economy (FS&E) and Sustainability and Resilience (S&R) missions. For example:
 - Fruit and vegetables are often low carbon and contribute to climate friendly actions. Foods that have a high carbon footprint such as dairy, and red meat are only

recommended in small quantities due to their associations with increasing risk of cardiovascular disease and some cancers. There are actions under the H&W mission that support S&R objectives such as the “Just One More” campaign (see key areas of progress). Additionally, actions regarding the provision and procurement of food under S&R also supports H&W.

- The inability to access healthy nutritious foods is a major barrier for adopting a healthy diet as well as increasing stress and affecting overall wellbeing. Therefore, actions to develop and promote the food resilience toolkit under FS&E supports the H&W mission, whilst the commissioning of health and wellbeing services by Public Health (Better Together Community Development and School Health and Wellbeing services) improve access to food.

1.2 Health & Wellbeing areas of progress

6. The Council and FoodWise Leeds have made the following progress on the health and wellbeing food mission.

“Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing”.

7. The Eatwell Forum has been re-established to support the delivery of the Health and Well-Being section of the Leeds Food Strategy. It ensures a Leeds-wide coordinated approach to food and health work, enabling the delivery of consistent evidence-based messages and effective practice tailored to meet local community food needs. The group will be responsible for reviewing and developing the resources available to promote healthier eating in the city including cultural food resources.
8. The 3rd year of delivering the local “Just One More” campaign to encourage an additional portion of vegetables across a range of setting including schools, markets, LCC cafes, NHS and Third Sector.
9. Ongoing promotion of Leeds Breastfeeding Friendly by the Leeds Bosom Buddies (breastfeeding peer supporters) have approximately 100 venues signed up.
10. School Health and Well-being service in partnership with the University of Leeds are mapping school breakfast club provision across schools, to consider appropriate actions.
11. There has been a focus on early years and older people which has included the development of:
 - An Older People Food Action plan to support the nutrition and hydration needs of older people across settings.
 - A Healthy Start Action plan to increase uptake of the national Healthy Start scheme. This aims to increase access to fruit and vegetables for low-income families.

“Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating”.

12. FoodWise Leeds are taking a lead on raising awareness of all the fantastic community food activity taking place across Leeds using stories and social media. This includes reviewing the FoodWise website as a portal for all food related information linking to relevant website such as the Food Aid Network.
13. Through the Eatwell Forum community food initiatives are developed and supported including a range of Third Sector provision i.e. Leeds Cooking School at Kirkgate Market, Flourishing Families and West Leeds Recipe Station. Moving forward, the group will map food initiatives and look at opportunities for new projects and ensure appropriate access to signposting information.

“Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing”.

14. Leeds City Council have developed Healthier Vending Standards based on Government Buying Standards for Food (GBSF). The GBSF sets out standards for public sector organisations to apply when procuring food and catering services. These standards relate to food production, processing and distribution, nutrition, resource efficiency, and socio-economic considerations. The Healthier Vending Standards are reviewed annually and enable the availability of healthier food and drink options through vending across the Council.
15. Public Health have undertaken a survey amongst the public to capture views on the food and drinks available from council cafes across leisure services and tourist attractions to inform a Healthier Catering Award due to be launched next year. This will support a range of actions including enabling healthier food availability, considering planet friendly menus and waste management.
16. Public Health have been working with Council colleagues to consider options for implementing an updated Council advertising and sponsorship policy to reduce the promotion of food and drink that are high in fat, sugar or salt. Advertisements of food and drink that meet recommended guidelines would be required to replace those that are high in fat, sugar or salt. Implementing a policy would have benefits across all the missions of the strategy.
17. Planning Services have been working with Public Health to review the Councils Supplementary Planning Document on Hot Food Takeaways (SPD) and consider how this can be strengthened through the Local Plan Update. The SPD provides detailed guidance to businesses, applicants, agents and the local community on how the Council will assess applications for hot food takeaways where planning permission is required. Public Health are leading on the development of a Data Matrix to inform decision making on Hot Food Takeaway applications.

“Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases”.

18. This is led through the coordination and engagement with multi-stakeholders through the Eat Well Forum. The HATCH partnership is currently acting a test site for developing bespoke training focused on food for the workforce.

1.3 Health & Wellbeing challenges

19. In addition to the progress made, there are significant challenges that affect the delivery of the Health & Wellbeing mission. Most importantly, tackling the Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH). The Commercial Determinants of Health are private sector activities which impact public health, either positively or negatively, directly or indirectly, and the enabling political economic systems and norms. Food industry practices create the conditions that drive high consumption of unhealthy processed foods and beverages. The availability, accessibility and desirability of these foods and beverages is increased by practices such as supply chain consolidation, marketing and advertising, corporate social responsibility, and corporate political activity. UK government action is required to help reduce the impact of commercial practice on food and drink consumption, for example, the introduction of a 9pm watershed restriction for TV and online adverts for high fat, salt, sugar foods postponement until October 2025.

20. A working group has been established between Public Health and Planning Services to look at what further planning controls could be introduced. However, it will be important to assess what is feasible in terms of the areas that planning might/might not be able to help with, regarding the quality and composition of food sold and advertising in terms of role and regulation.

21. An ongoing challenge highlighted by multiple stakeholders through the Eat Well Forum is the current lack of cooking skills provision in Leeds due to the Local Authority financial challenge and the absence of other funding opportunities.

B Food Security and Economy

2.1 Food Security & Economy purpose

22. The Food Security and Economy food mission aims to ensure that everyone in Leeds has access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy. The mission is crucial for contributing economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally to society. The food mission also addresses the challenges of poverty and food insecurity, aiming to ensure that more people can physically access, afford, and prepare healthy

nutritious food without compromising other basic needs. It is part of a broader vision to create a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable economy in Leeds.

2.2 Food Security & Economy areas of progress

23. Since the strategy was formally launched in July 2023, several key initiatives have been progressed under each objective, set out in the sections below.

“Tackle factors limiting people’s ability to afford the food they need”.

24. Achieving our goal relies significantly on a collaborative partnership, strategically and operationally. The Food Insecurity Taskforce chaired by the council has realigned its priorities to match those of the Leeds Food Strategy and its action plan. Whilst at an operational level the Leeds Food Aid Network (LFAN) brings together a range of food aid providers, distributors and the Council, to help tackle food insecurity and support people towards food independence effectively in the city of Leeds. LFAN reports into the West Yorkshire Food Poverty Network and is connected to the national initiative Feeding Britain.

25. It is vital that residents and families know where to find appropriate support, advice, and guidance, as well as making sustainable programs that increase access to healthy food available. Activities that support this are:

- The Leeds Advice Contract led by Citizens Advice Leeds in partnership with Better Leeds Communities which supports over 27,000 clients a year on a range of advice subjects including benefits, universal credit, housing, debt, immigration and employment queries.
- The Leeds Money Information Centre (MIC) continues to be the main signposting opportunity to assist families and frontline workers in accessing quality assured, free, confidential and impartial help and advice on a range of money related matters such as debt, energy, food and utilities. Printed MIC resources are also available and distributed.
- Training Awareness Sessions: Facilitated by Financial Inclusion Team continue to be delivered in partnership with relevant organisations/experts on sessions including poverty and financial inclusion, cost of living, food and fuel support.
- Income maximisation: Campaigns have been developed around uptakes on underclaimed benefits such as pension credit and healthy start. The application for Free School Meals has been included on our combined application form with Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit for many years. Since 2019 Free School Meal eligibility has been considered on all applications received, unless a family proactively opts out.

“Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives”

26. Achieving this goal requires collaboration with stakeholders to develop programmes and projects that provide affordable and inclusive access to food. In addition, working together to

offer practical help and support for frontline workers, volunteers and organisations providing food aid to people experiencing food insecurity. Key areas of work include:

27. The introduction of *Community Shop*, part of Company Shop Group, which helps members save an average of £212 per month on groceries, offers free membership for those in the local area on means-tested benefits, and provides low-cost cafes and courses aimed at fostering independence and employability. It offers products at about one-third of the retail price, and more than half of its customers move on within a year. Community Shop plans to open at least one location in Leeds, with a preference for being situated within a community centre alongside other relevant services. Locations have been explored based on mapping existing food aid provision against food poverty data to identify gaps in Leeds. Gaps were identified in East and South Leeds and locations are being explored in Swarcliffe and Holbeck initially. It is hoped that the first shop will open by the end of October 2024 and others will follow.
28. The *FoodSavers* scheme which offers high quality fresh and store cupboard food for a low weekly membership fee (typically £6) via a food pantry. Membership also gives the opportunity to attend cookery classes, and save in a recognised Credit Union account. At present, Leeds has five pantries that are part of the FoodSavers initiative, with the first one commencing in October 2023, and there are intentions for another twelve to join the program. As of June 2024, the existing pantries within Leeds have accrued 157 members who have collectively saved £2790. Many of these members have never had savings and as the scheme grows the number of members and amount of savings will continue to grow.
29. There is a Cultural Food Hub Provision within the city, facilitated by organisations such as Give a Gift and Hamara, which supplies culturally suitable food to groups throughout the city. This contributes to a more inclusive offering of food assistance.
30. The updated Food Aid Provision Map, LFAN, the Council and partners collaborated to update the resource which maps food provision across Leeds to show where projects and services are based, along with further useful information about each provision. The aim of the map is to help direct the public to food support and to help neighbouring organisations collaborate more easily.
31. The collaborative creation and launch of a Food Aid Charter in partnership with Public Health to set out key principles and best practice to support local food aid providers to work towards the long-term goal of building food resilience.
32. Led by Public Health the revision of the Building Food Resilience toolkit focusing on encouraging the transition from emergency food aid to sustainable options like Food Pantries, fostering long-term resilience in food security.
33. Delivery of programmes including the DWP's Household Support Fund, and DfE's Holiday Activity and Food Programme, in collaboration with council services and the third sector in Leeds to ensure they reach households most in need of support.

“Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers”.

34. We are helping local food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice:

- Through working with Start-Up West Yorkshire to reflect on its business model, and through grant funding from AD:Venture, local mobile bar business Tchin Tchin has been able to progress from business to customer trading to business to business, targeting weddings and corporate events. The business plans on bringing in additional staff and is closer to its goal of being able to employ a small team.
- As a start-up, local food business Little Bao Boy worked with AD:Venture and received a £25,000 growth grant to invest in their business. Through this support, the company was able to launch an extra arm of their business in wholesale and purchase equipment to continue their business growth. Little Bao Boy now has 22 staff members and has ambitions to move into retail.
- Amity Brew Company, a local brew pub, received an AD:Venture growth grant as well as business advice and loans from the partnering Business Enterprise Fund. As a result of this support, the business established its site in North West Leeds, and has also been able to maximise the wholesale potential of the business and recruit new members of staff.

35. We are working to create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food:

- The Leeds Anchor Network was established in 2018 to connect large organisations rooted in the city to increase their collective contribution towards the city’s economy and local communities. One of the practical areas that Leeds Anchors are focused on making progress towards is procurement, as Anchors often have large discretionary spend which can be directed towards the local economy.
- Through funding from the Health Foundation, the Council is generating evidence and learning through evaluation, including identifying case studies:
- Leeds Beckett University have amended their Strategy, Policy and Procedures to ensure local and SME suppliers are considered at every spend threshold. Through their support, a local food supplier called Tiffin Sandwiches has grown from a tiny shop to a nationwide supplier employing 450 staff.
- Leeds Beckett University has also supported Artisan Bakes, a wholesale craft bakery, to gain a better understanding of the Higher Education sector and compliance. Through a contract with the University, the business now employs an additional 17 staff from the local community.

36. In 2023, a Business Anchor network was established for the private sector to maximise its positive contribution to the city. There could be a future opportunity to promote local food

procurement amongst these businesses given that procurement is an area of interest to the network.

37. We are promoting opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector:

- The Council's Employment and Skills Team continues to support hospitality due to ongoing challenges facing the sector. Despite some positive signs in terms of job postings in the regional hospitality, food and tourism sector in previous months, Deloitte has signalled that nation-wide labour market issues are expected to last beyond 2025.
- Employment and Skills works closely with the Leeds Hotel and Venues association to support the sector including seasonal recruitment campaigns and regular promotion of opportunities.
- The team assists Leeds City College in promoting the Hospitality Ready Programme and in enrolling candidates. This initiative bridges recruitment and skills shortages by providing accredited training, work placements, and guaranteed interviews with hospitality venues.
- Through collaborating with the DWP, the Employment and Skills Team are supporting unemployed residents to access employment opportunities in the hospitality sector. Activity has included registering new customers for Employment Hub support and a Hospitality Jobs Fair.
- The "Connecting Schools to Hospitality" programme was established to link six Leeds schools with six hospitality venues, aiming to provide experiences that will encourage and inspire students to take up careers within the Hospitality industry. A celebratory event was held in July 2024 at Leeds City Colleges Printworks campus to celebrate the achievements of the students from the schools involved.

“Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture”.

38. The Council is working with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city:

- The Visit Leeds team is responsible for destination marketing and the visitor economy, with food and drink a key part of this. Through recent funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the team has been able to drive forward several activities:
 - A key initiative working with the local food sector is Eat Leeds Restaurant Week, which returned in February 2024. The purpose is to drive more footfall towards hospitality businesses in Leeds and make restaurants more accessible to new customers, with 40 businesses participating in the scheme. Over 7,500 Restaurant Week vouchers were downloaded across the campaign generating over £100,000 revenue.

- In May 2024 Leeds once again hosted UKREiiF, the national Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum, which welcomed over 13,000 people and had an estimated economic boost of £20m for the city. Using UKREiiF as a focal point for Destination Marketing activities, the Visit Leeds team produced a Digital Restaurant Guide for visitors as well as locals, featuring 100 local restaurants.
- Additionally, two delegate experience guides were developed promoting independent businesses and local experiences.

39. We are celebrating the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer in different parts of the city:

- Further to the activities listed above, the Visit Leeds team recently launched a new campaign called 'Leeds, the city that loves to entertain' which has also been bolstered by funding from the UKSPF. A core aspect of this campaign is celebrating 'a thriving independent food scene you won't find anywhere else', and a range of food and drink-centred events and festivals taking place around the city are spotlighted, such as the North Leeds Food Festival, food and drink experiences and tours, and Leeds International Beer Festival.

2.3 Food Security & Economy challenges

40. In terms of Food Insecurity, the city is experiencing a strain on services due to financial instability and funding cuts in local government, healthcare, and the third sector, during times of high demand. The continuation of insecure, short-term funding and timescales is a barrier to the sustainability and planning of supportive measures.
41. Considering the financial instability and reduced funding, it's important to acknowledge that the present 'food parcel' approach is not sustainable. Collaborating with partners is essential to create a more sustainable solution.
42. There is currently no indication from government of whether the [Household Support Fund](#) (HSF) which provides support to low-income households in the city will be extended past September 2024. Over a 12-month period ending 31 March 2024, £13,386,794 was spent directly supporting 187,196 households. A total of 218,438 awards were made 40% of these were categorised to include food.
43. In addition, the Healthy Holidays programme's current funding ends Christmas 2024. Throughout 2023 this funding reached just over 22,000 children, with over 127,000 portions of food served.
44. Organisations like [Fareshare](#) and [Rethink Food](#) are seeing changes in the surplus food landscape and availability, while Food Aid groups note a decline in donations. Not necessarily a decline in physical donations; but rather that monetary contributions are buying less, resulting in fewer food items being received.

45. Turning to the food economy strand, there is an opportunity to further embed the Strategy in the work of economic development services that have a relationship to food. This would ensure that activity aligns to all three strategy missions and progress captured goes beyond business as usual. A key barrier is resource, however there could be opportunities to build buy-in through undertaking another round of targeted engagement, inviting service representatives to relevant Food Strategy meetings, identifying 'quick win' actions across areas, and learning from the best practice of other cities.
46. More specifically, there could be future opportunities to deliver activity on the action 'supporting innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises'. The city has an innovation vision to 'stimulate innovation which drives and delivers measurable impact towards a healthier, greener and more inclusive future', which the Food Strategy aligns with. The council could explore the potential to support new opportunities for innovative and sustainable food production, for example through future rounds of innovation@leeds grant funding.

C Sustainability & Resilience Mission

3.1 Sustainability & Resilience areas of progress

47. The Sustainability and Resilience food mission aligns to the Zero Carbon pillar of the Council's ambition. The terminology was amended prior to and during extensive public consultation during late October 2022-December 2022 to ensure it was understandable and accessible for residents and responders to the consultation offered online and in person.
48. It is essential for the sustainability and resilience of our food to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan. Our climate is changing. Warmer temperatures, changing rain patterns, and more extreme weather events are already affecting food security across the world—and will increasingly do so until global climate action means that the amount of planet-warming gases in our atmosphere begins to decrease.
49. Leeds declared a climate emergency in 2019, as part of our climate action plan, the Council's ambition is to achieve net zero carbon emissions as quickly as possible and to boost our city's resilience to the changing climate. Enabling the transition to a more sustainable food system by wasting less food, increasing availability of healthier foods, and producing food in better and more environmentally friendly ways we can reduce the 1/5 of our current national carbon footprint impact which is attributable to food.
50. Energy used to transport and process our food contributes to the food sector's carbon footprint, so we will reduce these emissions by transitioning to zero emission transport and power as part of other strategies. However, most greenhouse gas emissions from food are

released before produce even leaves the farm gates because of factors like fertiliser use, the methane emissions from livestock, and converting environmentally important land like peat bogs and rainforest into farms. We must consider what foods are grown and how they are grown—not just how far foods have travelled.

51. Ultimately, ensuring the way we produce, consume, and dispose of food is fit for the future is not only necessary and beneficial long-term, but will also help us to improve the quality of life for everyone across the city.

52. In making amendments to the objectives and actions for sustainability and resilience, account was again taken of the extensive public consultation for LFS undertaken in late 2022. This ensured that the priority and order of areas of interest, and their importance commented on and rated by respondents was retained within the amendments made to the Sustainability and Resilience food mission.

- Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial production, sale and consumption of seasonal, local foods by promoting the economic and social value benefits within the city.
- Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying embracing and showcasing robust supply chain and buying systems to encourage the city's biggest organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.

Sustainability & Resilience areas of progress

53. The Council and FoodWise Leeds partnership have made considerable progress in this food mission.

“Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food”.

54. The Council’s Environmental Services are developing a long term Leeds Waste Strategy, that will focus on household waste, including food waste. The plans relating to food waste collections will be incorporated into a larger strategy and work programme within Leeds Food Strategy for waste reduction, collection, recycling and redistribution.

55. Food waste issues were also an area of particular interest from participants in the Council’s Catering Mark consultation. The Council Catering Mark currently being coproduced between Public Health and CEGS is intended for implementation in summer 2025 and will also include waste elements, and the survey undertaken in spring 2024 highlighted that food waste was a key area of interest to respondents.

56. Funding has been secured and approved making various community based growing projects and expansion of community composting possible with the Council administered climate grants from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). To date £123,000, specifically for

these food and waste related projects, has been approved and initiatives are in a range of areas across the city.

57. Following the Government notice in May 2024 councils are now expected to commence domestic food waste collections by April 2026 unless a transitional arrangement applies. Earlier, in March 2024, DEFRA provided councils with a share of the one-off capital allocation to support the purchase of infrastructure required to collect food waste, i.e. refuse collection vehicles, bins and caddies. Leeds has been allocated £7.1m. The Government has committed to providing councils with ongoing, new burden revenue funding to pay for the collection of food waste, but has yet to provide any information on how much that would be. An update is expected following the Spending Review in November 2024. In terms of collection models/options the expectation from DEFRA has moved towards the comingled collection of organic garden and food waste where that makes the most sense locally and supports the Simpler Recycling aims (in particular to keep the number of bins to a minimum). The future requirement remains for a weekly collection where food waste is included, despite fortnightly comingled garden/food collections being successfully delivered already in places such as Hull, East Riding and the Manchester area.
58. The Council's Environmental Services team has undertaken extensive modelling of service delivery options to prepare and adapt to the changing national position. This work has included the establishment of an annual composition analysis of household residual (black) and recycling (green) bins; which provides invaluable data on the contents of these bins, including how much food waste is in them. As any confirmation or detail on the timing or amount of funding for food waste collections has yet to be provided, it is likely the Council will look at a phased/incremental approach, utilising the existing infrastructure and available resources to enable as many residents as possible to begin the recycling of food waste through their kerbside household waste collections and the change in habits and behaviours that requires.
59. While these final arrangements and plans are being made Environment Services introduced kerbside domestic glass collection services through the green recycling bin in August 2024, thus completing the Simpler Recycling requirements for dry recyclable materials ahead of the 2026 commencement date.

“Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet”.

60. Implementation of additional information regarding carbon impact of food for customers at Temple Newsam (Green Spaces) café in summer 2024.
61. Support for additional developments of community growing opportunities including further sites in Leeds parks.

62. Over the last year July 23-July 24 Incredible Edible (IE) have expanded the number of community led growing groups from 13 to 18 with another 2 due imminently. This totals 20 groups, 68 sites and just over 150 beds exact locations can be found on IE's website [Bed Locations – Incredible Edible Leeds](#). It is expected that plans for another group will be finalised before August 2025 in Richmond Hill.
63. Some of these sites are linked in the Council parks areas with development supported alongside community volunteers with IE by Council Green Spaces officers in line with the Council's reconfirmation of support for community growing developments in our parks sites as highlighted in [Parks and Green Spaces overview to the Council Executive Board](#) in February, 2024. The additional number of IE sites since July 23 has been extensively supported by a successful Lottery award of £70,000, this however has recently come to an end and so progress over the coming year is expected to slow considerably unless a further funding source can be identified.
64. IE has also worked to develop raised bed fruit and vegetable growing in some of the city's community orchard site.
65. There has recently been a resurgence of interest in community food growing in Leeds. We continue to support local food growing, both through the provision of allotments and through identifying other areas of land within 4000 hectares managed by the Green Spaces service that are suitable for community food growing (e.g. for orchards, of which there are over 35 on Council green spaces, or raised vegetable beds). Successful examples of community food growing projects include the 'edible beds' at Grove Road recreation ground which were installed and managed by Halton in Bloom and the orchards at Burley and Kirkstall Abbey parks that were developed by park Friends groups. Going forward, we will work with Food Strategy partners and community groups to promote further opportunities to grow food on our sites.
66. For the inception of an Allotment Development Plan, initial scoping has begun the development and implementation plan for the city's allotment sites, and this work will continue to be explored over the coming year.

“Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production”

67. Extensive work has been undertaken over the last year seeking to engage sector representative organisations as well as commercial growers/ farmers direct, however this has limited success. Further discussed under the key challenges section.
68. Discussions with planning colleagues within the Council have been positive and future consideration will be incorporated into the Local Plan to develop this action further.
69. Further elements of the strategy and how it links to the broader city economy promoting Leeds as a destination city with the focus on consumption of local produce by businesses

and institutions is also underway. This has been incorporated into the city's submission as part of the Global Destination Sustainability Index for the last two years. The GDS-Index is a destination-level programme that measures, benchmarks, and improves the sustainability strategy and performance of tourism and events destinations.

70. Its purpose is to inspire, engage, and enable destinations to become more regenerative, flourishing, and resilient places to visit, meet, and live in. At our first submission, Leeds was awarded a GDS-Index score of 52.6 across all the environmental sustainability areas giving Leeds a ranking of 5th in the UK and 34th in Western Europe and was recognised for the strength of the detail in an initial submission, particularly for the environment section and adapting to a changing climate.

“Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying”

71. The Council is seeking through contract management discussions to understand and reduce the environmental impact of the food purchased by the Council in line with our food procurement guideline commitments. This is at initial stages to clearly identify where our current suppliers, procured to provide food across the council including schools, council attraction cafés, are currently sourcing foods from.

72. Further work will be undertaken to explore how 'local' and 'seasonal' this is to determine how further improvement can be made. The Council remains an active and lead organisation in the Leeds Anchors Network (LAN) Climate Sub-Group; through our participation and engagement with other large food buyers and consumers in the city we will seek to explore sustainable and resilient food consumption more widely.

73. Across all our partner engagement and networks, the council is seeking to embrace and showcase robust supply chain and buying systems. Other LAN Climate Sub-Group members will be encouraged to join the council in our procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.

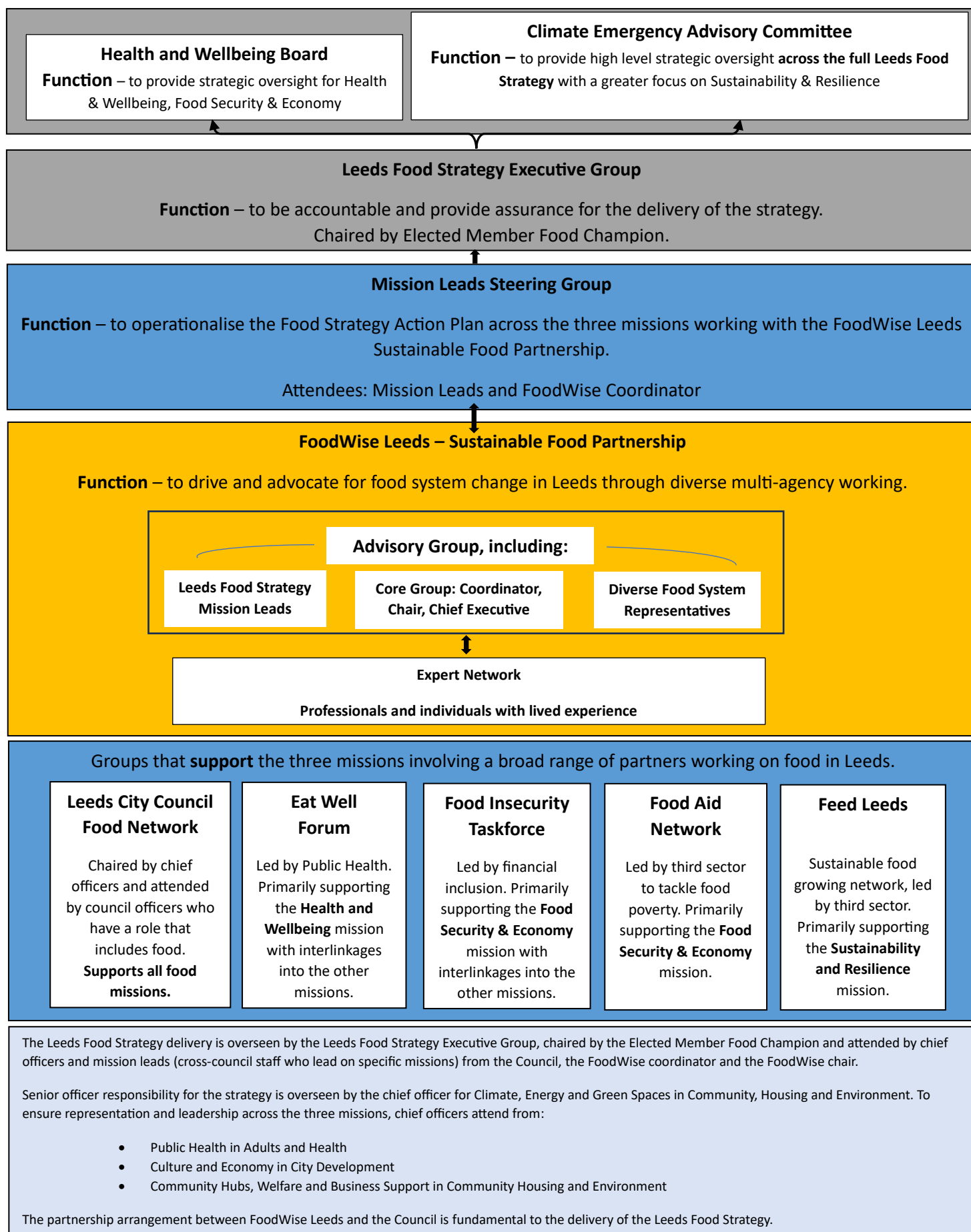
3.3 Sustainability & Resilience challenges

74. Effective engagement with local commercial growers and farmers has been limited and problematic, despite channels of communication with sector representative organisations, including unions and networks, elected members and intelligence related to the Council as a corporate landlord of tenanted land.

75. Digital and technological updates as well as staffing resource changes within the University of Leeds regarding the collaborative food carbon emissions calculator have led to delays in delivery of this aspect of the strategy action plan. Commercially available carbon calculators for food have also been explored, however the cost associated with these is prohibitive.

76. The national agenda around providing additional information to customers about the carbon impact of their food through Defra and Institute of Grocery Distributors (IGD) has already begun. However, from the scope and food labelling consultation Defra undertook earlier this year it seems this will offer retail only labelling e.g. packaged items in supermarkets & stores and will not include commercial suppliers e.g. those the council uses for food buying into schools, children's centre and café sites with Green Spaces, Museums and Galleries.

Appendix B - Leeds Food Strategy Governance Structure



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Appendix C Leeds Food Strategy List of FoodWise Leeds members

Fareshare Yorkshire

Feed Leeds

Eatwell Forum

Give a Gift

Global Food and Environment Institute, University of Leeds

Leeds City Council

Leeds Food Aid Network

Rethink Food

Zest

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Leeds Food Strategy 2022-2030

Action Plan 2022 - 2026

‘At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embraces new techniques and technologies’

- **Mission A: Health and Wellbeing**

Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing through eating well.

- **Mission B: Food Security and Economy**

Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

- **Mission C: Sustainability and Resilience**

Ensuring the Leeds food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

Appendix D Leeds Food Strategy Action Plan

Mission A: Health and Wellbeing					
Led by Healthy Living in Public Health					
Objective	Action No	Action Description	Key Activity	Lead Team/ Org	Involved Groups
1. Ensure people of all ages know how to access, prepare and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.	1	Work across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of Eatwell recommendations and adapt these to individual lives.	<p>Lead delivery of the Just One More Campaign.</p> <p>Develop accessible resources to support public understanding of Eat Well guidelines.</p> <p>Development and piloting of the multicultural eat well guide.</p> <p>Ensure key messages linked to the Eatwell Guide are embedded through all relevant support, training and activity with schools delivered by the Health and Wellbeing Service.</p> <p>Develop local guide to support the use of the Eat Well Guide considering impact of cost of living and the importance of food culture.</p>	<p>PH LCC,</p> <p>Eat Well Forum</p> <p>UoL, LBU and FGF</p> <p>School HWB Service</p> <p>Eat Well Forum</p>	Eat Well Forum/ Catering Leeds
	2	Work across sectors to enable the skills and opportunities to overcome barriers to buying, preparing, and eating healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.	<p>Promotion of breast-feeding friendly initiatives and venues. Re-validated breast-feeding friendly initiative gold accreditation in 2023.</p> <p>Map breakfast club provision across schools.</p>	<p>PH LCC</p> <p>School HWB Service</p> <p>Eat Well Forum (providers)</p>	Maternal Healthy Weight group / Eat Well Forum/ Best start

Appendix D Leeds Food Strategy Action Plan

			<p>A range of 3rd sector providers deliver high quality cooking courses for children, families and adults with consideration for a range of needs.</p> <p>Establish a healthy start steering group and action plan for increasing uptake and accessibility for people experiencing barriers.</p> <p>Promote oral health in children.</p> <p>Re-energise and consult on '<i>Leeds Cooking Consensus</i>' to support quality interventions.</p> <p>Identify opportunities and barriers to accessing a healthy diet in the student population.</p> <p>Deliver on Older people and food action plan 24/25</p>	<p>LCC PH</p> <p>School HWB Service</p> <p>Catering Leeds, School HWB Service</p> <p>PH LCC & Universities</p> <p>PH LCC & Older people's forum</p>	
2. Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.	3	Raise awareness of, and celebrate, community-led food initiatives in Leeds and the impact they have	Utilise Foodwise website, campaigns and communications for raising awareness using the strapline #goodfoodmovement and #goodfoodstories.	FoodWise Steering Group	Eat Well Forum/ FAN/ Feed Leeds
	4	Support community-led food initiatives to identify new funding opportunities.	Build a collection of good food stories that celebrate community initiatives and include in foodwise newsletters.	FoodWise	

Appendix D Leeds Food Strategy Action Plan

			<p>Support 3rd sector partners to apply for funding to deliver quality food initiatives.</p> <p>Work with Zest to support the delivery of community cooking programmes from Leeds Cooking School at Kirkgate Market.</p>		
	5	Encourage and enable better co-ordination and sharing of best practice between groups.	<p>Refresh membership and TOR of Eat Well Forum for sharing practice between community food initiatives and groups.</p> <p>Improve communications and sharing of practice between a range of groups.</p>	LCC PH FoodWise	Eat Well Forum/ Feed Leeds/ FAN
3. Change our city environment to make healthier food more available and appealing	6	Work with interested organisations that provide or sell food to encourage them to prepare and promote healthy and nutritious food more prominently	<p>Pilot an LCC healthy catering award and establish an approach for delivering a city-wide catering award.</p> <p>Review engagement of schools in the food component of Healthy Schools award in supporting this action. E.g. training, lunch box guidance</p> <p>Review current uptake of food for life catering award</p> <p>Ensure actions that improve food environment are embedded in LTHT and LYPFYT food strategies.</p> <p>Disseminate findings and research from the vending work programme. Paper to be published in Public Health Nutrition journal.</p>	LCC PH LCC PH & Catering Leeds School HWB Service Catering Leeds LTHT/ LYPFT LCC PH	LCC food Network Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD) Steering group

Appendix D Leeds Food Strategy Action Plan

	7	Prevent the over saturation of high fat, sugar, salt food and drink products (HFSS) in the Out of Home Food environment with planning policy and guidance.	<p>Work with the LCC Food safety team to map fast food takeaway outlets across Leeds and develop guidance for improvements that businesses can make.</p> <p>Evaluate hot food takeaway SPD impact and what changes need to be made to increase impact with Local plan update and develop Leeds Food Data Matrix</p>	LCC PH & Food Safety	
	8	Explore opportunities to advertise and promote healthier and sustainable eating.	Consider options for implementing an advertising policy.	LCC PH & City Management	LCC Food Network/ Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD) Steering group
4. Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.	9	Continue to invest in prevention and treatment programmes that reduce the impact of diet-related ill health in the people most at risk.	<p>Map availability and accessibility of support that promotes and enables healthier eating across Leeds.</p> <p>Ensure support for healthier eating is offered through PH contracts that support health and wellbeing – Better together, social prescribing, PCN health and wellbeing coaches.</p> <p>Scope research, data and insight relating to diet related disease and access/ support for healthy eating for people with SMI in both community and hospital settings.</p> <p>Develop and Implement LYPFT food plan</p>	LCC PH LCC PH LCC PH/ LYPFT LYPFT	

Appendix D Leeds Food Strategy Action Plan

	10	Provide training opportunities to support a skilled workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based information on healthier eating	Promote 'All our health' e-learning training on healthy eating for health professionals. Work with HATCH LCP to develop bespoke training on food.	LCC PH LCC PH	
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Mission B: Food Security & Economy					
Led by Financial Inclusion and Economic Development					
Objective	Action No	Action Description	Key Activity	Lead Team/ Org	Involved Groups
5. Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need	11	Champion actions and initiatives that help address poverty and food insecurity, including fair wages and financial support.	<p>Support and develop the Food Insecurity taskforce and the Leeds Food Aid Network to coordinate food aid work in the city.</p> <p>Support implementation of fair work charter</p> <p>Support the Leeds Advice Contract so that people have access to free, confidential and impartial advice and support.</p> <p>Support Leeds Credit Union to maintain and develop their services across Leeds.</p>	LCC Financial Inclusion (FI)	Food Insecurity Task Force/FAN
	12	Raise awareness of how residents can increase their incomes, including helping them to access any financial support they may qualify for.	<p>Maintenance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leeds Money Information Centre Resources - website & printed materials ● FI Bulletin ● Leeds Cost of Living - Support work & Google Drive ● Advice Service Contract (bolstered via Mayoral Fund (short-term)) 	LCC FI	Financial Inclusion Steering Group

			<p>Cost Of living and Financial Support and Awareness Training Sessions for frontline staff.</p> <p>Supporting uptake campaigns, on benefits inclusion, Free School Meals, Pensions credit and Healthy Start.</p>		
	13	Develop and sustain programmes that improve access to healthy food for people on low incomes	<p>Food Hub evaluation tool research</p> <p>Citywide Healthy Holidays Programme, campaigning for a long term commitment to this programme.</p> <p>Deliver Household Support Fund through a collaborative approach which ensures support is received by those most in need. Campaigning for a ringfenced long term solution to crisis support.</p> <p>Continue the Free School Meals Process (auto application with CTS) and sharing practice with other local authorities</p> <p>Rethink Food Education Programmes.</p> <p>Support Just one more campaign.</p>	<p>UoL</p> <p>LCC FI</p> <p>LCC FI</p> <p>LCC</p> <p>Rethink Food</p> <p>LCC</p>	
6.Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives	14	Work together with partners to improve, and make more inclusive, affordable food initiatives so that everyone can access the help they need.	<p>Continued promotion of Local Food Pantry Models & Cultural Food Hubs</p> <p>Using the Food Aid Provision Map for analysis of local coverage etc & supporting projects that tackle areas of need.</p> <p>Support the introduction of Community Shop to Leeds as a complimentary model to existing providers & linking organisations strategically with Leeds infrastructure and food insecurity taskforce.</p>	<p>LCC FI</p> <p>FAN</p>	<p>Food Insecurity Taskforce /FAN</p>

			<p>Ongoing collaboration with Fareshare Yorkshire & Rethink Food to strengthen food security in the city. Both playing vital roles in redistributing surplus food, linked into food aid providers.</p> <p>Update and refresh the building food resilience toolkit in collaboration with partners, to offer practical help and support for frontline workers, volunteers and organisations providing food aid to people experiencing food insecurity.</p>		
15	Connect food aid providers with other free, impartial, and confidential support services to help residents access information and support to prepare and afford healthy meals.	<p>Support introduction of Food Savers Model Pilot in Leeds (Armley confirmed launching June 2023) in collaboration with FAN, Leeds Credit Union, and local food pantry providers. Learning from a successful model introduced in Bradford (WYPN).</p> <p>Trussell Trust Money Buddies pilot project, Money Buddies are at Twelve Trussell Trust Foodbanks throughout Leeds. They provide a half day weekly debt and money advice service for food bank users</p> <p>North & West Food Bank also working with Dial for benefits advice.</p> <p>Trussell Trust/Mind/CAB Pilot around Mental Health Support & access. Work is ongoing with Leeds MIND and Trussell Trust, to improve support for people experiencing mental health issues and financial difficulties</p>	FAN/ Leeds Credit Union		
16	Develop and promote a new Leeds Food Aid Charter setting out consistent key	Developed in collaboration with partners and individuals through Leeds Food Aid Network, Leeds Community Anchors Network and the Poverty Truth Network.	LCC PH		

		principles and best practice for local food aid providers to follow.	Ensure widespread understanding and ownership across Food Aid providers.		
7.Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers	17	Help food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice	Business support via regional offer which supports food start-ups including AD:Venture and Start-Up West Yorkshire (ongoing) <u>SEE ALSO Rurual Prosperity Fund for Microbusinesses, support available through the West Yorkskire Combined Authority</u>	Economic Development, Feed Leeds	Feed Leeds LCC Business Support
	18	Create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food.	Improve communications with residents to raise awareness of benefits of locally (Leeds) grown and produced foods e.g. farmers markets and other venues, and with restaurants to increase use of local food. Early engagement with new and existing growers around needs and opportunities. Encourage local procurement via Leeds Anchors and Business Anchors networks – via engagement, case studies, procurement sub-group (shorter term action?) Leeds Markets activities (could fit with local produce action above too) – ensuring Kirkgate Market redevelopment alignment with LFS (medium term action?), Kirkgate Market activities including Leeds Food School, Leeds City College school of catering collaboration, Healthy Start card (ongoing)		
	19	Promote opportunities for recruitment,	E&S support for hospitality sector – including partnership with DWP, Schools Hospitality Programme, working with partners	Economic Development	Leeds Employment

		workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector.	including Leeds Hotels and Venues Association and Leeds City College		ent and Skills
	20	Support innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises.	Leeds Innovation Vision, stimulating innovation for a healthier, greener, more inclusive future: Our Vision Inclusive Growth Leeds	Economic Development	
8.Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.	21	Work with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city.	Visitor Economy work supporting hospitality, largely funded by SPF and some produced for UKREiiF (shorter term actions) - including Eat Leeds Restaurant Week, Digital Restaurant Guide, delegate experience guides, Visit Leeds 'Leeds, the city that loves to entertain' campaign	Economic Development	Visit Leeds
	22	Celebrate the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer available in different parts of the city.	Food & Drink Festivals: Leeds Indie Food https://www.leedsindiefood.com/ , https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/great-yorkshire-vegan-festival-leeds-2023-tickets-635443297007?aff=erelexpmlt , Leeds Beer Festival https://www.leedsbeer.com/ , African and Caribbean Food Festival https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/african-and-caribbean-food-fest-tickets-613523193387 , Indian Food Festival https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070697505861		

Mission C: Sustainability & Resilience					
Led by Climate Energy and Green Spaces (CEGS)					
Objective	Action No	Action Description	Key Activity	Lead Team/Org	Involved Groups
9. Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.	23	Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partner organisations and businesses.	Ask Environmental Services and Waste Communications colleagues for campaign data and engagement-any evidence of reducing and preventing.	LCC Waste Management (Environmental Services) liaison via CEGS, Fareshare	
	24	Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners, organisations and businesses.	Data captured under KI 8 & KI12 via FoodWise & FAN.	FoodWise & FAN	
	25	Expanding domestic food waste collections (expected to be from late April 2026, in line with national policy and dependant on	Ask Waste colleagues for updates on progress against Govt stated objectives, timescales and expected associated funding. Once glass collection out of the way, engage with LCC Env Services on their plans to collect food waste along with garden waste 12 months a year from 2026. Will involve engagement, consultation, impact assessments.	LCC Waste Management (Environmental Services) liaison via CEGS	

		government funding).	Work with new Waste Strategy Lead regarding comments from consultation and incorporate Government elements from EIP as timescales become clearer. Opportunity for city to consider wider waste and recycling e.g. clothing and uniform reuse to be 'captured' in terms of carbon savings through co-ord citywide approach and org linkage e.g. Pudsey Comm group.		
	26	Expanding community composting initiatives to more households and areas of the city	Continue working with partners to develop Compost Collective sites across Leeds Promote Sharewaste website and other community composting initiatives	Compost Collective/ FoodWise	
10. Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet. Examples: communications campaigns (Foodwise, LCC), reach, follow up.	27	Introduce carbon labelling at council food venues, such as with café and school menus	Expected pilot roll out in July 2024 at Temple Newsam. Aligns to LCCs FPGs commitment 3. Halve the carbon footprint of meals served by 2030 - Review and update all meals served to cut their environmental impact, without sacrificing flavour, variety, or nutrients.	CEGS UOL	Eat Well Forum/ LCC Internal Food Group
	28	Promote 'grow your own', community and urban growing.	Incredible Edible data to be utilised annually for KI13 Continue to promote Sow a Row Xtra campaign and build network of Little Veg Libraries.	Incredible Edible (IE) via liaison with CEGS	Feed Leeds
11. Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial production.	29	Work with national, regional, and local partners to support best farming/	LCC staff attended Northern Farming conference in Jan 2024.	LCC CEGS	FoodWise steering group/ Eat Well

		growing practice including explore opportunities to influence land use planning policies, through Leeds Local Plan updates by engaging with policymakers, decision takers, and farmers/ growers in Leeds.			Forum/ Feed Leeds/ FAN Visit Leeds
	30	Explore opportunities to promote Leeds as a destination city with the focus on consumption of local produce by businesses and institutions.	<p>Corresponds with action 12 Sus index submission and associated campaigns (needs contacts/ leads).</p> <p>Rethink Food - aiming to deliver 10 million hours food education as an organisation by 2030.</p> <p>Leeds Destination Marketing Plan (2022 – 2025) promotes sustainable/slow tourism.</p> <p>Global Sustainability Index (yearly), measuring sustainability progress of our destination marketing team including around circular economy approaches and sustainable food in hotels and restaurants.</p> <p>Yorkshire Sustainability Festival June 2024 (yearly) – opportunities for businesses to share with and learn from each other</p>	LCC CEGS, Procurement City Development/ Economic development.	LCC Food Network

12. Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.	31	Working with suppliers to better understand - and reduce - the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council in line with the LCC food procurement guidelines commitments	Regular discussions with procurement initiated. Queries underway on the baseline for this objective and actions.	LCC CEGS, Procurement	LCC Food Network
	32	Explore sustainable and resilient food consumption by embracing and showcasing robust supply chain and buying systems to encourage the city's biggest organisations (through the Leeds Anchors Network Climate Sub-Group) to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments of the benefits of			

		consuming local and seasonal produce.			
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(DRAFT) Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

Indicators (I)		Baseline Values (Based on data available from April 2024)	Frequency	Lead	Leeds Food Strategy Missions		
					Health and Wellbeing (1-4)	Food Security & Economy (5-8)	Sustainability & Resilience (9-12)
1	<p>Increase the percentage of adults in Leeds who consume at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables daily.</p> <p>Monitor via PHE Fingertips annually. Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk)</p> <p>Monitored using the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities Fingertips framework that is updated annually. This has been showing a downward trend over recent years, however the measurement method has recently changed.</p>	2021/22 - 29.3%	Annual	Public Health, LCC	1-4	5, 6, 7	9-12
2	<p>Increase the percentage of year 6 children recorded with a healthy weight in the 10% most deprived communities compared to the Leeds average and the 10% least deprived communities.</p> <p>Monitored through the National Child Measurement Programme.</p>	<p>2022/23 - 10% most deprived – 53.5% Leeds Average - 62.6% 10% least deprived– 73.8%</p> <p><i>63.4% (National Comparison)</i></p>	Annual 23/24 data available in April 2025.	Public Health, LCC	1-4	5-8	9-11

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

3	<p>Initially monitor the % of adults in Leeds living with diabetes (diet-related disease) in the 10% most deprived communities compared to the Leeds average and 10% least deprived communities.</p> <p>Monitored through local Primary Care audit data using Public Health Intelligence (Body Mass Index and Long-Term Conditions dashboard).</p>	<p>2023: 10% most deprived – 9.9% (n= 14,437/ 145,210) Leeds Average – 7.7% (n= 49,429/ 645,610) 10% least deprived– 6.2% (n= 2569/ 41,084)</p>	Annual	Public Health, LCC	1-4	5, 6	10, 11
4	<p>Capture and monitor the number of health promoting and sustainable (planet friendly) community food projects.</p> <p>Defined as: ‘Local food projects can do many things: improve access to food; enhance cooking skills; increase confidence; and offer social support. They provide common ground for local people and professionals to work together in innovative ways’</p> <p>Food projects and how they work Joseph Rowntree Foundation (jrf.org.uk)</p> <p>Broken down into the following categories: community growing/ gardens, healthy cooking, food literacy/ education.</p> <p>A system for monitoring this indicator is to be established through the Eat Well Forum, FoodWise Leeds and Feed Leeds.</p>	Baseline to be established	Annual	FoodWise (Eat Well Forum, Feed Leeds)	1-2	6	10
5	<p>Food Environment – Increase the percentage of Hot Food Takeaway (HFT) applications <u>refused</u> using the Councils Supplementary Planning Document and Food Data Matrix (in development).</p>	<p>6/19: 32% Refused/ Withdrawn (April 23-March 24)</p> <p>Note that overall Numbers of applications for HFT have reduced by 54%. (41 in 20-21</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>New system being established to monitor HFT SPD by Oct 24.</p>	Planning & Public Health	3	11	

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

	Cumulative figure of 34 refused or withdrawn since Apr 2020-March 2024 (34/111; 31%) compared to 31 refused or withdrawn since Apr 2015- March 2020 (31/172; 22%) - 9% increase in refusals since implementation of HFT SPD.	to 19 in 23-24) of which 11 were refused/ withdrawn (27%)	Working towards policy update in local plan.				
6	<p>Maintain the percentage of eligible children and young people taking up Free School Meals</p> <p>In Leeds FSM are administered by the Council Tax and Benefits Service and schools are supported by the Health and Wellbeing Services. Information on FSM take-up is recorded annually by data provided by schools as part of the January census.</p>	<p>75.9%</p> <p>Data from January 2024 showed 34,967 pupils were registered as entitled to a free school meal. Of these pupils 8,435 (24.1%) did not take up the offer a free school meal on the day of the school census.</p> <p>Transitional protection was introduced in April 2021 and is currently set to be in place until the end of the roll out of Universal Credit in March 2025. This maybe impacting on FSM take up as there could be an increasing number of pupils eligible and registered whose families may not need the support, and would have previously become ineligible prior to transitional protection.</p>	Annual	Children & Families Public Health & Financial Inclusion		5,6	
7	<p>Monitor the number and percentage of food aid providers supporting people with food security in Leeds, that are listed on the food aid map and are signed up to the food aid charter.</p> <p>The baseline for this indicator is to start at zero, as the charter is yet to be launched.</p>	Start at 0 (as the food aid charter is yet to be launched.)	Annual	FAN & Financial Inclusion	1	5,6	9

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

	Leeds Food Aid Network (LFAN) gathers data on Food Poverty and Insecurity in Leeds, which is available on the Leeds Observatory .						
8	<p>Monitor the number of food and drink / related businesses in Leeds supported across our regional business support services;</p> <p>1) Start-up West Yorkshire 2) AD:Venture 3) Other programmes run by WYCA supporting businesses in Leeds</p> <p>Start-up West Yorkshire provides fully funded business support that can help any type of business under three years old and those who have not yet launched their business.</p> <p>AD:Venture provides support to growth-focused new businesses that trade with other businesses.</p> <p>Examples of other regional support services include; Skills Service, Growth Service, Business Sustainability Service.</p> <p>We are monitoring the data which shows how many food and drink and associated businesses (for example, food and drink manufacturers, wholesalers, retail, restaurants) in Leeds have been supported across our regional business support programmes, since the launch of the Leeds Food Strategy in 2023.</p>	<p>Start-up West Yorkshire = 14 AD:Venture = 13 Other programmes = 35*</p> <p><i>* Note that there are duplicate businesses included within this dataset due to them engaging in multiple programmes over time.</i></p>	Annual	Economic Development	3	7,8	11
9	Monitor the number of hospitality / food and drink / related businesses our employment and skills service has partnered/engaged with (since the launch of the Food Strategy).	16 businesses (April 23-March 24)	Annual	Economic Development	3	7,8	11

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

<p>10</p>	<p>Increase the number of Compost Collective sites and monitor the percentage of household capacity that sites are operating at.</p> <p>Compost Collective Leeds is growing citywide scheme to support households that are unable to compost food waste where they live. to do so in a community setting, the collective provides a free source of compost to local community growing spaces.</p> <p>Compost Collective Leeds: Programme expanding following successful pilot - Doing Good Leeds</p>	<p>2024: 6 sites operational, 3 planned, operating at 25% of household capacity.</p> <p>‘In just 3 months, over 180 5 litre caddies were emptied into community composting bins, transforming over 250 kilos of diverted food waste into a future free source of compost. This means approximately 950 kilos of CO2 emissions (GhGs)¹ have been saved; the equivalent weight of around 4 local alpacas at Leeds’ Meanwood Valley Urban Farm!’</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Compost Collective</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>9</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Monitor the volume of surplus fresh fruit and vegetables (food waste) diverted to food aid by Leeds main providers over the previous 12 months.</p> <p><i>1 portion of Fruit/veg = 80g</i> <i>Recommended at least 5 portions per day = 320g (or 0.32kg)</i></p> <p>Additional information: Rethink – 22 community groups, 27 schools, 200 Families Fareshare – 92 charities, 10.58k beneficiaries</p>	<p>Total: 359,000kg/ 950,000kg (38%) (April 23-March 24) This is enough to supply 4,487,500 portions and equivalent to 984kg per day and could provide 3,074 people with their recommended daily requirements for a whole year.</p> <p>Fareshare – 174,000kg/ 470,000kg (37%)</p> <p>Rethink – 185,000/ 480,000kg (38%)</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Fareshare & Rethink (collated by FoodWise)</p>		<p>5,6</p>	<p>9</p>

Appendix E Leeds Food Strategy Monitoring Framework: Key Indicators

12	Increase the number of new 'grow your own' community initiatives by Incredible Edible	<p>8 Incredible Edible groups across the city, with 75 beds @ June 24</p> <p>Increase of 5 beds over last year and a further 3 expected in coming year.</p>	Annual	Incredible Edible	2		10
13	<p>Increase the number and percentage of Council premises (cafe sites) including additional food menu carbon impact information for customers.</p> <p>Carbon impact information likely to start Sept 2024/ Autumn season.</p>	0	Pilot July-Sept Roll out Jan 25 onwards (subject to pilot evaluation)	Climate, Energy and Green Spaces	3		10
14	<p>Increase the rolling number of food procurement contracts supported by the Council procurement guidelines.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing this indicator with procurement colleagues to ensure it measures impact of procurement guidance. For example, to develop a system/ method for capturing the value and impact on food provision from the Council procurement guidelines.</p>	<p>11 since January 2023</p> <p>Tenders will be re-issued and new contracts awarded in 2025 when increases to baseline data will be supplied</p>		Procurement	3		11
15	Monitor the volume of domestic (April 2026) and non-domestic food waste (April 2025) collected. Pending introduction of government policy	Volume of food waste, as reported to Defra and CO2 emissions from the waste	Annual (June)	Environmental Services			9

Leeds Food Strategy 2023-2030

Vision: 'At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embraces new techniques and technologies'



Key Indicators

- % of adults consuming 5 portions fruit and vegetables per day.
- % of year 6 children recorded with a healthy weight, comparing least to most deprived.
- % of adults living with Diabetes, comparing least to most deprived.
- Number of health promoting and sustainable community food projects.
- % of hot food takeaway applications refused.
- % of families accessing the healthy start scheme.
- % of families accessing free school meals.
- % of food aid providers supporting people with food security.
- Number of food/drink businesses supported by regional business support services.
- Number of hospitality/food/drink businesses engaged with employment skills service.
- Number of compost collective sites and % household capacity supported.
- Volume of surplus fruit and vegetables diverted to food aid.
- Number of new 'grow your own' community initiatives (Incredible Edible)
- Number and % of Council premises using the carbon calculator.
- Number of contracts supported by the council procurement guidelines.
- Volume of domestic and non-domestic food waste collected (2025).

Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.	Work across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of Eatwell recommendations and adapt these to individual lives. Work across sectors to give people the skills and opportunities to overcome barriers to buying, preparing, and eating healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.
Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.	Raise awareness of, and celebrate, community-led food initiatives in Leeds and the impact they have Support community-led food initiatives to identify new funding opportunities. Encourage and enable better co-ordination and sharing of best practice between groups.
Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing	Work with interested organisations that provide or sell food to encourage them to prepare and promote healthy and nutritious food more prominently Prevent the over saturation of high fat, sugar, salt food and drink products (HFSS) in the Out of Home Food environment with planning policy and guidance. Explore opportunities to advertise and promote healthier and sustainable eating.
Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.	Continue to invest in prevention and treatment programmes that reduce the impact of diet-related ill health in the people most at risk. Provide training opportunities to support a skilled workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based information on healthier eating
Mission B: Food Security & Economy <i>Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.</i>	
Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need	Champion actions and initiatives that help address poverty and food insecurity, including fair wages and financial support. Raise awareness of how residents can increase their incomes, including helping them to access any financial support they may qualify for. Develop and sustain programmes that improve access to healthy food for people on low incomes
Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives	Work together with partners to improve, and make more inclusive, affordable food initiatives so that everyone can access the help they need. Connect food aid providers with other free, impartial, and confidential support services to help residents access information and support to prepare and afford healthy meals. Develop and promote a new Leeds Food Aid Charter setting out consistent key principles and best practice for local food aid providers to follow.
Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers	Help food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice Create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food. Promote opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector. Support innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises.
Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.	Work with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city. Celebrate the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer available in different parts of the city.
Mission C: Sustainability & Resilience <i>Ensuring the Leeds food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.</i>	
Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food	Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partner organisations and businesses. Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners, organisations and businesses. Expanding domestic food waste collections (expected to be from late April 2026, in line with national policy and dependant on government funding). Expanding community composting initiatives to more households and areas of the city.
Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.	Introducing carbon labelling at council food venues, such as with café and school menus. Promoting 'grow your own', community and urban growing.
Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production.	Work with national, regional, and local partners to support best farming/ growing practice including explore opportunities to influence land use planning policies, through Leeds Local Plan updates by engaging with policymakers, decision takers, and farmers/ growers in Leeds. Explore opportunities to promote Leeds as a destination city with the focus on consumption of local produce by businesses and institutions.
Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.	Working with suppliers to better understand - and reduce - the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council in line with the LCC food procurement guidelines commitments Explore sustainable and resilient food consumption by embracing and showcasing robust supply chain and buying systems to encourage the city's biggest organisations (through the Leeds Anchors Network Climate Sub-Group) to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.

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Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) impact assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

Directorate: Communities Housing & Environment	Service area: Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Lead person: Andrew White	Contact number: 0113 37 81561
Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment:	
31/07/2024	

1. Title: Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30
Is this a:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Members of the assessment team:

Name	Organisation	Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist
Andrew White	LCC	Lead officer, Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Claire Dalton Nobbs	LCC	Lead officer, Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Liz Boniface	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Emma Strachan	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Emma Schofield	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Jo Rowlands	LCC	Lead officer, Financial Inclusion
Meenakshi Parmar	LCC	Lead officer, Economic Development

Sonja Woodcock	FoodWise Leeds	FoodWise co-ordinator
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3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed:

Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30 is a long term strategy for the city, led by a partnership between the council, and FoodWise Leeds, a voluntary sector body representing a range of stakeholders.

The Leeds Food Strategy sets out our vision for the future of how we produce, consume, and dispose of food across the local authority district. [Leeds Food Strategy](#)

At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies.

This means that we believe the foods that we eat should reflect our rich and diverse culture, nourish our social connections, enhance our physical and mental well-being, and make our lives better. It means that our food system should enable people, producers, and our planet to prosper. The strategy sets out what the local authority area can do to work towards this better food future for all.

The strategy has three food missions:

Health and wellbeing
Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in our city through eating well.

Food security and economy
Our mission is to ensure we can all access affordable, nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

Sustainability and resilience
Our mission is to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

Each of the missions has a set of objectives and actions which have been developed to deliver the strategy in the early stages of its lifespan.

The strategy was developed as a post-Covid response to food security and access to food becoming more challenging, on top of existing food inequality in Leeds. Local food banks have seen an increase in demand, with estimates suggesting that thousands of people each week required support to access food. Leeds community food networks have risen to this challenge, however, the ongoing cost of living increases mean that there is still a need to build resilience into our local food systems to ensure better access to food and reduce carbon emissions.

Food inequality is caused by a range of economic, social and environmental factors. These include low household incomes, a poorly functioning national food sector and local food economy. The impacts of food inequality are profound and wide-reaching, and it causes a range of health, economic, social, and environmental impacts on our city. These include diabetes, obesity, reduced educational attainment for children at school, poor social cohesion, and an environmentally unsustainable food system.

The impacts of food inequality are not evenly distributed and are felt much more in the most deprived areas of the city and by certain groups, not necessarily the groups identified as being protected under Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The food missions, objectives and actions set out in the strategy aim to respond to food inequality, but they will not remove it. The effects of the food strategy are positive for some protected groups and neutral for others.

4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment
(complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function or event)

4a. Strategy, policy or plan (please tick the appropriate box below)	
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A specific section within the strategy, policy or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide detail:

The table below sets out the missions, objectives and actions for the strategy. For each objective, there is an assessment of the impact of the strategy on the protected groups, identification of other groups affected. Broadly, the strategy is intended to have a positive effect on the following:

- Age (especially children)
- Carers
- Disability (especially where disability relates to health conditions affected by diet)
- Race/ethnicity
- Religion/belief
- Sex (especially mothers)

The strategy is expected to have a neutral impact on the following:

- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation

The strategy addresses, but will not overcome, the patterns of food inequality, which is closely bound up with poverty and inequality in Leeds.

Mission: Health and wellbeing

The mission has the following objectives:

Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.

Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.

Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing.

Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to help people to improve their health and wellbeing through eating well. Access to nutritious and healthy food is essential for maintaining a healthy weight, assuring quality of life, emotional wellbeing, and productivity. People from lower income groups face substantial challenges when it comes to accessing healthy food. Many of the actions listed under the Health and Well-being mission align to the cities work on tackling health inequalities and creating a healthier food environment for all.

Mission: Food security and economy

The mission has the following objectives:

Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need.

Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives.

Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers.

Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to ensure that all residents of Leeds have access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. It seeks to address food poverty and promote sustainable food practices across the city. The food strategy is part of the larger financial inclusion efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and ensuring that the people and communities who will be most impacted are linked to the support and advice in the city that they need.

Mission: Sustainability and resilience

The mission has the following objectives:

Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.

Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.

Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production.

Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to ensure that the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan. It aims to reduce food waste, improve awareness of healthy, local and seasonal food, and champion sustainable food production and buying.

4b. Service, function, event

please tick the appropriate box below

The whole service
(including service provision and employment)

A specific part of the service
(including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)

Procuring of a service
(by contract or grant)

Please provide detail:

5. Fact finding – what do we already know

Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include: previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.

(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)

The strategy presents a vision which seeks to ensure that everyone in Leeds can enjoy the healthy and sustainable food they need every day. This will enable the vision, missions and objectives shown in section 8 to be achieved and a positive impact in relation to equality.

The council consulted in Autumn 2022 on the draft Leeds Food Strategy, and reported on the results of the consultation in March 2023. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Executive Board, 15/03/2023 13:00 \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) pp153-166.

An EDCI was undertaken following the consultation and ahead of the report to Executive Board in March 2023. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Executive Board, 15/03/2023 13:00 \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) pp231-240.

Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information

Please provide detail:

None identified in the consultation.

Action required:

6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Eatwell Leeds

Feed Leeds

Food Insecurity Taskforce

Foodwise partnership

Incredible Edible

Leeds Cultural Food Hub

Leeds Food Aid Network

Action required:

Continue the engagement across third sector, community groups

7. Who may be affected by this activity?

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service or function

Equality characteristics

Age

Carers

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

Religion
or Belief

Sex (male or female)

Sexual orientation

Other

(**Other** can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

Please specify:

Stakeholders

Services users

Employees

Trade Unions

Partners

Members

Suppliers

Other please specify

Potential barriers

Built environment services

Location of premises and

Information and communication

Customer care

Timing

Stereotypes and assumptions

Cost

Consultation and involvement

Financial exclusion

Employment and training

specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function

Please specify

8. Positive and negative impact

Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders and the effect of the barriers

8a. Positive impact:

The strategy aims to improve access to information about healthy, local, seasonal food, and should benefit all protected characteristic groups, as well as reaching across the city.

As has been outlined above, there is a large overlap between poverty and health inequality, and it will be important to track the impact of the strategy on the measures/performance indicators, and to drill down to the measures and check that progress is being made in the protected characteristics groups, as well as across the city.

Action required:

As part of developing and refining the performance indicators 1-15, determine which ones are capable of capturing and reporting equality and diversity information.

8b. Negative impact:

None identified

Action required:

None

9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Action required: Maintain the regular communication and engage actively with groups and communities while delivering the strategy.

10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide detail:
Action required:

11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another? (for example where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide detail:
Action required:

12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person
Continue the engagement across third sector, community groups	Q3 2024-25	Report after next LCC Steering Group and next FoodWise Leeds Sterring Group	LFS Steering Group
Check the Performance Indicator methodologies for the LFS framework and determine which ones are capable of being drilled down for specific equality information	Q3-4 2024-25	Report after next LCC Steering Group and next FoodWise Leeds Sterring Group	LFS Steering Group

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person

13. Governance, ownership and approval

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew White	Senior Project Manager	31/07/2024
Date impact assessment completed		

14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration actions (please tick)

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board
Please specify which board
- X Other (please specify) - report from steering group

15. Publishing

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality impact assessment should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality impact assessments that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached assessment was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent:

Work Schedule

Date: 19 September 2024

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.
- The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules also state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.
- Reflecting on the information in this report and information presented as part of other agenda items at today's meeting, Members are requested to consider and discuss the Board's work schedule for this municipal year.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- a) Consider the draft work schedule for the 2024/25 municipal year.

What is this report about?

1. A draft work schedule for the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) is presented at Appendix 1 for consideration and discussion. Reflected in the work schedule are known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, identified Budget and Policy Framework items and specific member requests for individual work items.
2. The Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 24 July 2024 are also attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

Developing the work schedule

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

What impact will this proposal have?

5. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

6. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the priorities set out in the Best City Ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

7. To enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, it is recognised that each Scrutiny Board needs to maintain dialogue with the Directors and Executive Board Members holding the relevant portfolios. The Vision for Scrutiny also states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

What are the resource implications?

8. Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.
9. The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.
10. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should consider the criteria set out in paragraph 3.

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

11. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

What are the legal implications?

12. This report has no specific legal implications.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Executive Board meeting on 24 July 2024.

Background papers

- None.

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Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2024/25 Municipal Year

Scrutiny June	July	August
<u>Thursday 20 June 2024 at 10.30am</u>	<u>Thursday 18 July 2024 at 10.30am</u>	No Scrutiny Board meeting
Annual administrative reports: Co-opted Members (DB) Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference (DB) Sources of Work (DB) Performance Update (PM) Radon Gas – Phase 1 Testing Update (PSR)	WY Police and Crime Plan (PDS) [WYCA] Police Overview Community Safety Strategy Refresh (PDS) Safer Leeds Annual Update (PSS)	
	<u>Call In Meeting: Wednesday 31 July 2024</u>	
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2024/25 Municipal Year

September	October	November
<u>Thursday 19 September 2024 at 10.30am</u>	<u>Wednesday 23 October 2024 at 10.30am</u>	No meetings
Future Waste Strategy for Leeds (incl. Glass recycling) (PSR) Food Strategy Progress Report	Community Committee Review: Update on Task and Finish groups Green Spaces Play Strategy (PDS) Grounds Maintenance Contract (PDS)	
Working Group Meetings		
	11.30am-12.30pm 9/10/24: Sim Spec Walk (IN PERSON) 1-2pm 17/10/24: Social Progress Index (all scrutiny members - REMOTE) Housing Allocation Policy (post consultation update) – REMOTE - date tbc	

Page 120

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2024/25 Municipal Year

December	January	February
<u>Friday 6 December 2024 at 10.30am</u>	<u>Thursday 23 January 2025 at 10.30am</u>	<u>Thursday 20 February 2025 at 10.30am</u>
Tackling Hate Crime Leeds Poverty Truth – Resourcing the City Household Waste and Recycling Centres Climate Emergency – Annual Update (PSR)	Performance report (PM) 2024/25 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) Housing Performance – Repairs and Maintenance	Third Sector Role & Resilience in Leeds Welfare Review Selective licensing (PDS)
Working Group Meetings		
12/12/24 2.30pm – 4pm: Budget Working Group (REMOTE)		
Site Visits		

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2024/25 Municipal Year

March	April	Notes
No meetings	<u>Wednesday 2 April 2025</u>	To be scheduled
	Annual Update - Parks and Greenspaces Strategy Community Committee Review: Update on task and finish groups Locality Working Update End of year statement	Clean Neighbourhood Teams
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

Page 122

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JULY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, D Coupar, M Harland,
A Lamb, J Lennox, J Pryor, M Rafique and
F Venner

APOLOGIES: Councillor H Hayden

15 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

- (A) That Appendix 2 to the report entitled, ‘Heart of Holbeck: Levelling Up Round 3 Funding’, referred to in Minute No. 31 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and be considered in private. This is on the grounds that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of Appendix 2 as exempt from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, as doing so would prejudice the Council’s commercial position and that of third parties should it be disclosed at this stage.

16 Late Items

Supplementary Information – Agenda Item 14 - Updated Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy

Whilst there were no late items of business submitted, with the agreement of the Chair, supplementary information was circulated to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting for inclusion within agenda item 14, ‘Updated Community Asset Transfer Policy’ in the form of an updated Appendix 2 EDCI Screening document. It was noted that this document had been updated in response to the consideration of the proposed new CAT Policy at the recent Scrutiny Board Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth meeting. The supplementary information was considered by the Board as part of agenda item 14. (Minute No. 28 refers).

17 Declaration of Interests

Councillor S Arif declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest with respect to the agenda item entitled, 'Heart of Holbeck: Levelling Up Round 3 Funding'. As such, Councillor Arif advised the Board that she would leave the meeting room for the duration of the Board's consideration of that item (Minute No. 31 refers).

18 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th June 2024 be approved as a correct record.

19 Disorder in Harehills - 18 July 2024

Given that this was the first Executive Board meeting held since the disorder which occurred in Harehills on 18th July 2024, the Leader invited Members to address the Board on this matter.

Councillor Arif, as Ward Councillor for Gipton and Harehills, thanked all of those in the local community, Council staff and all partner organisations for the support provided during this difficult period and for the actions taken during and since the disorder to calm the situation. In terms of moving forward, Councillor Arif emphasised that the priority was now to rebuild as a community and reflect upon this experience.

Councillor Lamb also provided his thanks and specifically highlighted children's social care colleagues, emphasising the valuable role that they play on a daily basis in the protection of children and young people.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Leader undertook that a review into this matter would be undertaken at the appropriate time.

In conclusion, assurance was provided that the Council would never allow violence and intimidation to be a factor in respect of decision making around child protection cases and that the interests of children and young people would always be at the heart of such matters.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES AND CULTURE

20 Community Health and Wellbeing Service: Transforming Home Care

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report on arrangements for the Community Health and Wellbeing Service pilot, which the report described as a transformational approach to delivering health and care services at home through a collaborative partnership of contracted providers working together on a neighbourhood basis. The report provided an update on the outcome of the recent tendering exercise for providers, set out the benefits of this model and presented the process for the mobilisation of the contract. It was noted that the new model was to be piloted in 'Bramley and Stanningley', 'Armley' and 'Farnley and Wortley' Wards.

The Executive Member introduced the report and in doing so provided an overview of this new model of home care. Also, details were provided on the

benefits arising from this approach, how performance data would be monitored and what the model required for it to be implemented. It was also noted that consultation had been undertaken with local Wards Councillors with the matter also being recently considered and well received by Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board was advised that in terms of Scrutiny involvement moving forward, the Scrutiny Board was scheduled to receive an update within approximately 6 months of the pilot commencing. It was also noted that there would also be external evaluation of the outcomes from this pilot, which would be incorporated into the update to Scrutiny Board.

Regarding a question on funding arrangements, the Board received details of the key mechanisms that would be in place to ensure that the costs of the new service would be covered, and noted that should it be needed, there was a contingency sum in place received via the NHS Transformation Fund.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the award of the Community Health and Wellbeing Service pilot contract to 'Be Caring Limited' and 'Springfield Homecare Limited', be noted, as per the delegated decision of the Director of Adults and Health (D57519 refers);
- (b) That the award of a £247,000 grant from the Rayne Foundation's "Better Careers for Better Care" fund via the grant holder Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust to be allocated to Leeds City Council, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and the above contract holders to support the delivery of the pilot, be noted;
- (c) That the process for mobilisation and communication with key stakeholders during this period, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted.

21 Adults and Health - In House Care Homes Service Review: Knowle Manor and Dolphin Manor: Post Consultation Recommendations Report

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report which presented the findings of the consultation exercise, as previously agreed to be undertaken at Executive Board in December 2023, on proposals to close Knowle Manor residential care home in Morley, and to repurpose Dolphin Manor residential care home in Rothwell into a community care bed base (Recovery Hub). In considering those outcomes, the report made recommendations regarding the future of both residential care homes for the Board's consideration.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the proposals and of the consultation undertaken. Information on current occupancy levels for both care homes was provided, with it being highlighted that the context of the proposals was that the use of Council residential care homes had declined over recent years. It was noted that there were other care home providers in the locality with vacancies and as such it was felt that there were suitable alternatives available for residents. It was also noted that

there were jobs available for affected Knowle Manor staff at the Council's other in-house care delivery services, and that proposals would see Dolphin Manor staff retaining their jobs. Acknowledging the potential impact of these proposals, details were provided on the support that would be given to those affected, should the recommendations be approved.

Responding to a Member's enquiries regarding the future of Knowle Manor, Members received an update on the condition of the building. Whilst it was acknowledged that investment had been made via the installation of solar panels, it was noted that the building was in a poor condition and that the level of funding required to refurbish and maintain it was not available.

It was also noted that whilst not covered within the submitted report, the Leader highlighted that he and the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture had met with local Ward Councillors and the local MP about the longer-term future of Knowle Manor. It was undertaken that the Council would work with those local Ward Members and the MP in terms of looking for wider funding opportunities, with the aspiration that Knowle Manor be used for the future provision of care and health services in Morley, if at all possible, and that at the appropriate time, such matters would be submitted to the Board.

A Member raised an enquiry regarding consultation undertaken in relation to Dolphin Manor. In response, the Board received further information on the consultation exercise conducted in respect of the proposals within the submitted report affecting both Dolphin Manor and Knowle Manor.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the provision of the Council's residential care services more generally and the impact that these proposals would have, the Board received further details on this matter. It was noted that the Council's provision of long-term residential care services was very small and underutilised. It was highlighted that the external market currently does not have sufficient supply of intermediate care provision, hence the proposal within the report that Dolphin Manor could be repurposed as an intermediate care facility.

Members received further details and context on the current occupancy levels at both Knowle Manor and Dolphin Manor and also on the processes and timeframes by which the Council had stopped the admission of long-term residents.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the closure of Knowle Manor care home be approved, and that once closed, the building be declared surplus to service requirements;
- (b) That the repurposing of Dolphin Manor into a community care bed base (Recovery Hub), be approved;
- (c) That following resolutions (a) and (b) above, the timeline for closure as set out at point 66 of the submitted report, be approved;

- (d) That it be noted that the Director of Adults and Health is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions above.

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

22 Outcome of Call In: Little Owls Nurseries Review

Further to Minute No. 7, 19th June 2024, the Board considered a report of the Head of Democratic Services which, in response to the outcome of a Call In meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, asked Executive Board to reconsider one of its decisions taken on the Little Owls Nurseries Review report submitted to the 19 June 2024 Executive Board meeting.

Whilst the Scrutiny Board resolved at the Call In meeting of 9th July 2024 to release Executive Board resolutions 7(a) to (f) for implementation, the Scrutiny Board had resolved to refer resolution 7(g) back to the Board for reconsideration on the basis that the Scrutiny Board believed that democratic oversight would be enhanced if future decisions on the 12 Little Owls settings listed at resolution 7(e) were taken by Executive Board rather than through officer delegated decision. The Board was therefore asked to either confirm its original decision of 19th June as set out at resolution 7(g), or vary it, taking into account the recommendations made by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board at the recent Call In meeting.

Resolution 7(g) of 19 June 2024 Executive Board minutes read, '*That it be noted that the Director of Children and Families may take further decisions in respect of the settings listed at resolution (e) above following the market sounding exercise for the twelve settings indicated, which would be as a direct consequence of this decision*'.

It was confirmed that in taking account of the outcomes from the Scrutiny Board Call In meeting, it had been agreed to vary the Board's original decision at 7(g) (as set out above) so that future decisions on the 12 Little Owls settings listed at resolution 7(e) of the same minute were taken by Executive Board. In response, a Member welcomed this proposal, commended the Scrutiny Board for the work undertaken and highlighted the value of the Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED – That in response to the outcome of the recent Scrutiny Board Children and Families Call In meeting regarding the decisions made by Executive Board on the Little Owls Nurseries Review (19 June 2024), resolution 7(g) be varied so that future decisions on the 12 Little Owls settings listed at resolution 7(e) of the same minute be taken by Executive Board.

(The resolution above, given that it was a decision which has been the subject of a previous Call In, was not eligible for Call In, in line with Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 8.1.1)

23 Outcome of consultation on a proposal to change the age range of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and permanently close the local authority-maintained nursery.

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report on a proposal to change the age range of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and to permanently close the Local Authority-maintained nursery. The report highlighted that a public consultation on the proposal had taken place between 13 May and 28 May 2024 and provided a summary of the consultation responses received. Additionally, the report sought approval for the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposals.

On behalf of the Executive Member for Children and Families, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development introduced the report and in doing so, highlighted the key recommendations. It was noted that whilst there had been 24.5 full time equivalent children attending the nursery in the summer term 2024, this would reduce to 5.5 in September 2024. It was also noted that should the submitted recommendations be approved, then the intention would be to bring a further report to the November 2024 Board, presenting the outcomes of the Statutory Notice.

Responding to a Member's enquiry regarding the timing of the proposals within the submitted report, given the new Government's manifesto commitment regarding childcare provision, the Board was provided with further context on the proposal. It was noted that the proposals were being brought forward due to a decline in population of children and young people in the local area together with a sufficiency of available provision in that locality. In addition, it was noted that the school was considering working with a private provider with regard to the potential delivery of childcare.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the outcome of the public consultation for this proposal, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the publication of a Statutory Notice on the proposal to change the age range of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and to permanently close the Local Authority-maintained nursery at the school, be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposal would be subject to the outcome of the Statutory Notice;
- (d) That the intention for a further report to be presented to the November 2024 Executive Board meeting, be noted;
- (e) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

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

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

24 Annual Corporate Risk Report

The Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report presenting the Council's annual corporate risk and resilience report for consideration. The report provided details of the most significant risks currently on the Council's corporate risk register together with summary assurances describing the key controls in place to manage those risks, details of where any further actions were planned and also signposting to where more detailed information can be found.

In presenting the report, the Leader highlighted the challenging environment in which Local Authorities were operating, which meant that the number of significant risks being faced was increasing. The Board's attention was specifically drawn to the significant mitigation now in place with regard to the risk associated with major flooding, which was due to the key actions in this area including the development of the flood alleviation scheme.

The significant risks linked to the Council's financial position were also highlighted.

In response to a Member's question regarding the risks associated with the Council's IT systems and arrangements for dealing with a major cyber outage, the Board received an update and assurance on the actions being taken in this area to mitigate the level of associated risk. It was noted that this matter was recently considered by the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board and whilst there was no complacency in this area, the Council was as confident as it could be in the arrangements it has established.

Linked to this and in response to a further enquiry, the Board received an update on the Council's business continuity arrangements for the delivery of key services, which it was noted continued to evolve in response to the changing environment. Further to this, it was undertaken that the Member in question be offered a separate briefing on such matters.

RESOLVED – That the annual risk report, as presented in the submitted report and appendix, be noted, together with the assurances provided on the most significant corporate risks, in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy and also in line with the Board's overarching responsibility for their management.

RESOURCES

25 Annual Corporate Performance Report 2023/24

The Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report presenting the Council's annual Corporate Performance report which provided an update on the Council's performance in 2023/24 against the range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) monitored which covered all directorates.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member noted that whilst the annual corporate performance report provided an update on the Council's strategic performance indicators, the importance of contributions to the successful delivery of those performance indicators by individuals and services across the Council was highlighted. The Board's attention was drawn to the Council's performance against some specific KPIs. The value of resources such as the Social Progress Index was also highlighted together with the reference in the report to the introduction of the Office for Local Government (OFLOG), which aimed to provide accessible data about the performance of Local Government.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted the value of the relevant Scrutiny Boards having the opportunity to analyse this data in detail.

Regarding the performance metric relating to the collection of household waste, a Member enquired whether a further metric could be added which measured performance on household waste collection specifically on the designated collection day. In response, the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Spaces gave an undertaking that the Member in question would be provided with further information on this specific matter, with an offer of a further meeting between the Executive Member and the Member in question also being given, if required. The Executive Member also provided a wider update in relation to refuse collection.

Responding to a specific enquiry regarding the Council's preparedness in relation to the introduction of new refuse collection policies, it was noted that a further report was intended to be submitted to the Board on such matters in due course.

RESOLVED – That the annual Corporate Performance Report for 2023/24, as submitted, be received and noted, together with the progress made during that period, as detailed within the submitted report.

26 Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 - Quarter 1 Update

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report presenting an update on the Council's Capital Programme for the period 2024-2029, split between the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), with a forecast of resources available over that period. The report also provided a specific update of the 2024/25 Capital Programme and also sought approval in relation to specific injections into the Capital Programme.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that both this report and the following Financial Health Monitoring report were being considered together, given that a review of the Capital Programme was taking place with the aim easing the pressure on the Council's revenue budget. It was also noted that the level of borrowing within the Capital Programme, as presented, remained affordable and that the report also sought approval in relation to specific injections into the programme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the following injections into the Capital Programme, as detailed at Appendix A (iii) of the submitted report, be approved:-
 - £7,347.0k of Major Repairs Reserve funding for Capitalised Voids and Repairs; and
 - £1,558.1k of additional departmental borrowing for the project to rehouse tenants and subsequently demolish 6 high rise blocks;
- (b) That it be noted that the above resolution to inject funding of £8,905.1k 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 2024/25, as presented within the submitted report, be noted. That the current review of the existing programme to identify where schemes could be delayed to reduce debt costs and support the in-year revenue position, also be noted.

27 Financial Health Monitoring 2024/25 Quarter 1

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report presenting the Council's financial position in respect of the 2024/25 revenue budget following the first quarter of the financial year. The report also provided an update on the Quarter 1 position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, the Schools Budget, the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund and Treasury Prudential Indicators.

In presenting the report the Executive Member provided an overview of the key points in which it was noted that as at Quarter 1, the Council was forecasting a General Fund overspend of £19.936m. The key areas of overspend were noted together with the reasons for those. The Executive Member also highlighted the range of mitigating measures being taken to address the overspend.

In response to a Member's concerns about the projected overspend being reported at Quarter 1, the Board received detailed information on the complex challenges being faced together with the range of comprehensive actions being taken to address those challenges and to manage the financial pressures faced, with specific reference made to the work that continued to be undertaken in respect of the services within Children and Families directorate.

Regarding a specific enquiry on the projected overspend within the Adults and Health directorate, the Board received further detail on the key causes of that projected overspend. It was noted that higher than anticipated demand in

relation to working age adults was a key factor that remained ongoing, and it was noted that this was not a unique trend to Leeds. Details of the range of work undertaken as part of the budget preparation and also in response to the current position were highlighted.

Also, noting that the report reflected the budgeted assumption of a 3.5% pay increase, an enquiry was raised about the potential impact on the budget should the pay award be higher. In response, it was noted that the JNC pay award had been agreed at 2.5%, whilst the NJC pay award was still being negotiated. In response to a further enquiry, it was undertaken that the Member in question would be provided with details of the potential impact upon the budget, should the NJC pay award be at a level of 5.5%.

Also in response to a Member's enquiry, the Board was provided with further details on the range of actions that would continue to be taken to address the currently projected overspend in-year and look towards budget setting processes for future years. It was noted that this issue continued to dominate discussions, and whilst it was a challenging situation for all employees, it was highlighted that there was a commitment for the Council to do everything that it could to operate within its budget. It was also noted that such matters would continue to be reported to Executive Board, as appropriate.

Members also discussed the national position in relation to Local Government funding arrangements moving forward, given the recent change in national Government.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That as presented within the submitted report, it be noted that at Quarter 1, the Authority's General Fund revenue budget is reporting an overspend of £19.936m for 2024/25 (3.2% of the approved net revenue budget) after the application of reserves and within a challenging national context, with it also being noted that a range of actions are being undertaken to address this position;
- (b) That as presented within the submitted report, it be noted that at Quarter 1, the Authority's Housing Revenue Account is reporting a balanced position;
- (c) That it be noted that known inflationary increases, including demand and demographic pressures in Social Care, known impacts of the rising cost of living, including the NJC pay settlement of £1,925 and the JNC pay settlement of 3.5%, have been incorporated into this reported financial position, with it also being noted that these pressures will continue to be reviewed during the year and reported to future Executive Board meetings as more information becomes available. That it also be noted that proposals would need to be identified to absorb any additional pressures;
- (d) That it be noted that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action

plans to mitigate their reported pressures and those of the Council's wider financial challenge where possible, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in February 2024 through the annual Revenue Budget report;

- (e) That as presented within the submitted report, the quarterly analysis of the Prudential Indicators be noted, specifically that the actual gross and net debt for the Council in 2024/25 to date remain comfortably within both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit set by Council.

28 Updated Community Asset Transfer Policy

The Director of City Development submitted a report proposing the adoption of an updated policy for Community Asset Transfers which would replace the policy approved by Executive Board in September 2012 (Minute No. 77, 5th September 2012 referred). The report noted that the updated policy incorporated experience and learning acquired from managing community asset transfers for over ten years and would establish revised criteria and process that aligned with current estate strategies and challenges around estate maintenance.

With the agreement of the Chair, supplementary information was circulated to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting for consideration as part of this report in the form of an updated Appendix 2 EDCI Screening document. It was noted that this document had been updated in response to the consideration of the proposed new CAT Policy at the recent Scrutiny Board Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth meeting, and the timing between the meetings had not allowed this information to be included within the original agenda pack.

The Executive Member introduced the report and in doing so highlighted how the new policy would allow a proactive approach to be taken and how the policy benefitted from the experience of previous CAT processes. The extensive consultation undertaken with Elected Members was also highlighted, together with the fact that the matter had been considered by Scrutiny.

The approach which had been taken to reach the current position on the proposed new policy was welcomed, with a Member commenting upon the assessment process, striking the correct balance between community value and financial liability, having robust processes in place to mitigate against risk and the need to work with Elected Members and communities.

Further details were provided in response to the Member's comments, with it being noted that the policy looked to provide communities with more certainty around related CAT processes and criteria in order to support those communities who were interested in potentially undertaking CAT's.

In terms of a list of properties being drawn up which were suitable for CAT, the range of factors that would be taken into consideration as part of this process were highlighted. It was also noted that in presenting any potential

CAT's to Members moving forward, whilst there was a statutory duty to achieve best consideration for assets, the legal framework allowed for less than best disposals. As such, Members would be presented with details of best consideration, to enable Members to consider the value that they were willing to forego against the wider benefits that may be achieved through community and social value.

In conclusion, the Executive Member committed to continue working with Elected Members on such matters, including Scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the new Community Asset Transfer policy, as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, which will replace the previous Community Asset Transfer Policy, be agreed;
- (b) That agreement be given to a list of properties suitable for Community Asset Transfer being established and presented to Executive Board in a future report.

29 Being Our Best - Our Organisation Plan 2024/25 Update

The Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report presenting for approval an update to the 'Being Our Best – Our Organisation Plan' for 2024/25, which set out the Council's plan to be an efficient, enterprising, healthy and inclusive organisation.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the key points within the within the updated Organisation Plan and how it had been updated in response to the current Best City Ambition following its adoption in February 2024, and also in response to the Government's Productivity Plan requirements.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted the value of the relevant Scrutiny Boards having the opportunity to analyse this report in detail.

In response to a Member's enquiries, the Board received further details on the actions that continued to be taken to ensure that the range of services across the Council worked as cohesively as possible as 'One Council'. It was acknowledged that whilst much progress had been achieved in this area, there was still further improvements to be made. It was also noted that part of the ongoing review into Community Committees was around considering the Council's ways of working from a local perspective.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the updated 'Being Our Best – Our Organisation Plan 2024/25', as presented in the submitted report, be approved, which responds to the UK Government Productivity Plan requirements;
- (b) That it be noted that the submitted report and the Being Our Best publication was considered by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board at its July 2024 meeting;

- (c) That it be noted that graphic design work will be developed prior to the publication of the updated 'Being Our Best – Our Organisation Plan 2024/25' around 1st September 2024, which may include some amendments to wording.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES

30 Proposed Funding Bid for 'Wild Aire' project at St Aidan's and Fairburn Ings Nature Reserves

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report regarding the RSPB's (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) proposed funding bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) for investment into St. Aidan's and Fairburn Ings nature reserves as part of the 'Wild Aire' project. The report noted that the nature reserves were mostly owned by Leeds City Council and leased to the RSPB, and that in terms of St Aidan's, an endowment existed which was administered by the St Aidan's Trust (of which the Council is the Sole Trustee). As such, the report sought the Council's in principle support for the RSPB's proposed funding bid to the NHLF and also for the allocation of £805,000 from the St Aidan's Trust as match funding for the project, should the bid be successful.

The Executive Member highlighted the benefits which would be achieved as a result of the proposals. Responding to a Member's specific enquiry, assurance was provided that there were no risks to the Council arising from the proposals within the report and that the positive working relationship with the RSPB would continue irrespective of the outcome of the bid.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That in principle support be given as landowner, for the RSPB's proposed £8.5 million bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) to invest in St Aidan's and Fairburn Ings, as part of the 'Wild Aire' project, for the purposes of improving the visitor offer, engaging more diverse communities, making the sites better for wildlife and helping St Aidan's become financially sustainable. That this support be demonstrated through the provision of a letter of support delegated to the Chief Officer for Climate, Energy and Green Spaces;
- (b) That if the bid is successful, the allocation of £805,000 from the St Aidan's Trust as match funding for the project, be approved;
- (c) That approval be given to defer and delegate to the Director of City Development, any requirements to negotiate and agree terms for the variation of the lease of St Aidan's to the RSPB, to help facilitate the successful delivery of the project.

(Councillor Pryor left and returned to the meeting room during the consideration of this item)

ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

31 Heart of Holbeck: Levelling Up Round 3 Funding

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing detailed proposals of the Levelling Up funded 'Heart of Holbeck' programme, with £15.9m of funding having been committed by the previous Government. The report outlined the proposed delivery method, which comprised a mixture of direct Council delivery and the provision of grants to third parties. The report noted that the programme aimed to tackle deep rooted health, economic and social inequalities in a concentrated area of Holbeck where deprivation and health outcomes were amongst the poorest in the city.

The Executive Member introduced the report and in doing so, provided an overview of the key aspects of the scheme and highlighted the benefits arising from it.

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

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the scope and delivery principles outlined for the Heart of Holbeck programme, as set out in the submitted report and the draft masterplan as presented at Appendix 3, be endorsed;
- (b) That approval be given for the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Strategy and Resources and the Executive Member for 'Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development', to finalise detailed legal agreements with Central Government, Holbeck Together and Leeds Building Society in accordance with the terms as set out in exempt Appendix 2 to the submitted report, subject to subsidy control assessments;
- (c) That it be noted that the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Strategy and Resources, the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Executive Member for 'Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development' will finalise designs and enter into construction contracts for the former St Matthew's Church, Local Centre and Holbeck Moor improvements.

(Further to Minute No. 17 above, Councillor Arif left the meeting room for the duration of the Board's consideration of this item, returning to the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

EQUALITY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

32 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2023 - 2024

The Director of Strategy and Resources and the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a joint report presenting the Council's

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Annual Report 2023 – 2024. Following the Council's adoption of a new Vision and Action Plan for EDI in February 2023, the report included a first full year update on progress against the 15 high level priorities contained in the Action Plan for EDI alongside the annual update on the Equality Improvement Priorities.

The Executive Member introduced the report and in doing so, highlighted key aspects and recommendations, which illustrated the breadth of work being undertaken by the Council in relation to EDI. The issues of poverty and health were highlighted as major factors which continued to impact upon individuals in this area. Noting the update provided on LGBT+ Inclusive Leeds, it was highlighted that there was an intention to broaden the communities covered through the 'Inclusive Leeds' initiative. It was also noted that the report presented the statement of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board entitled, 'Leeds City Council Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' for the Board's consideration.

Regarding the proposed updating of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy to include 'Care Experienced' as a locally protected characteristic, it was noted that the Executive Member was to chair a cross-party Member implementation group on such matters.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted the value of the relevant Scrutiny Board having the opportunity to analyse this data in detail.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2023 – 2024, as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) That the adoption of the LGBT+ Inclusive Leeds approach for 2024/29, as presented at Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) That the refreshed approach to the Equality Assembly, as presented at Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (d) That the new Equality Improvement Priority relating to Leeds being a Carer Friendly City to replace the previous priority on responding to the impacts of Covid 19, a detailed at Appendix 4 to the submitted report, be adopted;
- (e) That the updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which now will include 'Care Experienced' as a locally protected characteristic, as detailed at Appendix 5 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (f) That the refreshed Zero Tolerance Statement, as presented at Appendix 6 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (g) That the conclusions and recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board Statement entitled, 'Leeds City Council

Workforce EDI' as presented at Appendix 7 to the submitted report be noted;

- (h) That it be noted that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions made by Executive Board in respect of Appendices 1-5 of the submitted report;
- (i) That it be noted that the Director of Strategy and Resources is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions made by Executive Board in respect of Appendices 6-7 of the submitted report.

33 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 - 'Ageing Well: Our Lives in Leeds'

The Director of Public Health submitted an Annual Report for 2023 entitled, '*Ageing Well: Our Lives in Leeds*' which fulfilled the requirement of the Director to publish a report on an annual basis which described the health of the population in Leeds and which made recommendations regarding the improvement of health in the city. It was noted that this 2023 Annual Report brought together lived experiences of ageing well amongst Leeds' citizens having listened to the voices and stories of local people as well as professionals who work in this field. The report also reviewed relevant data and evidence in relation to ageing well.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview and highlighted a number of key elements including the disparities around life expectancy and how people aged across different parts of the city. The Director's recommendations arising from the report were also highlighted. It was noted that the report had recently been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Director of Public Health highlighted that whilst Leeds was a relatively young city demographically, there would be an increase in the older population in the coming years, hence the ongoing work being undertaken in response to that evolving demographic change.

Also, it was noted that Leeds was in a strong position given its approach as an age friendly city, but still further action needed to be taken in this area. It was highlighted that a different approach towards the ageing well agenda was needed, in order to ensure that public services remained sustainable moving forward. It was noted that whilst the Director's report included recommendations to the Council, it also contained recommendations to a range of partners.

Responding to a Member's enquiries covering a range of issues, the Board received further details on the actions being taken to improve health outcomes and life expectancy generally. It was noted that whilst this report was entitled '*Ageing Well*', focus was placed on an individual's health from birth onwards and that there was continued investment into prevention work and Public Health programmes. It was also noted that these actions were

being taken alongside the support provided to NHS partners in the delivery of their services. Further to this, it was highlighted that there was more targeted work in place for those parts of the city with the poorest health outcomes.

Particular reference was made to the age friendly approach taken in Leeds and how this covered areas such as transport provision and road safety for older people. Regarding public transport, details were provided on the collaborative work being undertaken with WYCA in this area, however, it was acknowledged that whilst improvements were being made, further consideration needed to be given to the provision of cross-Authority transport services and those affecting the communities in the outer areas of the city. Information was also provided on matters such as the actions being taken to increase uptake of cancer screening services and also how there was close collaborative working with Neighbourhood Networks across the city.

It was highlighted that poverty remained the issue with the most significant impact on an individual's life expectancy, with further information being provided on the practical work undertaken in this area.

RESOLVED – That in order to increase the number of years spent in good health in Leeds:-

- (i) The findings and recommendations of the 2023 Director of Public Health Annual Report, as presented within the submitted report and appendices, be noted; and
- (ii) The recommendations identified for Leeds City Council within the Director of Public Health's submitted Annual Report for 2023, be noted and supported.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 26TH JULY 2024

LAST DATE FOR CALL IN OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS: 5.00PM, FRIDAY, 2ND AUGUST 2024

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