



## SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on  
Friday, 6th December, 2024 at 10.00 am

A pre-meeting will take place for all Members of the Board at 9.30 a.m.

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### 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](mailto: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 \(Environment, Housing & Communities\) - 6 December 2024](#)

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**Principal Scrutiny Adviser:**  
**Rebecca Atherton**  
**Tel: (0113) 37 88642**

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25* of the Access to Information 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><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</li> <li>3. If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</li> </ol> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:</p> <p><b>No exempt items have been identified.</b></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 - 23 OCTOBER 2024**

5 - 12

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the public meeting held on 23 October 2024.

7

**HATE CRIME**

13 - 32

To receive an update from the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment on the Council's approach to work associated with the hate crime agenda in line with the priorities of the Hate Crime Strategy.

8

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL UPDATE**

33 - 48

To receive an update from the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment on work that continues to be undertaken following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.

9

**WORK SCHEDULE**

49 - 80

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

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) will take place at **10.30am on Thursday 23 January 2025**. There will be a pre-meeting for all Scrutiny Board members at **10.00am**.

Members are also asked to note that there will be a remote working group taking place at **2.30pm on Thursday 12 December 2024**. This is part of the annual budget process and will focus on proposals relating to the remit of the Scrutiny Board.

## SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

WEDNESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Golton in the Chair

Councillors A Maloney, A Hannan,  
A McCluskey, N Harrington, S Ali,  
L Cunningham, L Farley, K Haigh,  
Z Hussain, C Anderson and R Jones

### 44 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

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

There were no items excluded from the public domain.

### 46 Late Items

There were no late items.

### 47 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

However, Cllrs Cunningham and McCluskey asked that the following non-pecuniary interests be noted:

- Cllr Lou Cunningham is a member of Friends of Armley and Gotts Park.
- Cllr Adrian McCluskey is a member of Friends of Wortley Rec and Friends of Western Flatts Cliff Park

### 48 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies were received from the following Scrutiny Board members:

- Cllr Barry Anderson – Cllr Caroline Anderson attended as a substitute.
- Cllr Mohammed Iqbal – Cllr Raymond Jones attended as a substitute.

### 49 Minutes - 19 September 2024

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting that took place on 19 September 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Friday, 6th December, 2024

## 50 Community Committee Review Update

Those in attendance for this item were:

- Cllr Mary Harland (Executive Member)
- James Rogers (Director, Communities, Housing & Environment)
- Paul Money (Chief Officer, Safer, Stronger Communities)
- Liz Jarmin (Head of Locality Partnerships)

The Scrutiny Board was reminded that in June 2023 the Executive Board recommended a full review of community committees should be carried out. The Scrutiny Board has received updates on the progress of the review in the intervening period with the appended report setting out progress to date and the recommendations that have emerged following member engagement.

In his introduction, the Chair highlighted an ambition to establish a community committee structure, which enables residents and members to have more influence over local decision making.

Cllr Harland welcomed the engagement from the Scrutiny Board and elected members who have taken part in various workshops and consultation meetings. It was noted that there would be a further member engagement opportunity on 13 November 2024.

Cllr McCluskey welcomed the development of a job description that had been produced for the role of Children's Champion. It was confirmed that a profile for the role of Community Committee Chair is also being developed.

Members highlighted the importance of ensuring a role profile for a committee chair does not inadvertently constrain the work of chairs seeking to tailor the activity of their respective committees to meet local needs or aspirations.

The Executive Member reassured the Board that the review recognises the differences between community committees. The role profile for Chairs will provide clarity about the responsibilities of the position and is intended as a guide to support members who are new to the role.

Cllr Golton queried whether a similar document will set out how Executive Members and key officers will be expected to respond to the conclusions, recommendations and requests developed by community committees.

Cllr Harland acknowledged the important role of Executive Board members in supporting the work of community committees in their respective portfolio areas.

The Scrutiny Board was advised that the key aim of the review is to improve public engagement with community committees. Members welcomed this focus.

The Scrutiny Board explored the challenge of improving local engagement with community committees. Members identified several barriers to engagement including:

- Time and location of committee meetings.
- A lack of opportunities for public interaction.
- The perceived formality of meetings.
- Access to technological solutions such as webcasting.

It was suggested that committees consider engagement activity taking place outside of formal committee settings. This may provide an opportunity for the committee to better connect to existing community-based activity.

Liz Jarmin also highlighted the extensive consultation activity carried out across the city by other Council services and noted the opportunity to bring that work together in localities to achieve a richer overall sense of communities.

Members considered ways in which to reduce the perceived formality of community committees, including changing the name.

Members highlighted the knowledge and support provided by the localities team.

Members shared their experience of holding meetings in different locations. Several members expressed a desire for more meetings to be webcast so that local people can access them a time and location to suits them. Members were advised of the challenges around security, buildings and staff availability required to webcast public meetings. Members requested consideration be given to alternative solutions to corporate webcasting including the use of Facebook Live.

It was noted that the report highlights challenges regarding the capacity of the communities team and wider council services to drive progress and change, given the number of service reviews currently underway in response to immediate financial pressures.

Liz Jarmin and Paul Money acknowledged the challenge of developing and delivering a programme of change for the community committee network given this current context.

While there is an ongoing commitment from services to support change to the community committees, the Scrutiny Board was advised that discussions about the delegation of functions to localities have been paused to allow service reviews to complete. The current focus of the community committee review is therefore primarily on structures and taking engagement activity out of formal meeting settings.

James Rogers reiterated the importance of locality working in Leeds and that there remains a commitment to work closely with communities in future, including through community committees.

James also confirmed that many staff within his directorate work outside a standard '9 to 5' pattern.

The Chair welcomed efforts to increase the transparency of local decision making and to improve levels of local community engagement.

#### **RESOLVED:**

Scrutiny Board members noted the content of the report and agreed to:

- a) Support the review of Community Committees and their constitutional role in helping to shape and influence place.
- b) Provide their endorsement of the recommendations and accompanying work programme, as set out in appendix 1.

### **51 Playful Green Spaces Plan**

The Chair began by welcoming the early engagement on the future development of a Playful Greenspaces Plan.

Those in attendance for this item were:

- Cllr Mohammed Rafique (Executive Member)
- James Rogers (Director, Communities, Housing & Environment)
- Polly Cook (Chief Officer, Climate, Energy & Greenspaces)
- Vicki Marsden (Parks Technical Manager)

Cllr Rafique set out an ambition to improve access to nature-based play environments in the city's greenspaces. He highlighted the range and extent of parks and greenspaces looked after by the Green Spaces Service, and advised the Board that a future Playful Greenspaces Plan will seek to provide play opportunities for young people of all ages and abilities.

It was further noted that the plan will support the priorities set out in the Play Sufficiency Report, previously agreed by the Executive Board in December 2023, and the city's Child Friendly ambitions.

The Scrutiny Board acknowledged that this plan will focus on creating playful natural spaces rather than the provision of fixed playground equipment.

Members welcomed the development of the plan and the early engagement with Scrutiny.

Cllr Farley shared the success and learning that has emerged from the positive experience in his ward of the of the Playbox initiative. He also



highlighted the need to ensure any future plan considers opportunities for play for older children and teens.

Polly Cook noted that the outcome of community consultation will inform the final plan. However, she anticipates that recent consultation feedback regarding the perceptions of women and girls about safety in parks and greenspaces will also influence its development.

The Scrutiny Board was advised that the plan will provide a set of principles which can be applied to greenspaces. Where funding opportunities are subsequently identified the Council will then be able to act quickly to deliver more playful opportunities within greenspaces.

Members expressed concern about the ownership of land being a potential barrier to delivering improvements in areas that have the least access to greenspaces. They sought further clarity about how officers will work with colleagues to ensure that housing land, for example, is included in the approach.

Polly Cook set out the importance of taking a partnership approach to this work – citing the example of working with Wades Charity with regards to the Playbox programme.

The Scrutiny Board explored the importance of community engagement. It was also noted that increasing the use of parks can reduce anti-social behaviour in these locations.

It was acknowledged that some areas of the city have very limited access to greenspace and the planning service is seeking to address that challenge through the Local Plan.

Members noted that an audit process was developed to assess parks in terms of accessibility and the safety of women and girls. Officers were asked to consider whether a similar audit could be developed to identify current opportunities for play and the age groups associated with those opportunities – so as to inform future decision making about improvements.

The valuable role of local volunteer groups was highlighted, including the 'friends of' groups and their relationships with local rangers.

Cllr Cunningham shared her positive experience of intergenerational work in parks in her ward and the importance of involving teenagers in developing local greenspaces.

Members queried whether a revised approach to monies received through the Community Infrastructure Levy could help address imbalances in access to opportunities to play in some areas of the city.

Members discussed the enhanced benefit of a local neighbourhood plan in securing CIL monies and the associated challenges for some communities in developing such a plan.

The Chair noted that the Play Sufficiency Strategy addresses the broader challenge of opportunities to play in urban areas. He also highlighted the impact of increased traffic on the ability of some young people to play safely in their immediate localities.

The Scrutiny Board highlighted links to the approach to grass cutting with the ability of communities to use some areas of limited greenspace for play.

It was noted that members would appreciate conversations based on the geography of their wards and the potential opportunities for play within their local landscapes.

### **RESOLVED:**

The Scrutiny Board agreed the recommendations of the report, namely:

- a) For Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board to support and endorse the development plans and outlined consultation process for the creation of a Playful Green Spaces Plan.
- b) For Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board to provide feedback of the process outlined in the report and to suggest areas for continued data gathering and research.
- c) Note the contents of the report and future development of a Playful Green Spaces Plan.

## **52 Grounds Maintenance Contract for Leeds from January 2027**

The Chair welcomed the opportunity for early engagement in relation to a replacement Grounds Maintenance Contract from January 2027.

Those in attendance for this item were:

- Cllr Rafique (Executive Member)
- James Rogers (Director, Communities, Housing & Environment)
- Polly Cook (Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Space)
- Simon Frosdick (Head of bereavement Services)

Cllr Rafique provided introductory comments about the current contract arrangements. He also highlighted the financial pressures facing the organisation and the impact this would have on the specifications within the new contract.

Members requested further information about current arrangements for contract management and quality assurance. Members also sought further

detail about the process for pursuing those who create obstructions that prevent operator access to council owned land to carry out maintenance.

Simon Frosdick set out the current contract arrangements including the types of land that are maintained. The majority land holding within the current contract is associated with Housing Leeds properties and residential areas. However, highway verges are also maintained. He noted changes to the current contract over its lifetime including the introduction of more relaxed mowing to support biodiversity and the removal of sight line mowing to in house delivery.

Simon outlined the contract management processes in place, which include a daily cut report and site checks to assess quality and the nature of obstructions that have been identified by operators (e.g. fly tipping).

In response to member queries, Simon advised members that a 10% sample of sites will be checked, along with sites where the team has received complaints from councillors or the public.

Reflecting on the seasonal nature of a significant proportion of this work, the Scrutiny Board considered the impact of a high staff turnover on the quality of work carried out. The Board was advised that the Council has taken steps to provide opportunities for sufficient work from November to January to support the retention of employees and to reduce the need to use seasonal operatives.

Members acknowledged the challenge of particularly wet weather over the last year.

Simon noted that daily cut reports could be shared with members. He also advised the Scrutiny Board that the current contractor – Continental Landscapes Leeds – provide a real time mapping tool that is publicly accessible and shows cut information for council owned land.

Members sought more information about sight line maintenance being delivered in house. Simon advised the Board that this enables the Council to have more control on timing of these cuts and maximises the use of the Council's own equipment.

The Scrutiny Board highlighted the importance of communicating the benefits of relaxed mowing to the public. Simon confirmed that relaxed mowing has been successful in terms of increasing biodiversity but acknowledged that this relies upon native plants such as ivy and dandelions, which the public perceive to be weeds.

The Scrutiny Board discussed whether wildflower meadows could be achieved in some areas through a change in approach to cutting combined with the sowing of wildflower seeds.

Simon confirmed there has been some colourful planting on roundabouts to replace traditional bedding. However, native plants are prioritised on verges through relaxed mowing. He outlined the communication strategy associated with relaxed mowing, including public signage.

The benefits of enabling the involvement of local volunteer groups in the maintenance of greenspaces was explored.

Members asked for more information about the revenue raised through the sponsorship of public signs relating to relaxed mowing, as compared to the costs of the signs. Polly agreed to provide the information after the meeting.

It was confirmed that social value would form part of the procurement assessment.

Members requested that more information is provided to the Scrutiny Board as the details of the future contract are progressed.

**RESOLVED:**

Members considered and noted the information provided to them.

**53 Work Schedule**

The Principal Scrutiny Advisor presented the work schedule for 2024/25, noting that a budget consultation working group has been scheduled for 12 December 2024.

**RESOLVED:** The draft work programme was noted.

**54 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Board will take place on **Friday 6 December at 10am**. There will be a pre-meeting for all members of the Scrutiny Board at **9.30am**.

## Hate Crime Update December 2024

Date: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Report to: Communities, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

**Hate Crime** is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's: Disability, Gender Identity, Race, Religion or Sexual Orientation.

**A Hate Incident** is any incident that the person affected or anyone else believes is based on a person's identity. Not all hate incidents will lead to criminal offences, however, it's equally important to report both hate crimes and incidents, as incidents can turn into hate crimes or show a pattern of behaviour that could become a crime.

The council's responsibilities in regard to Hate Crime, which include the provision of 'Third Party' reporting functionality, sit within the Equality and Hate Crime Team, Community Relations and Cohesion, within Safer and Stronger Communities.

The team have oversight of the Hate Crime Strategy, produced in partnership with West Yorkshire Police with annual reporting to the Safer Leeds Partnership Board.

The Hate Crime Strategic Board (chaired by Cllr Harland as Executive Board Member for Communities, Customer Service and Community Safety) and the operational working group that sits under it (Hate Crime Operational Group, co-chaired by the councils Hate Crime Officer and Leeds Community Cohesion Police Sergeant) have strategic and operational oversight of the work outlined within Appendix A.

Overall figures of Hate Crime have fallen in the most recent year to the end of 23/24 with the exception being Religion or Belief motivated hate crimes which have risen overall as a result of various factors including the current conflict in the Middle East and the recent far right disturbances.

### Recommendations

- a) For Scrutiny Board to note and discuss the contents of Appendix A and provide feedback

### What is this report about?

1 The council's approach to its work around the Hate Crime agenda is focused against the 5 priorities within the Hate Crime Strategy:

- (1) **Preventing Hate Crime**
- (2) **Responding To Hate Crime**
- (3) **Increasing The Reporting of Hate Crime**
- (4) **Improving support for Victims of Hate Crime.**
- (5) **Building Our Understanding of Hate Crime**

The Appendix A provides board members with an update on some of the key work being currently undertaken or planned, to address the five priorities. The work on combatting hate crime and incidents sits alongside our wider organisational work on the Equality Diversity and Inclusion agenda, including celebrating diverse communities through EDI international days/weeks/months and links to work around Anti-Social Behaviour, countering extremism, becoming a Local Authority of Sanctuary, Intercultural Cities activity and developing the new Social Cohesion Strategy.

### What impact will this proposal have?

2 The council and its partners' work on combating hate crimes against residents and visitors is an essential part of our work to be an inclusive city for everyone, irrespective of their protected characteristics. Encouraging the reporting of hate crime and addressing the root causes of discriminatory views which lead to it, will have a significant impact on how people view the city.

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

- Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

3 Hate Crime has a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of its victims, and it can also impact on perceptions of the city as a place to live, work and enjoy recreational time, which can impact on our ambitions around inclusive growth.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

4 The council will be consulting with key partners as part of its refresh of the current Hate Crime Strategy.

### What are the resource implications?

5 As this is an update report, there are no resource implications. The council has recently employed its first ever Hate Crime Officer within the Equality and Hate Crime Team and allocates some funding awarded from the West Yorkshire Mayors Community Safety Fund to support this agenda.

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

- 6 Hate crime/incidents are often unreported due to various reasons. Crimes and work to encourage reporting through raising awareness is a key part of the work of the Council's Hate Crime Officer.

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

- 7 The council has a duty to provide third party reporting functionality to report hate incidents where residents may not wish to report directly to West Yorkshire Police which it meets through its contract with Stop Hate UK, who provide a telephone and online reporting process as well as a network of third-party reporting centres.

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

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

- 8 N/A

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

- 9 As well as reporting to Scrutiny Board work undertaken to address hate crime and hate incidents, oversight is provided by the Safer Leeds Partnership Board and Hate Crime Strategic Board. This includes the provision and tracking of performance information used to inform activity.

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

- 10 The work to deliver the Hate Crime Strategy is ongoing.

## **Appendices**

- Communities Housing and Environment December 2024 Scrutiny Update

## **Background papers**

- None

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# Communities, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Board

## Hate Crime Update December 2024

### 1 Background

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made in tackling hate crime across Leeds, highlighting key work areas and actions undertaken to date.

### 2 Definition of a Hate Crime and Hate Incident

2.1 **Hate Crime** is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's: Disability, Gender Identity, Race, Religion or Sexual Orientation.

2.2 **Hate Incident** is any incident that the person affected or anyone else believes is based on a person's identity. Not all Hate incidents will lead to criminal offences, however, it's equally important to report both hate crimes and incidents, as incidents can turn into hate crimes or show a pattern of behaviour that could become a crime.

2.3 Anyone can report a hate crime and/or incident directly to the Police or via Leeds City Council's website, phone or hate incident reporting centres. Reports can also be made to third party reporting providers including Stop Hate UK, the Community Safety Trust (CST), Tell MAMA, MESMAC, United Response and more. A full list is available on Leeds Council's [website](#).

### 3 Delivery of Hate Crime work

#### 3.1 Leeds City Council

- The Equality and Hate Crime Team within Safer and Stronger Communities includes an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager. In September 2024, the team was strengthened with the appointment of a new Senior Policy & Performance Officer focused on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Hate Crime. Additionally, an entirely new post was created for a Hate Crime Officer, who also joined the team in September. This new post highlights the commitment to tackling hate crime for the Council.
- The Hate Crime agenda is carried out by the Hate Crime Operational Group (HCOG), which reports to the Hate Crime Strategic Board (HCSB); both groups meet quarterly. The Hate Crime Strategic Board is tasked with ensuring the Hate Crime Strategy for Leeds is successfully delivered. The board tracks progress and addresses any performance issues, ensuring that objectives are met, and better outcomes are achieved.

- Leeds City Council also commissions Stop Hate UK to deliver a set programme of activities such as training and working within schools. This work is contract managed by Leeds City Council and monitored against specific agreed outputs.

### 3.2 West Yorkshire Police

- West Yorkshire Police has dedicated Hate Crime Officers within a team led by the Leeds Community Cohesion Sergeant.
- The team is also supported by Strategic Engagement Officers who work with a range of specific communities including Migrant Communities, Faith Communities, Women and Girls Officer and Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- A West Yorkshire Police Constable is also the CEO of CATCH – ‘Community Action To Create Hope’ – a charity based in Harehills, providing support, advice, and inspiration to raise the aspirations of people of all ages and backgrounds.

### 3.3 Safer Leeds

- The Safer Leeds partnership oversees the implementation of Hate Crime activity by Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, and other partners, coordinating efforts across all directorates, statutory and non-statutory and reporting directly to the Safer Leeds Executive Board.
- The Safer Leeds overarching vision is: *‘People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go’*. The key strategic themes include: Keep People Safe; Deter and Disrupt Offending; Community Cohesion and Resilience; and Building Trust and Confidence.

## 4 Hate Crime Strategy

**4.1 The Hate Crime Strategy 2021-24** was developed through the Safer Leeds partnership with the ambition of addressing hate crime through a set of targeted initiatives across Leeds. Focused on five core priorities, this strategy aimed to both prevent hate crime and support affected individuals while improving overall community cohesion and safety.

**4.2** The five core Hate Crime Strategy priorities include:

- (1) **Preventing Hate Crime** by dealing with the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate crime. We recognise the importance of preventing hate crime happening in the first place and are committed to challenging those attitudes that can lead to discrimination and divisions within our society.
- (2) **Responding To Hate Crime** in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crimes and hate incidents. We will focus on a number of settings that have emerged as high-risk environments for hate crime, the night-time economy and the internet.

- (3) **Increasing The Reporting of Hate Crime** We will continue to work to make it easier for those affected to report incidents of hate crime including through third party reporting centres. To give everyone the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously we will work with the police and Crown Prosecution Service to publicise successes in prosecuting hate crime.
- (4) **Improving support for Victims of Hate Crime.** Research has shown that crimes motivated by hate cause victims greater distress than similar crimes without the same motivation. We will continue to develop the Hate Crime Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which supports the review on ongoing hate crime incidents, where appropriate, helps drive better outcomes for victims and assists with organisational learning.
- (5) **Building Our Understanding of Hate Crime** In order to tackle hate crime, we need to understand the scale and nature of the problem. We will improve the data the government collects on hate crime and work with academics and others to improve our analysis and understanding of the drivers of hate crime and how these can be addressed. We will be working with victims learning from lived experience.

**4.3 The Hate Crime Strategy 2025-28.** As the strategy nears its conclusion, Leeds City Council seek to review and build upon the achievements of the 2021-2024 strategy, incorporating findings from community consultations and emerging data to create an updated strategy for 2025-2028.

## **5 LGBT+ Community Safety Survey**

**5.1** Leeds City Council, Safer Leeds and LGBT+ community group representatives carried out a survey to understand the views and experiences of people from LGBT+ communities who live in, work in, or visit Leeds. The purpose of this consultation was increasing our understanding of what could be done to make Leeds a truly LGBT+ Safe and Inclusive City. The consultation ran from the 22nd of February to the 23rd of March 2023 and was available to complete online. Promotion of the consultation was carried out on social media, with local networks, with Leeds City Council staff, and shared with around 2,500 members of the Leeds Citizens Panel. Overall, 518 people responded to the survey. Data which emerged from the survey is currently being assessed and will help to inform the review of the current Hate Crime Strategy.

## **6 Anti-Muslim Prejudice Work**

**6.1** Leeds City Council undertook a survey in 2020 of all stakeholders on views around Islamophobia. Coventry University were commissioned to analyse the results and produced a report with recommendations that includes adopting a definition on Anti Muslim Prejudice which is outlined below. The definition was approved by the council's cabinet and Executive Board in October 2022, which is: *'Anti-Muslim Prejudice is direct or indirect hatred and discrimination against*

*anyone of Islamic faith on grounds of their belief and practice*'. This could manifest in:

- Inciting or carrying out acts of racism, hatred, and violence against people, and those perceived to be, of the Islamic faith (Muslims).
- Direct or indirect acts of discrimination and exclusion including policy and practice within organisations, which deny Muslims legitimate, fair and equal access to opportunities, facilities and services because of their faith, beliefs and practice.
- Denying people of the Islamic faith the opportunity to practise their faith values, free of harassment, fear of violence against them or fear of incurring discrimination and hatred against them.
- Actions which perpetuate a climate of mistrust, fear, and a sense of marginalisation about or within the Islamic community e.g. remarks by individuals and groups that can be made without fear of being held to account. Also, use of print, social or electronic media to align and create fear and division surrounding the Muslim community.”

**6.2** The Islamophobia report was made live on the Coventry University website at the same time as the definition was adopted by Executive Board.

**6.3** An Anti-Muslim Prejudice Action Plan has been developed to deliver the recommendations of the Coventry report and is led by an Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group bringing together key Leeds City Council services and statutory partners.

**6.4** An Anti-Muslim Prejudice Community Reference Group has been established to further guide the delivery of the recommendations in Coventry’s report and to track the progress of the Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group. The first meeting of the Community Reference Group took place in July 2023.

**6.5** Activities delivered for Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) in 2023 included: The national organisers of the month delivering a session on the first day of the month for partners in Leeds about the history of the month and its importance with ideas on how organisations and people can get involved in the campaign. A session by Stop Hate UK on Islamophobic Hate specifically, how to report it and support available for victims.

**6.6** At the time of writing this report the programme for Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) 2024 is being finalised. The month will feature a diverse range of online and in-person events, led by organisations such as Tell Mama and Stop Hate UK. Planned activities also include sessions with Councillors and Leeds City Council staff, along with community engagement activities in partnership with Police Engagement Officers. These engagement activities aim to reach young people, women and girls, and newly arrived communities along with the general population. Following the success of last year’s ‘Muslim Stories’ campaign, the campaign will be highlighted again to showcase the positive contributions of British Muslims to society. Additional activities and events are also being planned to further amplify the message of an inclusive Leeds.

## **7 Anti Semitism Work**

**7.1** The IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition on Anti Semitism was adopted by Leeds City Council in 2017. This definition was also recommitted to by full council in September 2024 following a delegation from Leeds Leads Against Antisemitism. The definition outlines that *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*. This could manifest in:

- The targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.
- To guide IHRA in its work, 11 contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere, taking into account the overall context, have been outlined. However, this list is not exhaustive of all examples.

**7.2** It is planned that the current Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group will expand its remit to become an Anti-Muslim Prejudice and Anti Semitism Working Group. Work is starting to take place to deliver this ambition.

**7.3** A new Antisemitism Community Reference Group is also being scoped currently. This group will track the progress of the Anti-Muslim Prejudice and Anti Semitism Working Group in delivering against Anti Semitism.

**7.4** Leeds City Council recognises that there is currently no nationally celebrated awareness month dedicated to combating Anti Semitism. In response, we are actively exploring the development of initiatives to address this gap. Efforts are underway to scope and plan activities that would mirror the commitment and approach taken for IAM, ensuring equal regard and visibility for Anti Semitism awareness.

**7.5** Leeds City Council maintains a strong working relationship with the Community Security Trust (CST), a key partner and member of the Hate Crime Strategic Board. This partnership has been instrumental in previous efforts, including the delivery of Anti Semitism-focused sessions during Hate Crime Awareness Week in 2023 and 2024. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for education and dialogue amongst colleagues and partners. Moving forward, this collaboration will be integral to shaping and delivering Anti Semitism awareness activities on a broader scale.

**7.6** A conference on Anti Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudices was held in December 2023 to focus work on Anti Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudice with a range of speakers and workshop activity taking place. The conference was well

attended despite being planned before the tensions arising out of the latest Middle East conflict and feedback from the discussions around how to improve work to combat Anti-Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudice were fed back to participants.

## **8 Third Party Reporting and Signposting Centres**

**8.1** Third Party Reporting Centres provide people with an alternative way to report a hate crime or incident other than going to the Police. They give confidential advice, help people report hate crime, and support people. Work has taken place to identify reporting centres including Citizens Advice Leeds, Unity Housing Association, Leeds City Council Community Hubs, Leeds Gate re hate against the Travelling community, Yorkshire MESMAC for LGBT+ related hate and United Response for disability related hate. Further reporting centres are planned in the coming year.

**8.2** The Hate Crime Operational Group has also recommended opening a small number of new signposting centres which provide information and guidance on where to report hate crimes and incidents, signposting to West Yorkshire Police or third-party reporting centres or other organisations, where required. The establishment of these signposting centres is part of our broader strategy to ensure that victims of hate crime have easy access to the support and resources they need. By offering clear guidance on reporting pathways, these centres will help bridge the gap for individuals who may feel uncertain or overwhelmed by the reporting process.

**8.3** Training was identified as the number one requirement for a centre that either takes reports or signposts to operate effectively. Stop Hate UK have been and continue to deliver a series of training sessions for existing and new reporting centres and have also developed an information pack. The first training session took place in September 2023.

**8.4** In order to ensure that any new centres (reporting or signposting) maintain their effectiveness, stakeholders have identified the need for regular contact with other venues or organisations offering a similar functionality to share best practice, overcome challenges in delivery or ask for general advice. A Network of Reporting Centres has been established to develop this regular contact and sharing of best practice, chaired by the Equality Team and which will meet quarterly. A newsletter is also being developed on a quarterly basis, updating all partners on developments on the hate crime agenda.

## **9 Schools Hate Incident Reporting Process**

**9.1** In November 2022 the Hate Crime Strategic Board implemented a new hate incident and hate crime reporting system in schools. Our work with Stop Hate UK allows schools and learning settings to report hate incident/crimes and is

reported to the Hate Crime Operational Group and Hate Crime Strategic Board on a regular basis. Ensuring that accurate, timely and relevant data is available to help determine the types of hate occurring will assist the Hate Crime Strategic Board to form our tactical response to prevent it.

**9.2** Further development work around the hate agenda in schools has been undertaken jointly between the Safer Stronger Communities Team, Children and Families Services and Stop Hate UK including improving the reporting form that educational settings use to report. Work is ongoing to continuously review this reporting process and ensure it remains fit for purpose.

**9.3** There has been a focus on communication with schools including training delivered by Stop Hate UK and a better understanding of how to report. Work is currently underway to develop new 'bite-sized' training sessions for school staff to increase awareness and understanding of hate crime. These sessions will be developed in partnership with Leeds City Council and Stop Hate UK.

## **10 Hate Crime Awareness Week 2024**

**10.1** Hate Crime Awareness Week was organised by Leeds City Council in partnership with West Yorkshire Police and a range of community organisations. Building on the success of previous years, the 2024 campaign featured a mix of in-person, online, and community engagement events aimed at raising awareness, providing support, and encouraging reporting of hate crimes.

**10.2** Key activities included:

- **Launch Event at Civic Hall:** Centred on race-related hate crime, this event featured keynote speeches by Cllr Mary Harland and Alison Lowe OBE, followed by insights from West Yorkshire Police, Stop Hate UK, and the Culturally Diverse Hub, a panel Q&A and table discussions. Attendees included colleagues from partner organisations and Councillors.
- **Targeted Community Sessions:** The Migrant Access Project and Leeds Refugee Forum hosted discussions on hate crime awareness for migrant communities. Additionally, discussions were held by Leeds Equality and Hate Crime Team at Leeds GATE Women's and Youth Groups, for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Both sessions focussed on providing a safe space to capture the lived experiences of these communities, in relation to hate crime.
- **Online Training:** Three virtual sessions were held, each aimed at equipping attendees with practical insights into recognising and addressing hate crime. The Community Security Trust delivered a session on Anti-Semitism, the Switch on to Women's Safety Project Group delivered a session on misogyny and Stop Hate UK delivered training on race-based hate crime.

- **Public Engagement:** Leeds City Council collaborated with the Angels of Freedom to host an event in Leeds city centre, fostering dialogue and sharing resources on hate crime with the LGBT+ community. Additionally, sessions were held by West Yorkshire Police at Leeds Hindu Mandir, Leeds Sikh Temple, and Leeds General Infirmary, focusing on hate crime reporting and available support.
- **Youth and Education:** West Yorkshire Police connected with young people at local schools and colleges, promoting hate crime awareness and inclusivity.

**10.3** This week of activities demonstrated Leeds's commitment to a safe and inclusive community through education, dialogue, and partnership across diverse communities.

## **11 Misogyny Work**

**11.1** Misogyny is not currently recognised as a hate crime but has serious impacts and is part of our work agenda. We are continuing work through the Violence Against Women and Girls Board.

**11.2** A Misogyny working group is being established between Safer and Stronger Communities at Leeds City Council, the Equality Team, and Women's Lives Leeds, working with a range of partners including West Yorkshire Police, Stop Hate UK and others. It will run for an initial 12 months with the aim of reporting back after discussions on:

- Online hate
- The Law
- Current Research
- Local policy and the West Yorkshire Mayors manifesto
- The work on Violence against women
- How to consult
- Diverse women's experiences

## **12 Marketing Campaign**

**12.1** An anti-discrimination campaign is currently being developed for launch in March 2025, to support the prevention element of the Hate Crime Strategy. This will include digital advertising on billboards, in venue posters and social media content and will include content across all the types of hate crime recognised within the legislation but is also planned to include content on misogyny.

## **13 West Yorkshire Police**

### **13.1 National and International Context**



The volume of hate crimes is influenced by national and international events, including war and political discourse. Hate crime typically increases in response to high profile geopolitical events including conflicts, incidents of terrorism and other such incidents.

### **13.2 Middle East Conflict and Summer Riots, Unrest Across the UK**

In recent months, disturbing unrest has occurred across the UK. Whilst hate crime and incident reports in Leeds remained stable over the past twelve months, August saw a marked increase, with approximately 100 more reports than in previous months, with race-based incidents comprising the highest volume. This rise correlates with the Harehills disorder and nationwide riots following the Southport tragedy. Additionally, both antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice have seen significant increases in connection with the ongoing Middle East conflict, with a particularly high rise in antisemitic incidents.

To ensure the safety of all residents, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council and partner organisations have comprehensively responded to manage community tensions and hate crime. This response has included:

- Managing demonstrations, vigils, and other public events
- Engaging with Muslim and Jewish organisations and leaders
- Responding to the rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice
- Tackling hateful graffiti
- Responding to online hate

The Police Engagement Team continues to support and gather intelligence from communities, working closely with faith establishments. The Hate Crime Coordinators also maintain drop-in centres in various venues across the city.

### **13.3 Ongoing Partnership Working and Readiness**

Our approach to preventing and responding to hate crime continues to evolve. Whilst we develop proactive strategies, and we remain ready to adapt our response as new situations emerge. Strong working relationships between West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council and third sector organisations enable us to work together effectively to prevent incidents wherever possible. When incidents do arise, these partnerships allow us to respond swiftly and proactively, ensuring community safety and support.

## **14 Performance and Accountability**

**14.1** The Leeds City Council Best City Ambition sets out a positive vision for the future of Leeds. Recognising that Safer Leeds plays a pivotal role in enhancing community wellbeing and safety, there is extensive governance and performance management in place supporting intelligence led activity aimed at delivering better outcomes for hate crime.

Safer Leeds performance is enabled by a Safer Leeds Information Sharing Protocol which facilitates the exchange of information between partners to prevent crime and disorder, and to safeguard residents. Safer Leeds monitors and progresses priorities and deliverables detailed in the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27. Performance indicators monitor the number of Hate crime incidents, focusing upon strand-based volume trends, with appropriate context. Additional routine management information, for example the monthly Safer Leeds Locality Overview, provides a THRIVE (threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability, and engagement) community safety assessment of overarching and ward-based hate incident trends, with appropriate context.

- 14.2** The Hate Crime Strategic Board has responsibility for relevant aspects of the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27. Hate Crime key deliverables are: to increase awareness of the impact of hate crime on individuals and communities through a programme of targeted awareness raising campaigns and educational programmes; to develop the confidence of communities and individuals impacted by hate crime to report such incidents and crimes by supporting the development of hate crime reporting centres in local communities and high-risk environments, including schools and the private sector, alongside specific reporting centres for the range of protected characteristics; and to improve support for the victims of hate crime by ensuring effective provision is available at the time of reporting, so that agencies supporting hate crime victims are encouraged to make appropriate referrals to access the appropriate support. Working with the CJS and Victim Support to ensure victims of hate crime are adequately supported through their involvement with the criminal justice process.

The Hate Crime Strategic Board held responsibility for the delivery of Leeds 'Responding to Hate Strategy 2021-24'. The desired outcomes monitoring success were: An increase in awareness of hate crime, the number of reported hate crimes, the number of disability and gender identity reported hate crimes, and the number of young people reporting hate crime; An increase in the number of third-party reporting centres; An increase in victim satisfaction; A decrease in the number of repeat victims; and an increase in the use of Restorative Justice for Hate crime.

- 14.3** An Intelligence Led approach to performance information supports the Hate Crime Strategic Board; performance information has adapted to meet evolving requirements. In 2020/21, and 2021/22 a quarterly Accountability Tracker monitored the desired outcomes (listed above). In 2022/23 a quarterly Hate Crime Performance Overview moved reporting to focus on an Outcome Based understanding of the 'story behind the figures'. From April 2023 to date, a quarterly strand-based locality approach has delivered a nuanced assessment of the impact of Hate within Leeds communities. In August 2024 a Performance Information overview was introduced (in addition to existing reporting) to more closely link Safer Leeds strategic priorities, and management information indicators, to the work of the Hate Crime Strategic Board. Any further requests

for strategic partnership analytical information are directed to the Community Safety Performance and Intelligence team.

**14.4 Trend overview** - Statistical information builds a shared understanding of Hate Crime and Incident volume trends. Leeds trends recorded Hate crime are summarised below.

- In the year ending March 2024, there were 3,246 hate crimes recorded by the police in Leeds, a decrease of 16% from the year ending March 2023.
- Most hate crimes were racially motivated, accounting for 7 in 10 of all such offences (69%).
- Religious hate crimes recorded by Leeds police increased by 20%, driven by a rise in offences against Jewish people and to a lesser extent Muslims.
- In the year ending March 2024, there were 207 Hate crime enquiries/ service requests recorded by Leeds City Council, an increase of 6% from the year ending March 2023.
- Census information records 79% of Leeds residents are White/ British, 9.7% are Asian/ British, 5.6% are Black/ British, 3.4% are Multiple ethnic groups, and 2.3% are Other/ British. 42% of Leeds residents are Christian, 40% are of no religion, 8% are Muslim, 1% are Sikh, 1% are Hindu, 1% are Jewish, and fewer than 1% are Buddhist. The proportion of the Leeds population that is ethnically diverse, Muslim, Jewish, or Sikh is slightly higher than the national trend.

**14.5 The tables below show the annual Hate Crime 2020-24 – West Yorkshire Police**

Hate crime, England and Wales	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	92,063	109,843	103,625	98,799	-5%	-
Religion	6,383	8,730	8,370	10,484	+25%	-
Sexual orientation	18,596	26,152	24,777	22,839	-8%	-
Disability	9,945	14,242	14,285	11,719	-18%	-
Transgender	2,799	4,355	4,889	4,780	-2%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,104</b>	<b>155,841</b>	<b>147,645</b>	<b>140,561</b>	<b>-5%</b>	-

Hate crime, Leeds	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	2,285	2,780	2,668	2,228	-16%	2,338

Religion	233	292	229	274	+20%	386
Sexual orientation	423	610	581	479	-18%	457
Disability	349	420	568	371	-35%	332
Transgender	108	133	135	117	-13%	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>3,935</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>3,246</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>3,323</b>
<i>Anti-Muslim</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>+13</i>	<i>134</i>
<i>Anti-Jewish</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>+143</i>	<i>50</i>

#### 14.6 The table below shows the annual Hate Crime Service Request 2020-24 – Leeds City Council

Hate service requests refer to all hate incidents and hate crimes reported to Leeds City Council, online or within a Leeds City Council building.

Hate Enquiry / Service Request Leeds City Council	*2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	-	135	122	131	7%	127
Religion	-	7	8	7	-13%	11
Sexual orientation	-	26	20	17	-15%	21
Disability	-	15	15	18	20%	14
Gender identity	-	15	8	6	-25%	3
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>220</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>188</b>

*\*In in 2021 a new customer contact system was introduced.*

#### 14.7 The table below shows the annual Hate Crime 2020-24 – Stop Hate UK

Hate Incidents, Stop Hate UK	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	49	26	84	255	165%	-
Religion	9	4	3	15	204%	-
Sexual Orientation	22	4	34	102	400%	-

Disability	25	18	21	37	200%	-
Transgender	3	4	3	4	76%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>-</b>

**14.8** The statistical information provided by Stop Hate UK shows all Leeds incidents reported to Stop Hate UK. The latest years figures include Stop Hate UK taking on responsibility for the schools reporting system which accounts for the large increase in their reported figures. Schools and learning settings can report hate incidents to Stop Hate UK who are commissioned by Leeds City Council. Reporting hate incidents and crimes in schools remains very important and helps to reinforce the city’s commitment to addressing discrimination and intolerance and our commitment to being a Child Friendly City.

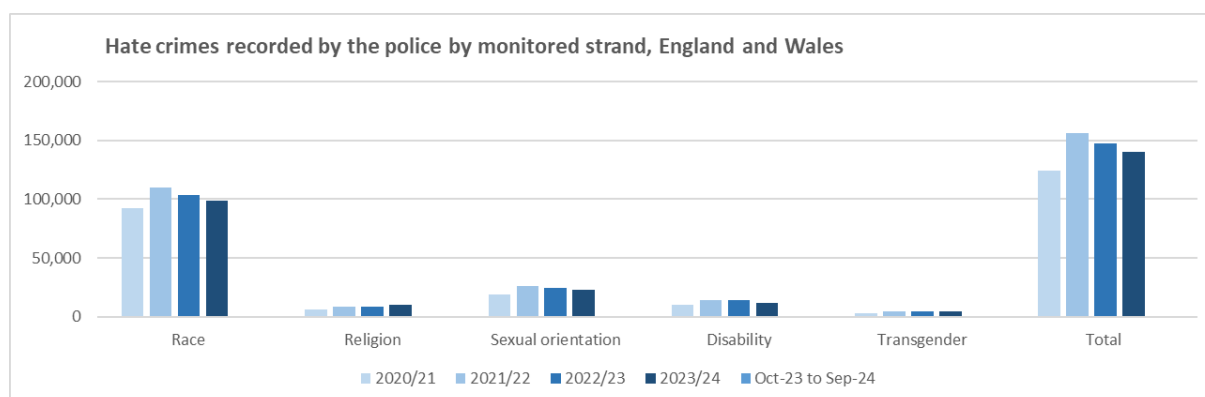
**14.9** Hate incidents may take place at locations where a protected characteristic is visible and established, for example near to a place of worship.

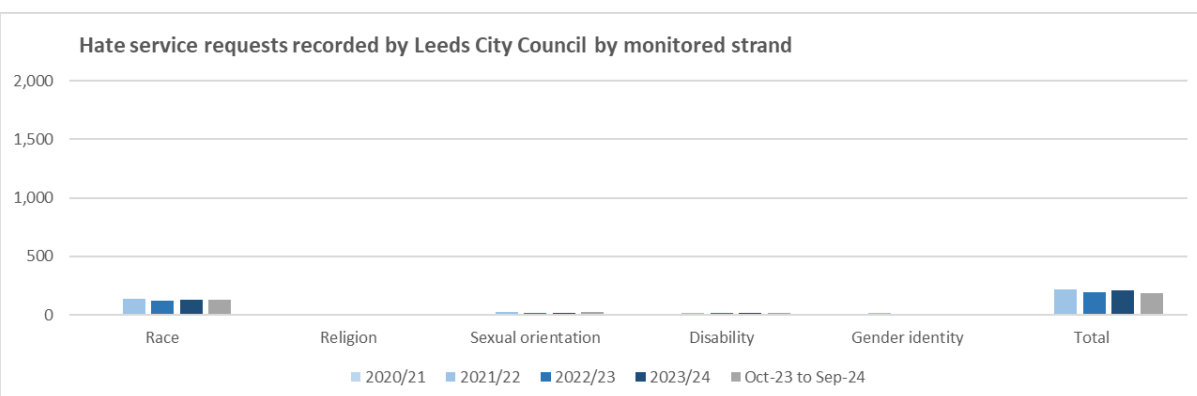
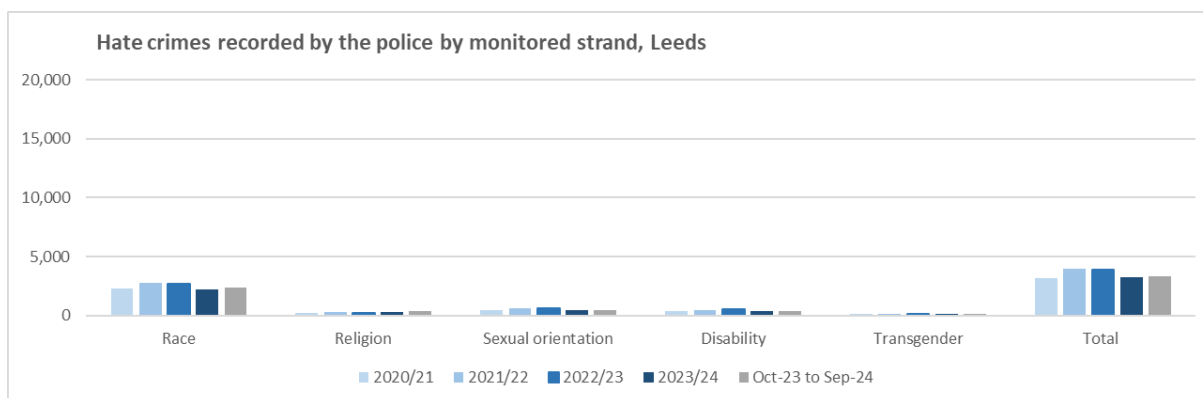
**14.10** Perpetrators of hate may be more likely to act in public spaces where they feel they can act with impunity. Hate incidents may occur in high footfall locations, for example a city centre.

**14.11** Places which are high volume hate incident locations are often a result of both the work undertaken in the building and the support offer to employees. People undertaking public service duties from a building such as a health care setting that provides a Leeds-wide service and with a large element of public contact, may experience a higher volume of reported hate incidents.

**14.12** Place-based data is currently being reviewed by Leeds City Council, to support this work.

**14.13** The graphs below show the trends outlined in 13.5-13.6.





Hate service requests refer to all hate incidents and hate crimes reported to Leeds City Council, online or within a Leeds City Council building.

#### 14.14 Technical information

Technical information provided by the Home Office is summarised below to assist an understanding of trends in recorded Hate crime.

- Police forces have made significant improvements since 2014 in how they record crime. They have also improved their identification of what constitutes a hate crime. It is also thought that growing awareness of hate crime was likely to have led to improved identification of such offences by officers.
- In the process of recording a crime, the police can flag an offence as being motivated by one or more of these 5 monitored strands for example, an offence can be motivated by hostility towards the victim's race and religion. Hate crime figures are dependent on a flag being correctly applied to an offence that is identified as a hate crime.
- Hate crimes are taken to mean any crime where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people was a factor in determining who was victimised. While a crime may be

recorded as a hate crime, it may only be prosecuted as such if evidence of hostility is submitted as part of the case file.

- A Non-Crime Hate Incident (NCHI) is an act that is motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person's identity but does not amount to a criminal offence. The Home Office does not routinely collect this data.
- Changes were made to the Home Office Counting Rules in May 2023 for conduct crimes (stalking, harassment and coercive and controlling behaviour). The requirement to record 2 crimes when one of them was a conduct crime was removed, leading to a reduction in those crimes often associated with conduct crimes, such as malicious communications. Public, fear alarm or distress offences (including those recorded as racially or religiously aggravated) fell over the 2-year period. Malicious communication offences fell, with most of the fall occurring in the last year.
- On the 3 June 2023, the Home Office published statutory guidance which instructed officers to consider whether there was genuine hostility in the incident or whether it could be considered freedom of speech or thought. While the guidance was aimed only at the recording of NCHIs, and in no way amended the recording practices, processes or thresholds for hate crimes, it is possible that the guidance in turn may have led to greater scrutiny of the threshold of what constitutes a criminal offence of public fear, alarm or distress. However, the Home Office Counting Rules for the recording of these offences has not changed.

Because of these changes, police recorded crime figures do not provide reliable trends in hate crime since 2014. Figures from the police should also not be seen as a good measure of prevalence since not all hate crime is reported to them. The figures do, however, provide a good measure of the hate crime-related demand on the police.

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## Climate emergency Annual Update

Date: 6 December 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 formal remit of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) includes delegated functions relating to climate change. However, to avoid duplication with the work programme of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee the Scrutiny Board has previously determined that this element of its remit should be addressed through the receipt of the Climate Emergency Annual Update.

The appended report was considered by the [Executive Board on 16 October 2024](#). It provides an annual review of the work that continues to be undertaken on a Council and citywide basis following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The report also reflects upon wider regional and national changes that are relevant to the city's decarbonisation.

### Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note and comment upon the appended report, and to identify any further actions or areas for work for the Scrutiny Board.

### What is this report about?

- 1 The appended report provides an update on work which continues to be undertaken in response to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The appended report sets out a review of policies and projects which are designed to reduce carbon emissions in the city as part of wider work towards the Council's ambition to be a net-zero city.

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

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 3 Responding to climate change is central to the overall vision for the future of Leeds as set out in the Best City Ambition.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

- 4 Further information about stakeholder engagement is detailed in the appended report.

### What are the resource implications?

- 5 Further information is provided in the appended report.

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

- 6 Further information is detailed in the attached report, including the listing of climate change within the Council's [Corporate Risk Register](#).

### What are the legal implications?

- 7 There are no specific legal implications.

### Appendices

- Executive Board report: Climate Emergency Annual Report

### Background papers

- None

# Climate Emergency Annual Report

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Report of: 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

- In 2019 the council declared a climate emergency and this report provides the annual update against this target at both a council and city level. It also updates and reflects on wider changes relevant to the city's decarbonisation that have happened both regionally and nationally.
- Zero carbon is one of the three pillars of our Best City Ambition as we aim to become the first net zero city in the UK, rapidly reducing carbon emissions and reversing the decline in biodiversity, while supporting people to make more sustainable choices which can improve their standard of living. Our zero carbon work is also grounded in our Team Leeds approach with a range of partners involved, including all council directorates, a number of organisations from the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, government departments, the LGA as well as specialist advisors. Overall, the council and partners have delivered climate action related schemes worth more than half a billion pounds in recent years, helping to create and support many hundreds of local jobs.
- In November 2023 Leeds City Council was recognised as one of 119 city authorities across the world leading the way on climate action as part of a list published by renowned international authority, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). It joined the likes of New York, Paris, Melbourne, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, and Cape Town on the organisation's annual 'A List' for the second consecutive year. Of more than 900 global cities that received a rating in 2023, only 13% received an 'A' grade. Leeds was among those cities being celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action—from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate change—is achievable at a global level. However, this action will need to go further and faster in future years for Leeds to retain this 'A' grade.
- Leeds' contribution to climate change (the district's annual greenhouse gas emissions) have decreased by 38% since 2005, from 6.3 to 3.9 million tonnes of carbon. The council's own carbon footprint has shrunk by nearly two-thirds (63%) over a similar period.

- The council set out plans to invest £100 million improving the energy efficiency of its homes in 2021. The programme is beyond its halfway milestone and more than £60 million of projects have now completed, benefiting thousands of residents with healthier, more comfortable homes that are cheaper to keep warm.
- In the wider built environment, many other public sector partners have connected to our £62 million low carbon district heating network, which continues to expand rapidly. Similar to the council, other large organisational emitters in the city are also taking significant actions to reduce their own impact on the environment—supporting the city’s journey to become the UK’s first net zero city.

## Recommendations

The Executive Board is requested to approve the following recommendations:

- a) acknowledge the progress being made in our ambition to be the first net-zero city in the UK.

### What is this report about?

- 1 Our climate has changed already and the impacts of this are already being felt locally, nationally and globally. The climate will continue to change until global net zero is reached—meaning that the greenhouse gas emissions of every territory are either reduced or removed from the atmosphere by natural or human-made means. The planet is already 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer on average than in pre-industrial times as a result of human-caused climate change, according to the EU’s Copernicus Climate Change Service.
- 2 2023 was the second warmest year on record for the UK, according to Met Office figures with the top ten warmest years on record having each occurred since 2003. Eight of the twelve months of the year were warmer than average for the UK, with the hottest June on record and the joint hottest September. Globally, 2023 was the warmest on record, with carbon dioxide concentrations at their highest in the atmosphere for two million years. Close to 50% of days were more than 1.5c warmer than the 1850 – 1900 level, and two days in November were, for the first time, more than 2c warmer.
- 3 The UK also experienced 11% more rain than average falling, with England experiencing its sixth wettest on record (based upon records from 1836) with approximately 20% more rainfall than average.
- 4 The impact of these climate changes is noticeably showing in Leeds. From June 2023 to June 2024, the west and northwest of Leeds has been considerably wetter than the remainder of the city. Overall, for Leeds, eleven of these months during this period exceeded the average rainfall for the month.
- 5 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 saw a series of flash flooding throughout areas of Leeds, particularly in the northwest areas, including Horsforth and Cookridge, due to the sudden onset of heavy precipitation and thunderstorms in the isolated area. During this storm, the expected rainfall for the entirety of May fell in a single hour.

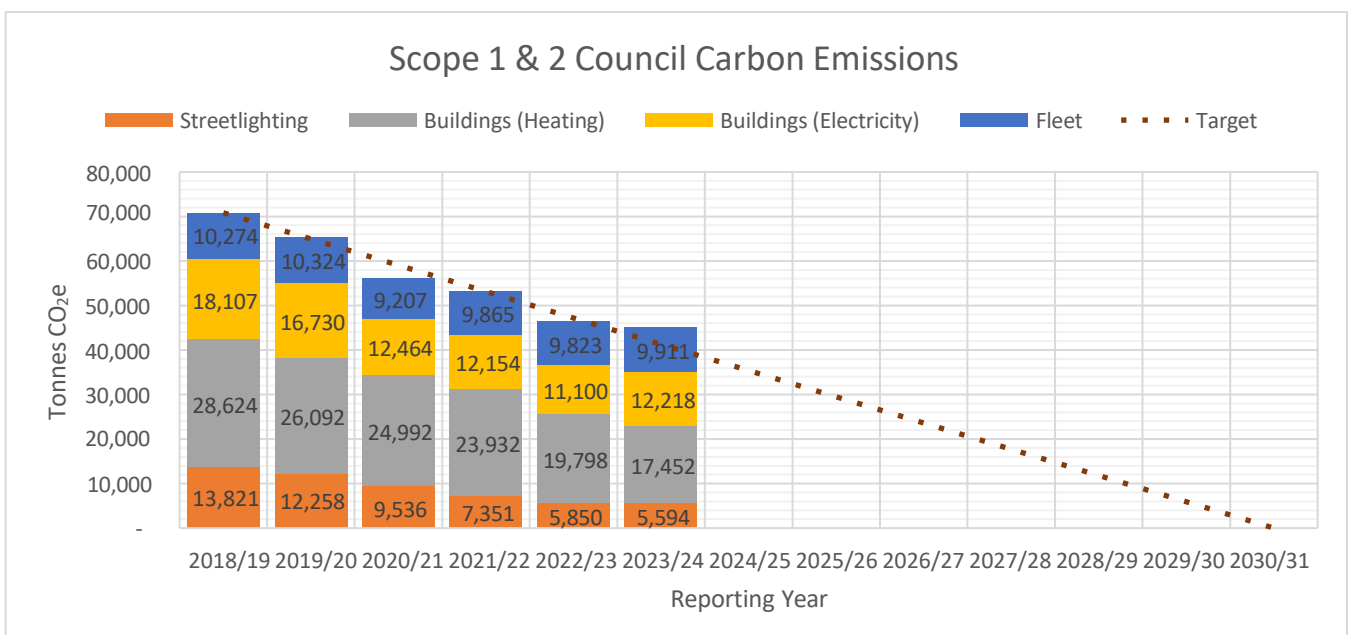
## 6 National and Regional Context

- 7 The council can take a wide range of actions to achieve net zero operations as an organisation and as a local authority can contribute significantly to the city’s progress towards its net zero target. Nevertheless, neither the council nor the city exists independently of national policy. The transition from natural gas, the shift to a net zero electricity grid, and the removal of fossil fuels from transport are three profound changes to which the council can contribute but where the principal levers lay at a national level.
- 8 With regards to scope 3 emissions, pertaining to those associated with consumption of goods and services, again the council can make some inroads but issues which determine the degree to which the citizens of Leeds are dependent on imported goods produced and transported with carbon are bound up with national industrial strategy and trade policy. New policies, such as the extended producer responsibility that is due to be introduced next year, will help to reduce scope 3 emissions by making producers responsible for what happens to their end products and drive systematic change.
- 9 The council can play two roles with regard to impacting on the national agenda. First, the council can and has been acting as a pathfinder for low carbon and zero carbon development. A constructive engagement with government is helping to develop district heating as a viable alternative and pioneering retrofit in multi storey buildings, as two examples. This engagement will help the city achieve reductions in carbon faster but also help prove the case for its implementation at a national level. Secondly, the council can engage national policymakers, communicate the local challenges and opportunities of net zero, and work with them—and with other partners including the LGA, UK100, Core Cities, and other authorities—to address barriers and ultimately improve national policy.

## Council Emissions - Overview

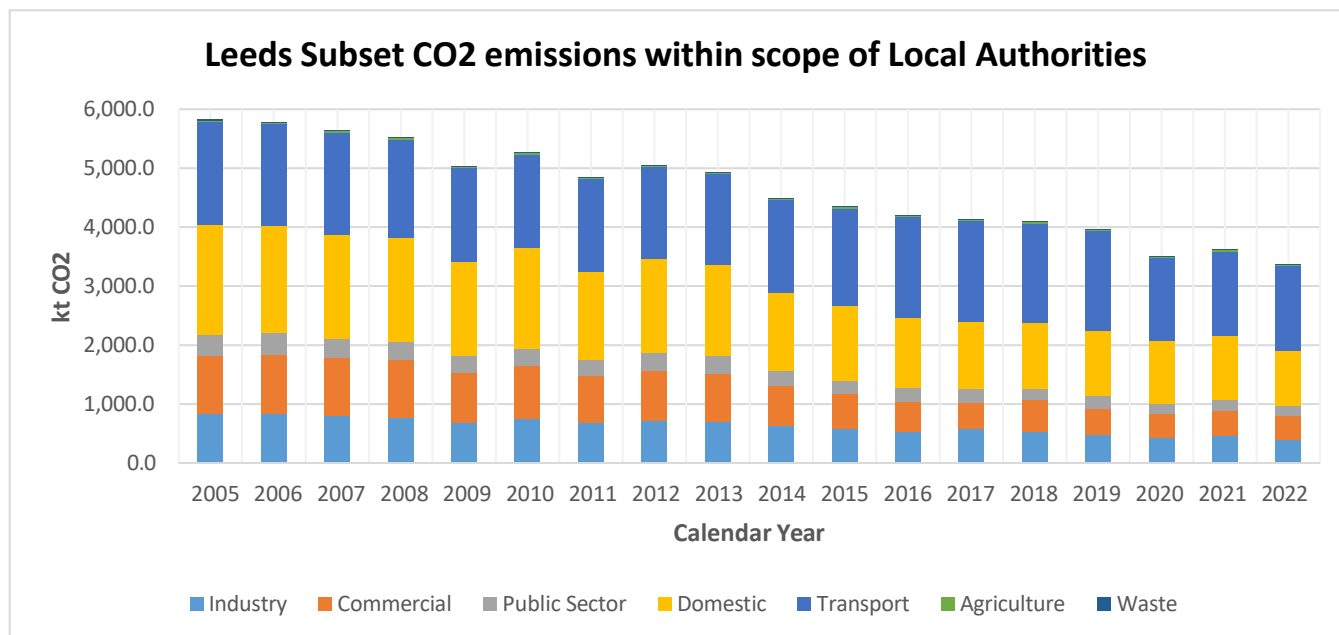
- 10 The chart below illustrates how our actions to date correspond to the trajectory required to achieve our net zero ambition. Although there has been a slight increase in emissions over the last year, relating to both Buildings (Electricity) and Fleet, the council is still on track, noting that the range of measures being implemented by the council as summarised in the sections below will need to be supported by major national policy, infrastructure and funding measures if this rate of progress is to be maintained.

11



## City Emissions - Overview

12 The chart below documents the overview of the city emissions across five categories; industry, commercial, public sector, domestic, agriculture and waste



13 As well as looking at scope 1 and 2 emissions, the council is committed to looking at how it can reduce its scope 3 emissions<sup>1</sup>. With an annual external spend of almost one billion pounds, there is significant potential to use our buying power to reduce wider emissions associated with council services. Measuring scope 3 emissions accurately is very challenging and labour intensive. However, we have started to capture more accurate data for some of our spend categories as shown in the table below and this will enable us to monitor specific areas and develop action plans to reduce scope 3 emissions.

14 The latest Scope 3 data can be seen below.

	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2019/20		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2020/21		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2021/22	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2022/23	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e 2023/24
Grey Fleet (car mileage claims)	1,246		587		858	970	953
Business Travel (other)	199		24		56	102	103
Water	229		158		156	245	203
	<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e 2019/20<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Food weight (Tonnes)</b>	<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e 2020/21<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Food weight (Tonnes)</b>	Not calculated		
Food total	7,535	2,494	4,990	2,138			

<sup>1</sup> Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by Leeds City Council and Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heat, and cooling. Scope 3 emissions are those emissions that the organisation is indirectly responsible for from buying products or services from its supplier or mileage completed by employees in their own vehicles.

## Secure, cost effective, clean energy for all

15 The table below illustrates the progressive year-on-year reductions in gas and electricity consumption since the declaration of the Climate Emergency in March 2019 and the associated carbon emission reductions.

LCC billed energy consumption				
	Gas (kWh)	Elec (kWh)	Total kg CO2e	% CO2e reduction (compared to 18/19)
2018/19	155,185,026	123,951,177	62,626,120	0%
2019/20	150,975,376	128,138,426	59,688,728	5%
2020/21	147,653,416	106,961,797	51,431,690	18%
2021/22	140,519,929	104,264,513	47,309,569	24%
2022/23	116,845,656	95,243,427	40,128,294	36%
2023/24	103,503,408	94,341,543	38,467,682	39%

16 Action and progress since the last annual update can be summarised under the following key areas:

17 **Reducing energy consumption** – the council has continued its work to ‘right size’ the corporate estate in response to new ways of working and changes to models of service delivery, as well as ongoing work to raise awareness amongst building managers, staff and service users of the impacts of energy usage, and the improved use of data to understand where further energy savings can be achieved through better energy management.

18 **Improving energy efficiency** – the programme of work to secure grant funding and deliver energy efficiency, low carbon heating and renewables generation measures across the corporate estate and schools has continued. Schemes include the installation of heat pumps, building energy management systems, insulation, LED lighting, solar PV and a range of other energy efficiency measures. Work has also been undertaken to review how the crematoria can be made more energy efficient and reduce gas use by adopting common operational practise used by other local authorities whilst ensuring that the Council continues to respect the guidelines set out by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. In addition to this, the wholesale conversion of the city’s street lighting to LED has progressed rapidly, providing substantial reductions in electricity consumption.

19 One of the council’s main users of energy is streetlighting, accounting for around 30% of electricity consumption. As noted above, a four-year programme to transfer the city’s streetlighting to run on LEDs by October 2023 has now completed. In 2018/19 our carbon level was 14,857 tonnes, this has reduced by 2022/23 to 5,854 tonnes.

20 The current Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3b programme has delivered carbon reduction measures at eight schools and four corporate sites with a further school and four corporate sites to be delivered in the next six months. Once complete the scheme will have decarbonised the heating supplies of 17 corporate and school buildings through the installation air source heat pumps, upgraded building management systems and

solar PV. Key projects have included Pudsey Leisure Centre and Morley Town Hall as well as Armley Mills and Temple Newsam House and Courtyard.

- 21 Work is already underway at sites for PSDS3c with a further six sites to be delivered in 2024/5, and two in 2025/6. A key project being the full decarbonisation of Torre Road Depot one of the city's largest carbon producing buildings. The use of buildings will change over time as service requirements develop and evolve. This may present opportunities for buildings to be used for different purposes which may necessitate more comprehensive refurbishment schemes being brought forward to remodel the building and address backlog maintenance requirements. In these situations, the council will take the opportunity to explore the potential to further improve the energy efficiency and performance of the building through implementation of a range of retrofit measures.
- 22 The council's fleet of electric vehicles is currently 380, believed to be the largest zero emission fleet of any local authority in the country. There are currently 121 depot charging points and 117 charge points at employee homes and work has been completed to future proof both the new Waste and Seacroft Ring Road depots to enable additional charge points to be installed when required, including provision of high-speed charging to support electrification of refuse collection vehicles. As part of a wider, broad ranging fleet review there remains ambitions to continue the transition of vehicles to alternative fuel to support Net Zero goals. The key barriers to delivery of this change remain the lack of availability of suitable zero emission vehicles, as well as the cost of the vehicles when they are available with the additional need to develop the required fuelling infrastructure to support them. This is a particular challenge for vehicles in specialist and heavier categories. The government, whilst planning to end the sale of conventional engine cars and vans in 2030, has now set a later date of 2035 and 2040 for HGV's (depending on size) which means that the market in heavier vehicles is some way behind and the horizon for price parity will also be later for HGVs than for cars and vans.
- 23 The council has ordered two electric refuse collection vehicles, with these in production and being prepared for delivery. These will replace outgoing diesel vehicles in the refuse fleet. The council continues to develop a fleet replacement strategy that best aligns decarbonisation and air quality priorities with service need as well as considering budget pressures. The long-term aim is to identify dates for when vehicles will be available in alternative fuel models but also when there will be better price parity (considering the potential revenue savings associated with alternative fuel vehicles). However, in the short term the focus of the cross-council vehicle review is to right size the fleet, ensuring that utilisation of vehicles is optimised, helping to potentially reduce our scope 3 emissions related to fleet purchase or hire.

### **Warm, affordable, low carbon homes**

- 24 The council has made good progress improving home energy efficiency, and it is optimistic following the new government's latest announcement that this will be accelerated further in the coming months.
- 25 Home Upgrade Grant 2 has proved to be an incredibly challenging scheme to deliver not just for Leeds, but for all authorities. Our original target was to improve the energy efficiency of 750 homes through installation of both insulation and low carbon heating, however we have reduced the target to 287 homes.
- 26 There are multiple reasons for this including:

- Low uptake by potential eligible applicants who, living in off-gas homes, are pepper-potted around the city, which makes it challenging to meet the grant criteria



- Delays in the provision of requisite off-gas data, which has only been received by the council in July, coming very late in the programme
- Low numbers of completed properties due to the complexity of installation of multiple measures in homes.
- The complex process of pipelining properties that require individual sign off by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for each case

The council hopes to achieve the reduced target of 287 homes across the city with an approximate grant of £6.08m and is working hard towards delivering these homes. New properties can only be processed to the end of December 2024, which means there is limited time in which to use the off-gas data we now hold in order to drive sufficient take up. The final three months of the scheme will be to complete the agreed installations, with the scheme ending on the 31st March 2025.

- 27 Private Sector Housing, Housing Leeds and Leeds City Council's Climate, Energy and Green Spaces Team are working to bring energy efficiency improvements to a hundred back to back homes in the Cedars area of Armley.
- 28 The works, costing £4.4 million will be funded by West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Housing Leeds and central government grant funding, and will include the installation of external wall and attic room insulation in a mixture of council and private sector homes, alongside repairs and improvements to the local environment. A feasibility study is also being undertaken to assess the practicality of installing low carbon heating in the homes as part of a potential future phase of the scheme.

## **Decarbonised organisations, good green jobs and a skilled workforce**

- 29 2023 was another successful year of growth for the Leeds PIPES District Heating Network (DHN), with works ongoing across the city to connect new customers and extend the main spine network.
- 30 Almost 2,000 residential properties, including the Leonardo and Thoresby development, have now been connected, along with Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Museum and Leeds Art Gallery and Central Library along with St George House. Key public sector stakeholders are also connected to the network including Leeds Beckett University, St James' Hospital, Quarry House and the Leeds Combined Court Centre.
- 31 Leeds Conservatoire (formerly Leeds College of Music) has become the fifteenth customer to have signed a contract to connect, with a total of 53 buildings now taking heat and/or hot water from the network, including 25 multi-storey flats and 28 across public and private sector buildings.
- 32 In the financial year 2023/24 the network of insulated underground pipes supplied 29,000 megawatt-hours of heating and helped reduce the city's carbon footprint by 5,945 tonnes of carbon.
- 33 Delivered in partnership with Vital Energi, it has also helped employ more than 430 people in the local low carbon economy including 36 apprentices.
- 34 The majority of connections to the network so far have been public sector customers, but we anticipate that the next phase will primarily connect commercial non-domestic customers. This

will raise the profile of the network and prove the viability and benefits of DHN connections for commercial customers.

- 35 On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) published their updated Climate Plan, following their original plan in 2021. The update is the result of three years of work, plus knowledge and feedback from commission members, events and workshops. The updated plan consisting of seven objectives, which provide the challenges and opportunities to ensure that the entire region is on the right path of climate action. Both the YHCC and the Leeds Climate Commission enable great cross sector collaboration focused on rapid emissions reduction, adaptation and improving nature.
- 36 Community Climate Grants is a programme funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), directing £2 million to third sector community projects that cut carbon and reduce deprivation and inequality. £596,000 was allocated to 23 projects across the city. All projects are scheduled for completion by December 2024. Projects funded through the scheme had to focus on at least one of four priority areas: renewable energy, decarbonising buildings, enhancing nature, or promoting sustainable travel, while also addressing deprivation or inequality.
- 37 Some project examples are flagged below:
- 38 Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods
- a) Activities - Creation of a wetland area in Gledhow Valley Woods, removal of invasive species and learning and engagement activities with schools in adjacent areas.
- 39 Mafwa Theatre
- a) Activities - Deliver 30 gardening sessions with asylum seekers and longer-term residents in Lincoln Green. Create raised beds and vegetable starter beds for residents to establish micro plots. Deliver public events in the space to engage with wider community.
- 40 LS14 Trust
- a) Activities - Renovation of Killingbeck Community Orchard and under-used community allotments, delivery of fortnightly energy efficient cooking classes. Behaviour change work with local families to reduce home energy and travel emissions and cut household bills
- 41 Otley 2030
- a) Activities - Installation of solar panels and creation of a community garden on Weston Lane Football and Social Clubs. Community engagement and workshops on climate change, social justice and nature recovery
- 42 St Gemma's Hospice
- a) Activities - Installation of zonal valves to control heating in the hospice and lower temperatures in areas patients aren't being treated
- 43 Canopy
- a) Activities - Deep retrofit to four Victorian properties focusing on insulation and building fabric, using sustainable materials like wood-fibre and hemp-based insulation
- 44 Adapting and mitigating climate change also brings with it the opportunity to create new, green jobs, as well as developing existing roles to ensure people have the relevant skills needed to complete their job in the future. Examples of this include gas engineers moving from the installation of gas networks to ground source heat pumps.

45 Facilitate easy access to green skills, job information/opportunities, career pathways and to enable young people and adults to make informed choices. Develop targeted green skills, employability and innovation initiatives to support those furthest from the labour market, the economically inactive and those in low-paid or insecure work to develop skills required to access further learning and employment within low carbon growth sectors. There is also help to support the delivery of transition for those currently in jobs at high risk of not upskilling.

### **Reliable, affordable, integrated and zero emission transport**

46 The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy has decarbonisation as one of its central pillars, in line with the council's own priorities. The strategy states: "Our vision for Leeds is to be a city where you don't need a car. Where everyone has an affordable and accessible zero carbon choice in how they travel. We want to Connect Leeds, Connect Communities, and Connect Businesses together in the most sustainable ways".

47 The electric charge infrastructure in the city has continue to grow in line with the increased prevalence of plug-in vehicles in the city. From 129 public charge points in the city in October 2021, there are now 548 public chargers, of which 114 are rapid or faster, as of October 2023 (according to Commons Library data), with the number continuing to increase.

48 A regional strategy to deliver infrastructure is being developed between WYCA and the five local authorities. As well as exploring bus franchising, mass transit is at the heart of the plans with an initial two lines under consideration with phase one planned to begin construction in 2028 and begin operation by the early 2030s.

### **Climate resilient and nature rich region**

49 Climate adaptation is broadly defined as referring to any activity that minimises the impact of current, expected, and potential climate change and its effects. Climate change poses a threat to lives, livelihoods and the local environment. Climate related risks will continue to increase, even if the global commitments of the Paris Agreement succeed in limiting warming to well below 2°C, until global net zero carbon emissions are achieved. The UK is already experiencing changes to its weather with a climate already 1.1°C warmer than pre-industrial levels.

50 Climate-related hazards that Leeds is increasingly likely to experience can be grouped into four themes: extreme and prolonged **heat, flooding, drought, and cascading impacts** resulting from climate impacts elsewhere. In 2022, Leeds experienced the effects of several of these hazards first-hand. In July, heatwaves through the UK saw Leeds' highest recorded temperature. This was a weather event which directly impacted the way many council services had to operate.

51 Since the council wide workshop in 2022, officers within Climate, Energy and Green Spaces continue to support and encourage services in the council to develop their own service-led action plans to take long-term actions that mitigate the risks from climate change. Services will be encouraged to consider three different types of adaptation actions (the "three P's" framework):

- Actions that **prevent** some hazards from occurring
- Actions that **protect** the city from harm and damage, by reducing exposure to a hazard
- Actions that **prepare** for an effective response to mitigate the harm and damage caused by a hazard by reducing the vulnerability of the people and places exposed.

52 The council is clear that this work is complementary of, not instead of, the council's commitment to working towards becoming a net zero carbon city as quickly as possible. Becoming a net zero city (climate change mitigation) and preparing for the predicted impacts of climate change (climate

change adaptation) are considered equally important strategic goals of the council's climate action work.

- 53 The council's Woodland Creation Scheme is continuing to expand the city's canopy cover every year. The planting objective is to capture and store carbon to contribute to the net zero ambitions. As well as planting, the Woodland Creation Scheme continues to include a successful tree seed collection campaign run in schools and other council facilities and an educational pack for schools.
- 54 In collaboration with Butterfly Conservation Society, Leeds City Council have established two large wildflower areas in Roundhay Park using seed sourced through Natural England in order to provide areas of managed habitat for native butterflies and other invertebrates which links to the conservation work undertaken at Tropical World.
- 55 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) refers to a relatively new planning regulation (it became mandatory in February 2024) that means all developments must leave biodiversity better off than before the development took place by creating or improving natural habitats and maintaining them for 30 years. If developers are unable to deliver BNG on the development site, they will have to deliver it 'off-site' and this provides an opportunity for Leeds City Council to implement externally-funded improvements to public green spaces across the city.
- 56 The Leeds City Council Planning team are encouraging developers to deliver off-site BNG locally, and the Climate, Energy and Green Spaces service are working to facilitate that on the land the council manages. Other services, including Flood Risk Management, are also looking into the potential of BNG to improve habitats they are responsible for (such as water courses). This year, following consultation with ward members and local residents, the first BNG schemes funded by developers will be implemented on our green spaces focusing on grassland and woodland improvements at sites in Armley, Gipton and Harehills, Roundhay and Killingbeck and Seacroft wards. These schemes, which are being undertaken on sites we are currently unable to maintain as efficiently as we would like due to reduced resources, will make the habitats better for local wildlife. Information signs will be installed to explain the reasons for the work to the public.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 57 This plan covers a wide range of both policy and projects, all of which are designed to reduce the carbon emissions of the city and work towards our ambition to be the first net-zero city in the UK. Ward members are routinely consulted on projects and initiatives taking place in their ward area.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 58 In summary, responding to climate change is central to the overall vision for the future of Leeds as set out in the Best City Ambition.
- 59 The council intends to achieve net zero and adapt to climate change in a fair way that improves standards of living in all the city's communities and is supportive of our economy. Reducing poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of residents is also key to reducing vulnerability of climate-related hazards.

- 60 Although this report primarily focuses on the council's approach to the climate emergency, much of the work undertaken provides multiple co-benefits. The council and partners have delivered climate action related schemes worth more than half a billion pounds in recent years, helping to create and support many hundreds of local jobs.
- 61 This work also supports the city's health and wellbeing priority. We will reduce fuel poverty and cold-related illness by making our buildings more energy efficient; enable physical activity and public safety by improving our transport infrastructure; promote healthier and lower carbon diets; increase life expectancy by transitioning to cleaner energy, heating and transport; and improve access to green spaces which are proven to have clear benefits to both mental and physical wellbeing.
- 62 Further detail about the specific impacts on health and wellbeing and inclusive growth of our climate action are highlighted in previous reports focused on particular policies or programmes

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:		
Have ward members been consulted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- 63 This plan covers a wide range of both policy and projects, all of which are designed to reduce the carbon emissions of the city and work towards our ambition to be the first net-zero city in the UK. Ward members are routinely consulted on projects and initiatives taking place in their ward area.
- 64 The council recognises that changes required to transition the city towards a net zero economy will not be possible without widespread public support and behaviour changes from residents and organisations alike. The council's public communications and engagement has three fundamental roles: enabling the successful delivery of projects, explaining climate policy, and engaging the public on the changes that they can take, whether individual or organisational, to help accelerate climate action.
- 65 The council has used a number of 'owned' channels to provide updates and engage residents, including both general channels with a broad audience and climate-specific channels.
- 66 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change, progression towards net-zero and sustainability. The main committee has continued to host open forum, allowing members of the public to present on issues that they wish the committee to consider via video link, via pre-recorded video, or submitted text. This is considered an important aspect as it provides an opportunity for public engagement. The CEAC Working Groups allow elected members to explore issues in more depth, often hearing from external speakers as well as officers from across the council. These are beneficial in providing a forum to scrutinise the progress against a number of key themes and supporting the development of policy and allows opportunity to input collectively into local and national consultation responses.

### What are the resource implications?

- 67 In terms of energy strategy, particularly in light of current energy prices and the expected increasing costs of fossil-fuel based energy generation, the proposed measures to reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency and increase the level of energy consumed from renewables or low-carbon sources will all serve to minimise the cost impacts to the council and the housing schemes will support the council's fuel poverty work.
- 68 Grant funding will continue to be sought from government in support of the ongoing expansion of decarbonisation measures across the council's buildings, the city's housing stock and transport infrastructure.

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

- 69 The council must be clear in communicating with the public what the climate risks are to the city and how they are addressing these. In doing so, this ensures that the Council's reputational risk remains intact, and the public does not lose trust and confidence in the work the council is doing. This report indicates the progress we are making towards our climate ambition and is transparent with the challenges that are faced throughout varying projects.
- 70 Climate Change is listed on Leeds City Council's [Corporate Risk Register](#), with multiple controls in place to manage this risk, and actions in place to manage the risk.
- 71 As many of the barriers to change sit outside of the direct control of the council, it is key that managing these risks involves working closely with national government and to highlight the challenges that will prevent the city reaching net zero. The council will continue to highlight the key barriers to progress, working with partners such as LGA, UK100, core cities as well as with local authorities at a regional level.

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

- 72 No specific legal implications.

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

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

- 73 As this report provides a general update on progress this section is not relevant.

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

- 74 Success will be measured by the reduction in carbon emissions at both a council level but also at a city level.

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

75 This report provides an update on general progress rather than details on specific actions.

## **Appendices**

76 This report provides an update on general progress rather than details on specific actions.

## **Background papers**

77 None

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## Work Schedule

Date: 6 December 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 16 October 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.
3. On the 21 November 2024 the Scrutiny Board considered two call-in requests relating to Parking Charges in District Centres. The Scrutiny Board determined by a majority vote to refer the original delegated decision for reconsideration. Where this is the determination of a Scrutiny Board the [Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules](#) require the Scrutiny Officer to produce a report for the relevant director within three working days. The principles of the report were agreed by the Scrutiny Board at the call-in meeting.
4. The report to the Director was circulated to members who attended the call-in meeting and is also attached at **Appendix 3** for information.
5. Members are asked to note the remote working group taking place at **2.30pm on 12 December 2024** which will provide opportunity to discuss the budget proposals relevant to the remit of this Scrutiny Board. This is part of the budget consultation process and member comments and conclusions will subsequently be reflected in the composite statement provided to the Executive Board in February 2025.

### Developing the work schedule

6. 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.
7. 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?

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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?**

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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?**

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

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

15. 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 16 October 2024.
- Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Board Call-In Outcome Report (21 November 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
<a href="#"><u>Thursday 20 June 2024 at 10.30am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Thursday 18 July 2024 at 10.30am</u></a>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>
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)	
	<a href="#"><u>Call In Meeting: Wednesday 31 July 2024</u></a>	
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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**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
<a href="#"><u>Thursday 19 September 2024 at 10.30am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Wednesday 23 October 2024 at 10.30am</u></a>	<b>No meetings</b>
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)	
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
	11.30am-12.30pm 9/10/24: Sim Spec Walk ( <b>IN PERSON</b> ) 1-2pm 17/10/24: Social Progress Index (all scrutiny members - <b>REMOTE</b> ) 10am – 11am 18/10/24: Housing Allocation Policy (post consultation update) – <b>REMOTE</b>	19 or 26/11 – Visit to Leeds Housing Options

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### 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 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 ( <b>REMOTE</b> )	Date TBC – Remote working group Leeds Housing Options	
Site Visits		

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### 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	<a href="#"><u>Wednesday 2 April 2025</u></a>	To be scheduled
	Annual Update - Parks and Greenspaces Strategy  Community Committee Review: Update on task and finish groups  Household Waste and Recycling Centres: review of provision and performance with recommendations for improvements to increase recycling and re-use  Locality Working Update  End of year statement	Clean Neighbourhood Teams
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

**Scrutiny Work Items Key:**





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

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

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2024

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

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

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

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

**54 Late Items**

There were no formal late items of business submitted to the Board for consideration, however, supplementary information had been provided to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting. This was in the form of Appendix 2 to Item 9 (Children and Young People's Transport Policy: Outcome of consultation on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)). This Appendix 2 presented the Scrutiny Board Children and Families Working Group statement relating to the proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 SEND learners, which had been submitted following the Scrutiny Board's agreement of the statement at the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. (Minute No. 60 refers).

**55 Declaration of Interests**

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared at the meeting.

**56 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### **EQUALITY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**57 Plans for New Hospital Provision in Leeds**

The Interim Chief Executive of Leeds City Council submitted a report which provided an update on the current position regarding the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's (LTHT) proposals for new hospital provision in the city as part of the Government's New Hospitals Programme. This would see existing hospital facilities on the Leeds General Infirmary site being replaced with new state of the art buildings and equipment. It was also noted that proposals included the creation of a Leeds Innovation Village as part of a wider Innovation Arc. The report reconfirmed the support which had been provided by a range of city partners and sought the Board's endorsement of the proposed approach to Government for the swift delivery of the programme in Leeds.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that the Government's New Hospitals Programme had been the subject of significant delays since its establishment in 2019 and that the current Secretary of State had commissioned a review of the programme in order to put it on a sustainable footing. In advance of the Chancellor's upcoming Budget statement, the Executive Member highlighted that the purpose of the report was to call on the Government, in partnership with colleagues from LTHT to accelerate funding to deliver the new hospital programme for Leeds. Thanks were extended to Councillor Lamb for his support, and also for the work being undertaken to facilitate a cross-party letter to Government on such matters.

The Board welcomed Professor Phil Wood, Chief Executive, LTHT, and Jenny Ehrhardt, Director of Finance, LTHT, who were in attendance for the consideration of this item.

Professor Wood highlighted the readiness in Leeds to proceed with the programme, provided an update on the preparatory progress made to date and emphasised how this facility would not only be key to delivering state of the art health care for Leeds residents, but would have critical importance for the region and the north of England generally. Also noted was how the proposals were consistent with both local and national policy. Emphasis was placed upon the fact that LTHT's estate backlog remained challenging and would continue to accelerate whilst the new facility was awaited. It was noted that the proposals for Leeds were part of an ambitious regeneration development that included the Innovation Village, which would have a significant impact in terms of inward economic investment and job creation. An update on the progress made to date on the first phase of that initiative was provided.

The Leader thanked all involved from within the Council and from the LTHT and all other partner organisations for their continued efforts in this process, their collaborative approach and for providing a clear message of support. The significant healthcare benefits that would be realised as a result of the proposals were reiterated, as were the wider economic benefits from the development of the Innovation Arc.

In considering this matter, Councillor Lamb welcomed the report, reiterated the cross-party and 'Team Leeds' approach being taken and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the support of Leeds MPs was also gained on this matter.

Councillor Lamb moved several proposed amendments to the recommendations in the submitted report, Specifically that:

- Recommendations (a) and (b) remain unchanged;
- Recommendation (c) becomes recommendation (d), and that a new recommendation (c) be added as follows, '*The Executive Board is asked to note that four years of delays have so far cost the NHS Trust £300 million and further delays owing to the latest Government review of the NHS New Hospital Programme (NHP) will cost the NHS considerably more*'; and

- The original recommendation (d) becomes recommendation (e), and that be amended to read as follows, '*The Executive Board requests that, given the Department for Health and Social Care/Treasury review of the new hospitals programme, Executive Board make a submission to the Treasury before the Budget on 30 October, clearly stating the importance of modernised hospital provision in Leeds and requesting that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay. The Leader and Executive Member for Equality and Health and Wellbeing have sought cross-party support for a letter in support of the Council's submission*'.

Those proposed amendments were then seconded by Councillor Venner, and with the Board's agreement, it was -

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the strategic importance to Leeds of replacing existing hospital facilities on the Leeds General Infirmary site with new state of the art buildings and equipment, be noted, with the progress made so far by LTHT and partners of the Leeds Innovation Partnership including the Council, University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University, also being noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the new hospital programme will deliver a boost to the health of children and adults, act to regenerate the existing and surrounding site and promote innovation and research across Leeds;
- (c) That it be noted that four years of delays have so far cost the NHS Trust £300 million and that further delays owing to the latest Government review of the NHS New Hospital Programme (NHP) will cost the NHS considerably more;
- (d) That the call to Government, as outlined within the submitted report, to approve and to subsequently accelerate the new hospital programme in Leeds, serving as critical regional health infrastructure, be supported;
- (e) That, given the Department for Health and Social Care/Treasury review of the new hospitals programme, agreement be given for Executive Board to make a submission to the Treasury before the Budget on 30 October 2024, clearly stating the importance of modernised hospital provision in Leeds and requesting that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay. That it also be noted that the Leader and Executive Member for Equality and Health and Wellbeing have sought cross-party support for a letter in support of the Council's submission.

#### **58 Fast Track Cities: One Year On (2024)**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which provided an overview of the Fast Track Cities initiative, the achievements in Leeds in the last twelve months, as well as the ambitions for the next year. The report noted that Fast Track Cities is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world in which participants declare a commitment to ending HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis (TB) epidemics by 2030.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the initiative and the ambitious nature of it, the actions which continued to be taken, the challenges which were being faced and the progress that had been made over past year. It was also highlighted that in February 2023, Leeds became the first city in the Yorkshire and Humber region to become a Fast Track City.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the ways in which progress in this area would be monitored and measured, with it being noted that indicators relating to HIV and blood-borne viruses were part of a dashboard which was considered by the city's Health Protection Board, as part of the Team Leeds health protection processes. It was undertaken that such dashboard data would be shared with Board Members for information.

It was also noted that in the most recent data there had been increases in several indicators, which was partly due to the fact that more testing was being undertaken. Further information was then given on the approach being taken to manage such matters moving forward.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the achievements of the Fast Track City initiative, as detailed within the submitted report, be recognised;
- (b) That the future ambitions of the Fast Track City initiative, be supported, and that the development of the Leeds: Getting to Zero Action Plan also be supported, together with the aim of reducing the stigma and misinformation associated with TB, HIV and Hepatitis.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

#### **59 The Annual report on Academic Outcomes**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the outcomes from the statutory assessments and examinations which took place during the 2022/23 academic year in primary and secondary state-funded schools in Leeds (both maintained schools and academies) and which covered the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Key Stage 5.

The Executive Member introduced the report and thanked all children and young people who had undertaken assessments and examinations for their efforts. Thanks was also extended to all teachers and those, including parents and carers, who had supported students throughout what could be challenging times for children and young people. An overview of the performance of Leeds pupils when compared to the national average was provided, with it being noted that Leeds was not complacent in respect of the progress which was being made, and that work would continue to improve the outcomes for all children and young people at every stage of education, especially those who faced additional challenges.

In noting the outcomes within the submitted report, a Member highlighted the positive local and national results which had been achieved by the students, and how such positive results reflected upon the educational reforms of the previous Government.

Responding to a specific enquiry, Members discussed the complex, national issue of attendance in schools, which it was highlighted, had been exacerbated by the pandemic. Further details were provided on the partnership approach being taken to improve attendance and engagement in education, with it being noted that this was a priority for Leeds. It was also highlighted that this matter was being considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and also the multi-agency Children and Young People's Partnership. Bearing in mind the context of the pandemic and the range of challenges faced by children and young people as a result, Members emphasised how the pupils' achievements detailed within the submitted report were all the more significant.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the performance against headline measures for pupils in Leeds in 2023 in comparison to national data, as presented within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the actions taken by Local Authority services to support maintained schools and academies in their work to improve outcomes in Leeds, be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the data presented within the submitted report has previously been discussed at Children and Families Scrutiny Board on 18 July 2024.

**60 Children and Young People's Transport Policy: Outcome of consultation on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Further to Minute No. 10, 19 June 2024, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the outcomes from the public consultation exercise undertaken on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The report detailed proposed next steps and sought approval of an updated Children and Young People's Transport Policy, as presented at Appendix 3.

Supplementary information had been provided to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting in the form of the Scrutiny Board Children and Families Working Group statement regarding the proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 SEND learners. This had been submitted following the Scrutiny Board's agreement of the statement at the meeting held on 9th October 2024. The statement was presented as Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member extended her thanks to Children and Families Scrutiny Board for the work that it had undertaken in

this area. Also, it was highlighted that the Local Authority's duty was to provide home to school transport assistance for children with SEND of statutory school age, and that although it was the parents' responsibility to provide transport arrangements for post-16 year old learners with SEND, the Council had continued to provide substantial assistance. With regard to the proposals within the report, it was noted that they had followed consultation undertaken with young people and their families. The Board was also advised that the proposals would reduce the significant overspend which existed in this service area, whilst maintaining a discretionary transport offer for post-16 students with SEND. The provisions which would be put in place to support those affected were also noted.

In acknowledging the reasons for a review being undertaken, a Member raised his concerns in respect of the proposals and in doing so relayed to the Board an individual concern which had been raised with him, advising that this was representative of others he had received. The Member sought reassurance that the implementation and communication of the proposed policy would be proactive and would be centred around the needs of children, young people and their families, and that for instance, there would be flexibility on the 20-mile radius cap being proposed. In raising such concerns, the Member suggested that further work needed to be undertaken and perhaps a deferral of the final decision was required in order to provide the necessary assurance to parents and families around the approach which would be taken to implement the proposals.

In response, whilst acknowledging the impact of the proposals, it was noted that the current policy was unsustainable. It was also noted that the matter had been considered in detail at Scrutiny Board, where the challenges being faced had been acknowledged, and it was confirmed that the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board had been accepted.

Assurance was provided to the Board that the proposed policy would take into consideration the individual needs of children, young people and their families, and where such individual needs required provision outside of the agreed policy, then in those exceptional circumstances the policy would provide flexibility to deliver that. A commitment was also provided that communication and engagement would continue with the parents, carers, children and young people affected using a range of methods.

Further detail was also provided on the actions being taken regarding the delivery of SEND provision in Leeds, with the aim of minimising the need for learners having to travel significant distances outside of the city wherever possible. The opportunities arising from the proposals in relation to independent travel were also highlighted. As part of the discussion on this report, clarification was also provided to Members on several specific areas within the proposed policy.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That in general terms, the contents of the submitted report, be noted;



- (b) That the outcomes from the consultation exercise, as agreed by Executive Board at its meeting on 19 June 2024, be noted;
- (c) That approval in principle be given to the proposed Children and Young People's Transport Policy (October 2024) as presented at Appendix 3 to the submitted report, which details how a stepped model of transport assistance would be offered to eligible young people with SEND in post-16 education. Transport assistance would in future be made available on the following basis, depending on eligibility and the level of transport need, assessed against the policy:-
  - (i) limiting post-16 transport assistance to learners with SEND, living 3 or more miles from their education setting;
  - (ii) provide Independent Travel Training and a free bus pass (or equivalent cost) for a young person who is able to travel independently or could make the journey to their learning setting on public transport accompanied by an adult as necessary;
  - (iii) issue a Personal Transport Allowance for post-16 learners with SEND, as set out in paragraph 8 (b) of the submitted report;
  - (iv) the consideration of transport assistance for applications made against the exceptional circumstance criteria set out in the Children and Young People's Transport Policy (October 2024) as detailed at Appendix 3 and as detailed in paragraphs 24-25 of the submitted report.
- (d) That it be noted that implementation would be with effect from the commencement of the new academic year (September 2025) and that transitional arrangements would apply to the application of the new policy, as detailed in paragraph 22 of the submitted report;
- (e) That it be noted that a Children and Families Scrutiny Board Working Group meeting took place on 24 September 2024 to discuss the recommendations detailed within the submitted report and due to timing associated with Executive Board agenda publication and the Scrutiny Board meeting schedule, the resulting Working Group Statement was circulated to Board Members as supplementary information which forms Appendix 2 to the submitted report;
- (f) That further to the approval in principle of the Policy (resolution (c) above), it be noted that any further amendments to this policy would be taken in accordance with existing delegations by the Director of Children and Families.

(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)

## **61 Little Owls Nurseries Review**

Further to Minute No. 7, 19 June 2024 and Minute No. 22, 24 July 2024, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report which provided an update on the withdrawal of service from three Little Owls settings and on the 'market

sounding exercise' undertaken in relation to a further twelve settings, as previously approved by Executive Board. In addition, the report provided recommendations to Executive Board regarding proposed next steps in relation to those further twelve settings.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that in response to the financial challenges faced and as part of the review undertaken in relation to the Little Owls Nurseries, Executive Board had previously resolved to undertake a market sounding exercise in relation to the future of those twelve Little Owls nursery settings referenced within the report. The Executive Member provided an update on the work undertaken to date on this exercise together with details of the proposals regarding the future of those settings. As part of any next steps, assurance was provided that engagement would continue with parents and carers, and that actions would be taken to ensure that any new providers continued to deliver a number of issues which had been identified as key by parents and carers during the engagement process. Such matters would be considered on a setting-by-setting basis, and if it was deemed that those critical needs were not met in a specific setting, it was noted that the default position would be for the Council to continue as the provider.

A Member raised a specific enquiry and concern regarding the extent to which child poverty was being taken into consideration as part of the proposals. In response, the Board was provided with assurance that the issue of child poverty remained a key concern in Leeds. It was also noted that whilst the appended Equality Impact Assessment took a broader view on such matters given that the submitted report invited the Board to agree the principle of a series of changes, the bespoke and localised discussions which would take place with potential providers moving forward would allow issues such as child poverty to be considered in detail. However, it was reiterated that the default position would be for the Council to continue as the provider, should it be deemed that any potential provision arrangements were not suitable for a specific setting.

Clarification was provided to the Board that the Local Authority's statutory duty in this case was to ensure sufficiency of childcare provision, with it being noted that as part of the proposals, Leeds would retain at least nine directly delivered nurseries, which was more than any other comparator city and significantly beyond the Council's statutory duty, reflecting the commitment to early years provision in Leeds.

The Board discussed the financial basis on which the review had been undertaken and the proposals being made. Members also discussed the issue of daily fee levels, with the Board receiving further information on the process by which appropriate consideration would be given to such matters, as part of the individual discussions with any potential providers. Responding to a specific enquiry regarding potential fee levels which had been identified as part of the expression of interest exercise, it was undertaken that further detail could be provided to the Member in question, if required.

A Member raised a concern regarding the Call In status of the report, as they felt that the submitted report should be eligible for Call In and recommended that the status of the report should be changed so as to be eligible for Call In. In response, it was confirmed that the report was not eligible for Call In as the matter had already been through the Call In process.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the activity undertaken to withdraw from service provision at three settings, as agreed by Executive Board in June 2024, be noted;
- (b) That the work undertaken to date in relation to the agreed 'market sounding exercise' regarding the following settings, be noted:-
- Shepherds Lane
  - Meanwood
  - St Mary's Hunslet
  - Hawksworth Wood
  - City & Holbeck
  - Parklands
  - Quarry Mount
  - Bramley
  - Hunslet Rylestone
  - Osmondthorpe
  - Rothwell
  - Burley Park
- (c) That the recommendations set out for each of those settings detailed in resolution (b) (above), be agreed, as set out below:-
- (ci) That the overarching proposal, be agreed, that subject to a successful outcome of detailed discussion with schools and alternative providers, none of the twelve settings identified in resolution (b) will be retained by Leeds City Council for direct delivery. In the event that those detailed discussions do not progress to a satisfactory conclusion, the Council's default position will be that settings are retained by the Council and directly delivered;
- (cii) That the recommendation to engage in detailed conversations with neighbouring schools around their interest in operating Little Owls nurseries at St Mary's Hunslet, Parklands, Hawksworth Wood, Quarry Mount, be agreed, and if required, agreement be given to a procurement process and other statutory consultation processes with the individual neighbouring schools;
- (ciii) That the recommendation to enter a formal procurement process with alternative providers for the future provision at the following settings: Shepherds Lane, City and Holbeck, Hunslet Rylestone, Rothwell, Meanwood, Bramley, Osmondthorpe and Burley Park, be agreed;
- (d) That it be noted that the Director for Children and Families has delegated authority to make the operational decision to move forward with individual providers for the settings set out in resolution (ciii) above.

(As referenced within paragraph 33 of the submitted report, the resolutions above are not eligible for Call In, as they are a direct consequence of implementing a previous key decision on such matters which had been the subject of a previous Call In)

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

## **RESOURCES**

### **62 Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report regarding the review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy. The report detailed the outcomes from the consultation undertaken, presented the updated draft Policy for the Board's endorsement and asked the Board to refer it to Full Council with a recommendation that it be formally adopted.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting the statutory requirements for the Local Authority to produce a policy and noted the associated consultation exercise that had been undertaken, which included the consideration of the draft policy by the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board. The partnership approach being taken towards addressing the issue of gambling harm across the city was also highlighted.

Responding to a Member's enquiry about the low level of responses received to the associated consultation exercise, assurance was provided that the level of response was expected, and was a reflection of the comprehensiveness of the policy, the fact that regular consultation was undertaken and given that where appropriate, the policy had been adapted in the past to incorporate responses previously received.

An enquiry was raised regarding the Authority not being informed by the Gambling Commission about an establishment's breach of its operating license. In response, it was noted that the Council had written to the Commission in order to make its concerns known with a request that the Council be kept informed of such matters in future. It was also noted that there had not been any further breaches that the Council had been informed of since that incident.

Noting the Public Health team's involvement in the field of Licensing activity, further information was provided on the actions which were being developed in this area. It was noted that whilst this process was in its relatively early stages Members had welcomed Public Health's involvement, and given the limited resource available, actions were being taken to ensure that such resource was being used as effectively as possible.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report and appendices be noted, including the final draft Statement of Licensing Policy which includes the outcomes from the statutory consultation exercise and any comments/recommendations from Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board; and

- (b) That approval be given to refer the final draft Statement of Licensing Policy, as presented, to Full Council, with a recommendation that it is formally adopted.

(Given that the above decisions were being made in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, they were not eligible for Call In)

**63 Financial Health Monitoring 2024/25 – Month 5 (August)**

The Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources submitted a report providing an update on the Council's financial performance against the 2024/25 revenue budget, as at month 5 of the financial year. The report also presented the August (Month 5) position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Schools' Budget (DSG) and the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund.

In presenting the report the Executive Member provided an overview of the key points in which it was noted that as at month 5 of the financial year, the Council was forecasting a General Fund overspend of £22.0m. The Executive Member also highlighted the range of mitigating measures being taken to address the overspend.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board noted that the savings proposals which were established for the current financial year were largely being achieved, and that the overspend being experienced was due to the increased demand in both children's and adults' social care services. The range of work being undertaken to mitigate the current overspend was highlighted, with the scale of the challenge faced being reiterated.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year) the Authority's General Fund revenue budget is reporting an overspend of £22.0m for 2024/25 (3.6% of the approved net revenue budget) after application of reserves and within a challenging national context. That it also be noted that a range of actions are being undertaken to address this position as detailed within the submitted report;
- (b) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year) the Authority's Housing Revenue Account is reporting a balanced position;
- (c) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year), the DSG budget is projecting an in-year pressure of £15.1m which equates to 2.73% of the total estimated DSG funding;
- (d) That it be noted that known inflationary increases, including demand and demographic pressures in Social Care and known impacts of the rising cost of living have been incorporated into this reported financial position. The position assumes a pay settlement of 3.5%, with the final pay award for 2024/25 yet to be agreed. That it also be noted that these pressures will continue to be reviewed during the year and

reported to future Executive Board meetings as more information becomes available, and that proposals would need to be identified to absorb any additional pressures;

- (e) 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 as agreed by Executive Board in February 2024 through the annual Revenue Budget report.

#### **64 Revenue Savings Proposals for 2025/26 TO 2027/28**

Further to Minute No. 47, 18 September 2024, which presented the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2025/26 – 2029/30, the Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources submitted a report providing details of a first tranche of savings proposals to contribute to closing the Council's projected revenue budget gap over the next three financial year period and to meet the statutory requirement to achieve a balanced budget for 2025/26. The report noted that 'savings proposals' was a collective term used in this context to apply to reductions in expenditure and increases in income.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that the submitted report presented the initial revenue savings proposals for the Board's consideration, totalling £37.4m. It was noted that subsequent reports would be submitted to the November and December 2024 Board meetings presenting further savings proposals.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information regarding potential implications should National Insurance Contributions be increased in the future. Also, it was confirmed that whilst the current financial monitoring position assumed a pay settlement of 3.5% for 2024/25, every 1% in addition to that equated to approximately £4.3m cost to the Council.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the 'Business as Usual' savings presented in the submitted report be noted, and that decisions to give effect to them shall be taken by the relevant Director or Chief Officer in accordance with the Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive functions);
- (b) That the Board's agreement be given for consultation to commence, where required, with regard to the 'Service Review' savings proposals detailed within the submitted report, and that it be noted that decisions to give effect to them shall be taken by the relevant Director or Chief Officer following any consultation period, in accordance with the Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive functions) and decision-making framework, save where the Leader or the relevant Portfolio Holder has directed, or the Director considers that the matter should be referred to Executive Board for consideration;

- (c) That it be noted that additional savings proposals will be brought to Executive Board for consideration at its meetings on 20th November 2024 and 11th December 2024;
- (d) That it be noted that further savings will be required to close the Council's estimated budget gaps in the years 2026/27 and 2027/28, and that proposals on such matters will be brought to future meetings of Executive Board.

(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)

## **ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **65 Highway Maintenance Strategy Review**

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update on the work being undertaken to address the highways maintenance backlog in Leeds in the face of current and historical financial challenges.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that this report followed a White Paper Motion resolution from the full Council meeting held on 20th March 2024. It was noted that whilst the Council had provided almost £200m of Capital investment in highways maintenance since 2010, a backlog of £288m still existed, which had been exacerbated by inflation and also adverse weather conditions. It was noted that the challenges faced were being experienced by Local Authorities nationally. The Executive Member extended his thanks to Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for the work which they had undertaken in this area, and reference was also made to the joint letter being sent to Government on such matters in the names of Councillor Bithell as relevant Scrutiny Board Chair and Councillor Pryor as relevant Executive Member.

The Board welcomed Councillor Bithell to the meeting, who was in attendance for the consideration of this item in her position as Chair of the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Board had produced a statement on this matter which was appended to the submitted report for the Board's consideration. Councillor Bithell thanked Members and officers involved in this piece of work and acknowledged the high level of activity and innovation being undertaken by the service. The scale of the challenges being faced were also highlighted. Councillor Bithell provided an overview of the key conclusions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Board, as highlighted in the appended statement.

In considering the report, a Member raised several enquiries regarding the current position with respect to Network North funding, the service's utilisation of the latest technology and innovation, and also regarding the latest backlog position.

Regarding the Council's current highways maintenance backlog position and the worst affected Ward within that, it was undertaken that this information would be provided to the Member in question.

The Board received further information on the actions which continued to be taken in order to innovate the service and adapt to new technology in this area. It was noted that experiences would be shared with other Local Authorities in order to ensure that best value was delivered. It was also highlighted that the service wanted to embrace the Scrutiny Board's recommendations and also embrace new technology, with it being emphasised that highways maintenance remained a key priority of the Council. Responding to a further question, it was noted that associated review work continued to be undertaken and that at the appropriate time, recommendations would be brought forward which covered new ways of working across the whole of the highways service.

In conclusion, the Executive Member extended his thanks to Highways Services for the vital work that they continued to undertake throughout the city.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, including the maintenance strategy and policy as presented, be noted and endorsed;
- (b) That it be noted that the submitted report was considered by the Infrastructure, Investment, and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board at its July 2024 meeting and that a Scrutiny Board Statement has been submitted to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development and which is attached to the submitted report at Appendix B.

**66 Leeds City Council Vote in the Leeds Business Improvement District 2025-2030 Ballot**

Further to Minute No. 14, 19 June 2024, the Director of City Development submitted a report presenting the finalised 2025-2030 Business Plan from Leeds Business Improvement District (LeedsBID) and which set out the themes and work streams that LeedsBID would focus upon in its next term of 2025-2030. The report also provided information about the Council's financial contribution as a BID levy payer.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that LeedsBID would cover an expanded geographical area for the forthcoming term and recommending that the Council vote in favour of LeedsBID for a third term (2025-2030) based upon the submitted business plan.

Members welcomed the proposals within the submitted report.

With regard to the expanded geographical area, a Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that effective communication was established with those businesses which would now be included within the LeedsBID area.



## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the LeedsBID business plan (2025-2030), as appended to the submitted report, which sets out the organisation’s plan of delivery in its third term, be noted;
- (b) That approval be given for Leeds City Council as a LeedsBID levy payer, to vote in favour of LeedsBID for a third term (2025-2030), based upon the appended business plan, thereby enabling the opportunity for significant investment of circa £18.75m in Leeds city centre through the activities of LeedsBID;
- (c) That the resource implications for the Council arising from a successful BID ballot, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (d) That the responsibility of the vote be delegated to the Interim Director of City Development;
- (e) That the Director of City Development (and/or the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment (or a delegate of)) be requested to meet with LeedsBID on a quarterly basis to advocate that the needs and asks of Leeds City Council and those of the communities that the Council represents are met;
- (f) That the Interim Director of City Development be requested to write to LeedsBID to ask that they work with the Council in order to consider destination marketing branding that applies to Leeds city centre as a place, to ensure that visitor experience is optimised and that where possible, any unnecessary duplication is removed;
- (g) That the Interim Director of City Development be requested to write to LeedsBID to ask that a copy of its Forward Plan is provided in December annually to allow Leeds City Council time to consider any resource implications and provide advice to LeedsBID accordingly.

## **CLIMATE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES**

### **67 Climate Emergency Annual Report**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the annual review of the work that continues to be undertaken both on a Council and a citywide basis following the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The report also reflected upon wider changes which have occurred both regionally and nationally that are relevant to the city’s decarbonisation.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member extended his thanks to officers involved in the delivery of this work, and also to Members for their efforts in this area. Special reference was made to Councillor Dye as Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, together with all other Members of that Committee.

An overview was provided on the progress being made and the actions which had been taken to reduce carbon emissions in Leeds over the past twelve months. It was noted that such actions were being delivered both via cross-directorate activity and collaboratively with external partners.

A Member raised an enquiry regarding a recent press report regarding the use of incinerators and their potential impact upon the environment. It was noted that significant work had been undertaken following that press report in order to provide reassurance on the use of the RERF (Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility) in Leeds and how it continued to contribute towards the carbon reduction agenda. It was emphasised that at the current time, the RERF provided the best solution. It was then undertaken that the detailed response which had been prepared on such matters would be shared with the Member in question for their information.

**RESOLVED** – That the progress being made in Leeds’ ambition to become the first net-zero city in the UK, as set out within the submitted report, be acknowledged.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** FRIDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2024

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN  
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00PM, FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2024

## Call In Outcome: D57783 Parking Charges on District Car Parks

Date: 21 November 2024

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing & Environment

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

A meeting took place on 21 November 2024 to consider two call-in requests that were received in line with Leeds City Council's Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules .

The call-in requests related to a key delegated decision regarding Parking Charges on District Car Parks (D57783).

Having reviewed the decision, the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) agreed by majority vote to recommend to the decision maker that the decision be reconsidered.

Consequently, the Scrutiny Officer is required to produce a report for the decision maker within three working days. The principles of the report were agreed by the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) at the meeting.

In the case of an officer decision being referred for reconsideration - such as that in question – the decision maker must subsequently determine whether to confirm or vary the original decision.

### Recommendations

- a) The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) has recommended that delegated decision **D57783 Parking Charges on District Car Parks** is reconsidered. The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is asked to determine whether the original decision should be confirmed or varied following reconsideration.

## What is this report about?

- 1 A [call-in meeting](#) took place on 21 November 2024 to consider two call-in requests that were received in line with the [Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules](#) as set out within Leeds City Council's constitution.
- 2 The call-in requests related to a key delegated decision regarding [Parking Charges on District Car Parks \(D57783\)](#).
- 3 Once published, the full minutes of the call-in meeting will be available on the [meeting webpage](#). A webcast of the meeting is also available via the same site.
- 4 The Scrutiny Board members in attendance for the meeting were as follows:

Cllr S Ali	Cllr B Flynn	Cllr E Bromley	Cllr A Maloney
Cllr L Cunningham*	Cllr S Golton (Chair)	Cllr J Garvani	Cllr N Manaka
Cllr L Farley	Cllr K Haigh	Cllr R Jones	Cllr R Stephenson

*\*Cllr L Cunningham left the meeting at 11.30am and was not therefore present to participate in the determination of the outcome of the call-in.*

- 5 The other attendees at the meeting were as follows:

Cllr N Harrington	Lead Signatory to Call-In Request 1
Cllr C Hart-Brooke	Signatory to Call-In Request 1
Cllr P Stables	Lead Signatory to Call-In Request 2
Cllr M Rafique	Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment & Greenspace
James Rogers	Director Communities, Housing & Environment
Gary Bartlett	Chief Officer Highways and Transportation
John Mulcahy	Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory
Jason Singh	Head of Regulatory and City Centre Services
Mark Jefford	Senior Manager, Environmental Services
Nikki Deol	Head of Service, Legal Services
Rebecca Roberts	Section Head, Legal Services
Rebecca Atherton	Principal Scrutiny Advisor

- 6 Having reviewed the decision, the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) agreed by majority vote to recommend to the decision maker that the decision be reconsidered.
- 7 Consequently, the Scrutiny Officer is required to produce a report for the decision maker within three working days. The principles of the report were agreed by the Scrutiny Board at the call-in meeting.
- 8 In the case of an officer decision being referred for reconsideration - such as that in question - the relevant Director must subsequently determine whether to confirm or vary the original decision.

### **Key Concerns Raised by the Scrutiny Board**

- 9 When submitting a call-in request the signatories must detail why, in their opinion, the decision in question was not taken in accordance with the 'overarching principles of good governance and decision making' set out in [Article 13 of the Council constitution](#).

- 10 Having reviewed the decision in the context of these principles members of the Scrutiny Board recommended that the decision-makers should reconsider the original decision in light of the following concerns.
- 11 **Displacement Parking:** concern was expressed that the introduction of parking charges would lead to displacement parking on roads in surrounding areas. In reconsidering the decision, the Director is asked to provide clarity and reassurance regarding the pace at which additional Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) would be commenced should displacement parking create concerns for local residents. It was suggested that this may include consideration of introducing TROs ahead of the implementation of new charges in some circumstances.
- 12 **Impact on the economies of district centres:** It was acknowledged that district centres are highly localised with specific issues impacting to different degrees on their economies – for example, in Rothwell the proximity of out-of-town retail developments offering free parking was anticipated to be a particular challenge, whereas in Wetherby the impact of charges on summer cultural programmes was cited as a concern.
- 13 However, there were common concerns raised in relation to all district centres including ways in which a robust assessment could be made about the influence of new parking charges on footfall.
- 14 The Scrutiny Board was concerned that comparative data from other district centres outside of Leeds, where charges have already been introduced, had not been fully evaluated and may provide valuable evidence to reassure members and strengthen decision making.
- 15 In reconsidering the decision, the Director is asked to consider again the impact of car parking charges on local social and economic factors, including reviewing data/other forecasting methodologies about the potential for charges to affect the length of time people stay in a district centre and how much money they therefore might spend in the local economy.
- 16 **Proportionality:** Further to the above, the Director is asked to provide additional data to provide more assurance about the proportional impact of the introduction of charges on different stakeholder groups – for example, workers, shoppers and visitors. In relation to this Members highlighted particular challenges regarding the accessibility of district centres for some people living in the outer areas of the city with limited options for alternative methods of travel.
- 17 **Consultation:** While noting that amendments were made to the original scheme, Members expressed concern about the level of opposition to the proposed charges (reflected in the survey responses appended to the report to the decision maker) and ask that the Director again considers these factors.
- 18 **Equality of access:** The Director is asked to further consider the breadth of payment methods, particularly addressing those citizens without access to a bank card or parking app.

### **Next Steps**

- 19 If the decision makers wish to confirm the original decision, that decision shall be submitted to the next Executive Board meeting unless urgency prevents that submission.
- 20 If urgency prevents the decision taker from submitting the decision to Executive Board for confirmation, section [8.2.6 of the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules](#) sets out that:

- a) The Director shall obtain the approval of the Executive Board member before implementation.
- b) Details of the Executive Member approval together with reasons of urgency will be included in the new delegated decision form.
- c) The Director and Executive Member will also be required to attend and given their reasoning to the next available meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board.

21 If the decision makers decide to vary the decision the amended decision will not be defined as a key decision, regardless of the financial or impact thresholds. It will not therefore be necessary to include the proposed variation of decision in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions or to give notice of the proposed decision.

**What impact will this proposal have?**

22 The Scrutiny Board recommended that the decision relating to Parking Charges on District Car Parks should be reconsidered.

23 Having reconsidered the decision, the decision maker is required to determine whether to confirm or vary the original decision in line with the process above.

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

- Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

24 The impact of the original decision on the three pillars of the Best City Ambition is detailed in the [report to the decisions makers](#).

**What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

25 Consultation and stakeholder engagement regarding the original delegated decision is detailed in the [report to the Director](#).

**What are the resource implications?**

26 There are no specific resource implications linked to this report.

27 Prior to submitting a call-in request, a nominated signatory must ascertain the financial consequences to the authority of having called-in the decision. The outcome of this contact must be detailed on the call-in request proforma. Such contact had been evidenced in relation to both call-in requests regarding Parking Charges on District Car Parks.

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

28 There are no key risks associated with this process.

**What are the legal implications?**

29 The Local Government Act 2000 requires that Overview and Scrutiny Committees be given the power to recommend that a decision made but not implemented, be reconsidered.

30 The Act gives local authorities considerable discretion over the detailed operation of the required call-in mechanism. However, in line with the requirements of the Act, in the case of this

decision the call-in procedure will be regarded as exhausted when the decision has been confirmed or amended following reconsideration.

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

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

31 In line with the requirements of the Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution the Scrutiny Board was asked to determine whether a key decision subject to call-in requests should be released for implementation or referred to the decision maker for reconsideration.

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

32 In recommending to the decision-maker that the decision should be reconsidered the Scrutiny Board has fulfilled its requirements as set out in the Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

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

33 The Scrutiny Officer is required to provide a report to the Director within three working days of the Scrutiny Board meeting.

34 If the Director wishes to confirm the original decision, that decision shall be submitted to by the decision maker to the next Executive Board meeting unless urgency prevents that submission.

### **Appendices**

- None.

### **Background papers**

- None

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