

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 15th January, 2025 at 1.00 pm

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

- 1 Minutes of the last Meeting** 7 - 28

To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th November 2024.
- 2 Declaration of Interest**

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

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

To receive deputations in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.
- 5 26th March 2025 Council Meeting** 29 - 30

To consider the report of the City Solicitor on a proposed change of start time for the 26th March 2025 Council meeting.
- 6 Report on the Calculation of the Council Tax and Business Rates Tax Bases for 2025/26** 31 - 80

To consider the report of the Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources seeking agreement to the 2025/26 council tax bases for Leeds and the parish/town councils set out in the report and providing indicative business rates shares for 2025/26 and to request Council to give delegated authority to the Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources to finalise the shares and to submit them in the National Non-Domestic Rates 1 Return 2025/26 on or before 31st January 2025.

- 7 **Report on - Independent Member to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee: Approval of a second and final 4-year term.** 81 - 84
- To consider a report setting out a recommendation from the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee for the continued appointment of the independent member for a further 4-year term effective from 23rd February 2025.
- 8 **Report on Appointments** 85 - 88
- To consider the report of the City Solicitor on appointments.
- 9 **Report on Attendance at Meetings** 89 - 92
- To consider the report of the City Solicitor in respect of attendance at meetings.
- 10 **Executive Arrangements** 93 - 96
- To consider the report of the City Solicitor setting out that the Leader has changed part of his executive arrangements and this report advises full council of those changes in accordance with the Constitution.
- 11 **Report on the Annual Report of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** 97 - 110
- To consider the report of the Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces introducing the Annual Report of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, which demonstrates the work of the committee undertaken throughout the 2023/24 and 2024/25 municipal year to date.
- 12 **Executive Questions**
- To deal with executive questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.
- 13 **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board** 111 - 152
- To receive the minutes in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).
- 14 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor C Anderson) - Adult Social Care** 153 - 154
- This Council believes the Labour Government and the Labour Administration in Leeds are failing to prioritise the needs of vulnerable older residents.

Despite promises to reform adult social care, Labour Ministers have proven to be empty vessels now they are in power, with reforms kicked into the long grass and yet another expensive commission not due to report until the end of this Parliament.

A recent Nuffield Trust report on the Autumn Budget noted: *“social care was not so much left out in the cold as pushed right to the edge of a cliff”*. Commenting on the announcement of another commission, the President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services said: *“continuing to tread water until a commission concludes will be at the detriment of people’s health and wellbeing”*.

Council notes the loss of the winter fuel payment and the harm inflicted upon the third sector, including charities and advocacy groups, brought on by, amongst other burdens, the increase in employers’ national insurance contributions, will make a difficult situation even worse for the sector. Council supports the lobbying of former Labour Councillor Kim Groves, now Chair of Third Sector Leeds, who is calling on the Chancellor to exempt the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector from increased national insurance costs.

Furthermore, Council rejects the Administration’s proposal to cut the budget of the city’s much-valued Neighbourhood Networks and believes these organisations need support to provide help for older people given new pressures arising from government actions.

Council calls on the Administration to abandon its plans to make cuts to Neighbourhood Networks and requests a report to Executive Board detailing the cost of increasing employers’ national insurance contributions within the sector and the impact of delaying reforms to adult social care.

15 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Dobson) - WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality)** 155 - 156

Council is dissatisfied that the verdict of maladministration from The Parliamentary Ombudsman, meaning women born in Leeds in the 1950s did not get adequate notice of the changes to the rises in the state pension age and should therefore be compensated, has not been adopted and rectified by the current Government.

Council is dismayed to note that, despite actively campaigning for the WASPI women in opposition, once in power the current Government has reneged on previous public commitments to support their cause.

Council reaffirms its agreement to Councillor Coupar's white paper motion of September 2017 and calls on the Government to urgently look again at the findings of the Ombudsman and honour both the findings of the Ombudsman and their previous commitment that women born in the 1950s, and who have found the goalposts moved in terms of when they receive their state pension, are compensated.

Further, that this Council continues to support the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign group, which campaigns for justice for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the State Pension Law

(1995/2011 Acts). The 1995 Pension Act included plans to increase women's SPA (State Pension Age) to 65, the same as men's. WASPI agrees with equalisation but does not agree with the unfair way the changes are being implemented – with little or no personal notice (1995/2011 Pension Acts), faster than promised (2011 Pension Act), and no time to make alternative plans.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families, and paid their tax and National Insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

Council therefore calls on the Government to urgently review their decision based on the Ombudsman's findings and arrange proper recompense for the women concerned.

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**White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lennox) -
New Homes**

157 - 158

This Council is proud that our work delivering new homes was nationally recognised at the UK Housing Awards.

Council notes it's impressive track record in delivering much needed new housing and infrastructure in Leeds in recent years, including:

- The highest level of new homes built since the early 1980s, including a greater number of affordable homes in the last five years than any other core city, and Leeds being responsible for around 1.5% of all new homes in England in that period.
- Nearly 1600 affordable homes delivered under our Council Housing Growth Programme and other council backed schemes with partners, underling council's commitment to providing new high quality social and council homes.
- National recognition for the East Leeds Orbital Road as a valuable community asset delivering social value, supporting economic growth and unlocking land for 5000 new homes.
- The Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme protecting more than 4000 homes and over a thousand businesses.
- Delivery with partners of over 500 new Extra Care Housing scheme units for older people.

- The expansion of the city's low carbon heating network, Leeds Pipes, providing more affordable heating for up to 8000 Leeds residents.
- Over £3.5m investment in Active Leeds Leisure Centres in communities across the city.

Council believes this record underlines our capability to deliver and is committed to working with the new Government to step up delivery of much needed new high quality housing and infrastructure to benefit communities across Leeds.



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Chief Executive

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[Council and democracy](#)

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