



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in Committee Rooms 6&7, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR
on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008 at 10.00 am
(Pre – Meeting for all Members at 9.30 am)

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

P Grahame (Chair) - Cross Gates and Whinmoor
B Anderson - Adel and Wharfedale
S Bentley - Weetwood
J Chapman - Weetwood
B Gettings - Morley North
T Hanley - Bramley and Stanningley
A McKenna - Garforth and Swillington
W Hyde - Temple Newsam
E Minkin - Kirkstall
R Pryke - Burmantofts and Richmond Hill

Agenda compiled by:
Telephone:
Constitution & Corporate
Governance Services
Civic Hall
LEEDS LS1 1UR

Mike Earle
224 3209

Scrutiny Support Manager:
Peter Marrington
Tel: 3951151

A G E N D A

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
2			<p>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC</p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public</p>	
3			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes)</p>	
4			<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>To declare any personal/prejudicial interests for the purpose of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Members Code of Conduct</p>	
5			<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p>	
6			<p>MINUTES - 5TH FEBRUARY 2008</p> <p>To confirm as a correct record the attached minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2008.</p>	1 - 6

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
7			<p>MINUTES - EXECUTIVE BOARD - 8TH FEBRUARY 2008</p> <p>To receive, for noting purposes only, the attached minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 8th February 2008.</p>	7 - 22
8			<p>LEEDS STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2011</p> <p>Further to Minute No. 73, 8th January 2008, to receive and consider the attached report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement).</p>	23 - 60
9			<p>LOCAL PETITIONS AND CALLS FOR ACTION - CONSULTATION</p> <p>To receive and consider the attached report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development.</p>	61 - 86
10			<p>FINANCIAL HEALTH MONITORING 2007/08 - QUARTER 3 REPORT</p> <p>To receive and consider the attached reports of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and the Director of Resources.</p>	87 - 102
11			<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>To receive and consider the attached report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development.</p>	103 - 118
12			<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 8th April 2008, at 10.00 a.m. (Pre – Meeting 9.30 a.m.).</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, J Chapman,
B Gettings, T Hanley, A McKenna, W Hyde,
E Minkin and R Pryke

APOLOGIES: Councillor B Anderson

77 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the representatives of local running clubs, who were present in connection with Agenda Item 9, Leeds Half Marathon, and Members and officers introduced themselves.

78 Declaration of Interests

The following Members made personal declarations of interest in respect of the following items:

Councillor Chapman – Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 84 refers) – ALMO Working Group – Progress Report – Director of West North West Homes Leeds ALMO Board.

Councillor Gettings – Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 84 refers) – ALMO Working Group – Progress Report – Member of Outer South Area ALMO Panel.

79 Minutes - 8th January 2008

- (a) Leeds Strategic Plan and Council Business Plan 2008-2011 – Outcomes and Priorities (Minute No 73 refers)
The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development undertook to pursue and circulate the proposed final amended wording referred to in the second bullet point of this minute

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

80 Minutes - Executive Board - 23rd January 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 23rd January 2008 be received and noted.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008

81 Scrutiny Inquiry - Responding to the Needs of Migrants and their Families

Further to Minute No 65, 11th December 2007, and Minute No 75, 8th January 2008, the Committee received an update from Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, who was present at the meeting, regarding the progress and work of the multi-agency officers New Migrant Communities Task Group on this issue in Leeds.

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:

- The fact that Leeds, due to its facilities and economy, was attractive to both economic migrants and refugees and asylum seekers;
- The need to bear in mind the distinction between **economic migrants**, who often were from EU Accession States in Eastern Europe, and **refugees/ asylum seekers**, often from world trouble spots, the different rules applying to these groups and their different needs. There was a national and local strategy in place for dealing with refugees and asylum seekers, their distribution across and within regions, and the Council was involved in discussion and negotiations with the Government in this regard. There was no such strategy or controls in respect of economic migrants. Economic migrants had no right to access **benefits or social housing** for the first 12 months, but having established themselves during that period, they were entitled under EU law to the same rights as a citizen of the UK – not preferential rights;
- The historical context to the current situation as outlined above;
- The **benefits of immigration**, as well as some of the difficulties, and the need to better disseminate information and dispel myths;
- The importance of **communicating directly with immigrant communities**, not just between agencies, taking on board the experience and support structures established by earlier immigrants, and the need not to forget the immigrant communities already well-established in the City, such as Kurds and French-speaking black immigrants;
- The recent Government decision to reduce funding nationally for **English lessons** for immigrants, and what Leeds could do to enhance this service and to provide appropriate **translation and interpretation services**;
- Members requested further information regarding the **numbers and ethnic breakdown** of refugees and asylum seekers across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The situation regarding the numbers of both refugees and asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in the area had changed dramatically over the past 10 years, and this in turn would involve **service planning** changes to meet different needs.

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods undertook to take on board Members comments, to supply the additional information requested and to provide the Committee with a **further update report** following the proposed publication in March of the results of the research project currently being undertaken under the auspices of the Task Group.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008

RESOLVED – That the report be noted, and the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submit a further progress report later in the year.

82 Leeds Half Marathon

Further to the cancelled Call-In meeting scheduled for 23rd January 2008, following a decision to reinstate the Leeds Half Marathon for 2008 and to review its long-term future, the Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and also received further evidence in respect of this matter.

Present at the meeting to respond to Members' queries and comments were Councillor John Procter, Executive Member (Leisure), Martin Farrington, Acting Chief Recreation Officer and Mark Allman, Head of Sport and Active Recreation. Also invited to speak were Bob Jackson (Valley Striders running club), Colin Morath (Abbey Runners) and Bob Foulkes (Horsforth Harriers).

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:-

- The **background** to and reasons behind the original decision to cancel the Half Marathon in 2008. Principally, these had been a desire to provide effective support to the Jane Tomlinson 'Run for All' 10k event, the close proximity of the proposed dates of the two events in May 2008, the pressures imposed on the Sport and Recreation Service by organising either of these events, let alone two virtually simultaneously, the relative importance and status of the Half Marathon and the number of participants in comparison with the 'Run for All', and long standing issues regarding the route and condition of the Half Marathon course and the amount of disruption caused by the necessary road closures. The officer decision to cancel the Half Marathon in 2008, taken in consultation and with the agreement of Councillor Procter, and pending a review of the long term future of the event, had therefore been taken for valid reasons. However, this decision had proved unpopular, especially amongst the running fraternity, and a decision had been taken to **reinstate** the race, but to move it to September. One possible date had been 21st September, but it was now more likely to be **7th September**, and this date was currently being canvassed with interested parties;
- The lack of **consultation** with Members and interested parties, which had it taken place might have avoided the controversy, and the need for appropriate consultation to always be a prime consideration whenever delegated decisions were taken. Two specific suggestions arising from the discussion were the proposed formation of a **forum** comprising representatives of local running clubs, with whom the Council could consult, and the **Council publishing details of local running events on its website**, both of which it was felt would aid communication and co-ordination. The decision also did not appear to have been included in the **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**, and the Head of Scrutiny undertook to investigate.

- **The long term future of the Half Marathon** – Councillor Procter indicated that the decision to reinstate the Half Marathon in September provided a breathing space for the Council and interested parties to review the longer term future of the event. In its early years, the Leeds Half Marathon had been an extremely popular, well supported and high profile event. Perhaps due to the proliferation of events since then, its popularity had waned somewhat, although it still attracted in the region of 3,000 runners. Councillor Procter indicated that while ever there was sufficient demand from participants for the Leeds Half Marathon, he was happy to support its continuation – it was up to the entrants to prove its popularity. The documented problems with the route, and the strain imposed on the Sport and Recreation Department in organising the event, were matters which would have to be taken into account when planning for the future.

The original decision had, in part, been taken in order to allow the Council and the Department to concentrate on trying to establish a high profile, nationally recognised event for the City, and it was possible that the **Jane Tomlinson 'Run for All'** would provide that opportunity in terms of possibly up to 10,000 participants, sponsorship and media coverage.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted and Members be informed of the agreed final date of the 2008 Leeds Half Marathon.
- (b) That the matter be referred to the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) with a view to that Board monitoring the proposed review of the event for 2009 and beyond.
- (c) That OSC receive a further report in due course when the proposed future of the event is clearer.

83 Recommendation Tracking - Scrutiny Inquiry - 'When Contracts Go Wrong'

Further to Minute No 36, 11th September 2007, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report updating the Committee regarding progress on the implementation of its recommendations arising from the Committee's 2006/07 Inquiry entitled 'When Contracts Go Wrong'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That in respect of the first two recommendations, these be categorised as 4 (not achieved, but progress made acceptable, and continue monitoring) and the third recommendation be categorised as 2 (Achieved).

84 ALMO Working Group - Progress Report

Further to Minute No 40, 9th October 2007, and Minute No 75, 8th January 2008, the Committee received a progress report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development regarding the work of the ALMO Working Group, which had been looking at issues surrounding the use of Right to Buy receipts within the capital programme and whether or not an Inquiry was necessary.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the Working Group meet at least one last time to resolve any outstanding issues.

85 Performance Report - Quarter 3 2007/08

The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement submitted a report updating the Committee on performance against targets across a raft of statutory and local indicators, involving all the Scrutiny Board's areas of responsibility, highlighting achievement levels for Quarter 3 (1st October to 31st December 2007).

Marilyn Summers, Chief Executive's Department, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- The significant improvements in performance in the areas of **crime reduction and adult social care**;
- Continuing concerns regarding **staff sickness absence levels**. It was agreed that this matter should be picked up by the Scrutiny Board (Resources);
- **Graffiti** – The on-going problems with tackling graffiti were noted, and Members expressed concern at the apparent lack of progress in tackling the problem. Surprise was also expressed at the reference to the 'targeting of resources to the areas of greatest need, such as recreation and industrial areas'. Whilst graffiti was an eyesore wherever it appeared, Members stated that residential areas were a greater priority, and called for greater consultation with Ward Members e.g. Inner North West area. The issue was referred to the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) for further consideration;
- **Youth Provision** – The patchy nature of the provision of the youth service across the City was remarked upon, with some areas having no provision at all and others having inadequate provision which did not take into account recent expansions in population numbers. Sickness levels amongst youth workers was also an issue. Councillor W Hyde stated that the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) was considering these same statistics at its meeting on 14th February and would take into account Members' comments;
- **Adoptions** – It was noted that the Council would not achieve its target for raising the rate of adoptions for Looked-After Children and Young People in Leeds. It was felt that to a large degree this was a direct consequence of an increase in the number of social workers employed and the continuing high number of children and young people placed in care in Leeds for their own protection.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.

86 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a copy of the Committee's work programme, updated to reflect decisions taken at previous meetings, together with a relevant extract from the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st February to 31st May 2008.

RESOLVED – That subject to any changes necessary as a result of today's meeting, the Committee's work programme be received and noted.

87 Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Tuesday 11th March 2008

Tuesday 8th April 2008

Both at 10.00 am (Pre-meetings at 9.30 am)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

FRIDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor A Carter in the Chair

Councillors R Brett, S Golton, R Harker,
P Harrand, J Procter, S Smith and
K Wakefield

Councillor Blake – Non Voting Advisory Member

161 Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced that the funeral of Mr John Gunnell, a former West Yorkshire County Councillor, Leeds City Councillor and MP for Morley was being held today. On behalf of Executive Board, the Chair paid tribute to Mr Gunnell and requested that the Board's condolences be conveyed to Mr Gunnell's family.

162 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:

- (a) Appendix F to the report referred to in minute 168(C) under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the appendix contains details of sites scheduled for future disposal by the Council, which if disclosed would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to the level of capital receipts generated from the future disposal of such sites.
- (b) Appendix D to the report referred to in minute 171 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(4) and (5) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the Council is currently defending a large number of equal pay cases before the Employment Tribunal and release of the information at this time could prejudice the outcome of such tribunal claims, proving costly to the Council, and thereby having an adverse impact on the public.
- (c) Appendix 1 to the report referred to in minute 177 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as disclosure would, or would be

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 12th March, 2008

likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Council by virtue of the fact that sensitive negotiations are currently ongoing with private sector investors and Yorkshire Forward to secure a contribution to the Albion Place improvement works.

- (d) Appendices 5, 7 and 8 to the report referred to in Minute 179 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as disclosure of information relating to the remaining leasehold properties to be acquired in both Beeston Hill and Holbeck and Little London, as detailed within the appendices would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests when undertaking negotiations in respect of such properties.

Appendix 9 to the report referred to in minute 179 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests by virtue of the fact that it includes information relating to the Council's financial position in the Outline Business Case for Beeston Hill and Holbeck, the details of which are yet to be fully agreed. In addition the Council has also commenced competitive dialogue with PFI bidders, and the disclosure of such information could prejudice the ongoing procurement process.

- (e) Annex 2 to the report referred to in minute 181 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (2) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as Education Leeds has a duty to secure improvement and increased confidence in the schools concerned and this would be adversely affected by disclosure of the information.
- (f) Annex 3 to the report referred to in minute 182 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (2) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as Education Leeds has a duty to secure improvement and increased confidence in the schools concerned and this would be adversely affected by disclosure of the information.
- (g) Appendix 1 to the report referred to in minute 185 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as disclosure would prejudice the Council's commercial interests as the appendix details matters where negotiations of a confidential nature will ensue. In these circumstances

it is considered that the public interest in not disclosing the commercial information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

163 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Brett declared a personal interest in the items relating to 'Health and Wellbeing Partnership Arrangements' and 'Consultation Paper – Valuing People Now: From Progress to Transformation' (minutes 186 and 187 refer respectively) as a member of the Burmantofts Senior Action Management Committee.

Councillor Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to 'Pay and Grading Review' (minute 171) due to his wife being an employee of Education Leeds.

Councillor Blake declared a personal interest in the item relating to 'Health and Wellbeing Partnership Arrangements' (minute 186) due to her position as Non-Executive Director of Leeds North West Primary Care Trust and a member of Middleton Elderly Aid.

A further declaration made during the meeting (Councillor Wakefield) is referred to at minute 176.

164 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2008 be approved.

LEISURE

165 Inquiry into River Safety Management at Wharfemeadows Park, Otley - Final Report and Recommendations

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report presenting the final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) following its inquiry into 'River Safety Management at Wharfemeadows Park, Otley'.

A minority report submitted by a member of the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) was appended to the report.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Board attended the meeting and presented the Scrutiny report.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Scrutiny inquiry report be received.

166 Inquiry into River Safety Management at Wharfemeadows Park, Otley - Officer Observations

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report in order to assist Members when considering the recommendations of Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) in regard to their inquiry into the decision by Executive Board to erect fencing at Wharfemeadows Park Otley.

The final report of the Scrutiny Board was considered as a separate item on the agenda (minute 165 refers).

RESOLVED – That recommendations 1, 3 and 4 of the report by Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) be accepted and that the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) report back on recommendation 2 of the Scrutiny Board's report, in relation to the availability of Counsel's advice to the public.

CENTRAL AND CORPORATE

167 Budget Arrangements 2009/2010

The Chair circulated to Board members a copy of a letter from John Healey MP, Minister for Local Government confirming that the Council's failure to qualify for monies under the Working Neighbourhoods Fund would not be subject to further consideration.

RESOLVED – That, in view of the reductions in funding in 2009/2010 which can be anticipated as a result of this confirmation, the Director of Resources be requested to report back to the Board on potential savings which may be realised in that year in relation to Council publications, engagement of consultants and procurements.

168 Council Budget 2008/2009 and Capital Programme

(A) Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2008/09

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the Council's budget for 2008/09 following detailed consideration of service requirements and taking account of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The report indicated that the budget would result in a Band D Council Tax of £1,064.37 for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That Council be recommended to approve the Revenue Estimates for 2008/09 totalling £540,509,000 as detailed and explained in the submitted report and accompanying papers, including a 4.7% increase in the Leeds' element of the Council Tax.
- (ii) That as the Police Authority budget meeting is currently scheduled for 22nd February 2008, Council be recommended to establish a committee of the Council specifically to set the final Council Tax.
- (iii) That the fees and charges policy as detailed in appendix 5 of the report be approved.
- (iv) That the proposal to change the childcare fee structure as detailed in the Children's Services budget briefing report be approved.
- (v) That the proposed local performance indicators as detailed within paragraph 13 of the report be approved.

(B) Housing Revenue Account Budget 2008/09

The Directors of Resources and Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report on the Housing Revenue Account budget and ALMO management fee distribution for 2008/09.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve the budget at the average rent increase figure of 5.8%.
- (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve that service charges be increased in line with average rent rises.
- (iii) That the Council be recommended to approve that the charges for garage rents be increased to £5.55 per week.

(C) Capital Programme 2007-2012

The Director of Resources submitted a report setting out the updated capital programme for 2007-2012.

Following consideration of appendix F to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve the capital programme as attached to the submitted report.
- (ii) That the Director of Resources be authorised to manage, monitor and control scheme progress and commitments to ensure that the programme is affordable.
- (iii) That the disposal of land and property sites as detailed within exempt appendix F to the report be agreed in order to generate capital receipts to support the capital programme.
- (iv) That the Council be recommended to approve the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision policies for 2008/09 as set out in paragraph 5.3.2 and appendix G to the report.

(D) Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09 and the revised affordable borrowing limits under the prudential framework. The report also provided members with a review of strategy and operations in 2007/08.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the initial Treasury Strategy for 2008/09 as set out in section 3.3 of the report be approved and that the review of the 2007/08 strategy and operations, as set out in sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the report be noted.

- (ii) That the Council be recommended to set the borrowing limits for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, as set out in section 3.4 of the report.
- (iii) That the Council be recommended to set the treasury management indicators for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, as set out in section 3.5 of the report.
- (iv) That the Council be recommended to set the investment limits for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, as set out in section 3.6 of the report.

(The matters referred to in parts A(i) and (ii), B(i), (ii) and (iii), C(i) and (iv) and D (ii), (iii) and (iv) of this minute being matters reserved to Council were not eligible for Call In)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillor Wakefield required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions contained in this minute)

169 Financial Health Monitoring 2007/08 - Third Quarter Report

The Director of Resources submitted a report setting out the Council's financial health position for 2007/08 after nine months of the financial year, in respect of the revenue expenditure and income to date compared to the approved budget, the projected year end position and proposed actions to ensure a balanced budget by the year end. The report also highlighted the position regarding other key financial indicators, including Council Tax collection and the payment of creditors.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the projected financial position of the authority after nine months of the new financial year be noted.
- (ii) That the transfer of the projected surplus to general reserves be approved.

170 Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2008/09 and Revised Provisional Settlements for 2009/10 and 2010/2011

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing details of the final Local Government Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2008/09 and the revised provisional settlements for 2009/10 and 2010/11 which were announced on 24th January 2008.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

171 Pay and Grading Review

The Director of Resources submitted a report which sought approval of an amended version of the pay structure and confirmed the position on pay protection for the purpose of the Pay and Grading Review. The report also updated members on negotiations with the trade unions.

Following consideration of appendix D to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(4) and (5) which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the amended pay structure, as detailed within appendix A to the report be approved.
- (ii) That the pay protection arrangements for Phase 1 and Phase 2 employees be confirmed as previously agreed by the Executive Board in March 2007, which is for those staff whose grade changes adversely as a result of the job evaluation exercise:-
 - A period of no longer than 3 years protection – attracting annual pay award and increments in line with the NJC for Local Government service pay agreements effective from 1st February 2008;
 - Year 4 – go directly to the maximum point of the new substantive grade/pay range.
- (iii) That the Board notes that the Director of Resources will continue negotiations with the Trade Unions and will continue to work with the Trade Unions to identify means of avoiding individual loss wherever possible and appropriate.
- (iv) That the Director of Resources be authorised to take steps to implement the new pay structure, by agreement or otherwise, in the light of the negotiations with Trade Unions.

(Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, Councillor Smith left the meeting during consideration of this matter)

172 Comprehensive Performance Assessment - 2007 Result

The Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Planning and Improvement) submitted a report updating members on the arrangements for reporting Leeds City Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) judgement for 2007, namely a 4 star authority which is improving well.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That all staff of the authority be offered the thanks of the Board for their contribution to this result.

173 225 York Road Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Section Extension

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report on a proposed extension to the existing purpose built accommodation for the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Section at 225 York Road.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the further injection into the 2007/08 capital programme of £84,000 be approved.
- (ii) That authority be given to incur expenditure of £610,000 on construction costs, £17,600 on equipment and £78,500 on fees.

DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

174 West End Partnership - Proposed Memorandum of Understanding

The Director of City Development submitted a report on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding which would facilitate collaboration between Leeds City Council and six private developers to promote the West End vision.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Council be authorised to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with the six companies comprising the West End Partnership.
- (ii) That the general terms of the Memorandum of Understanding as outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report, be agreed, with the specific details being agreed by the Director of City Development and the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) as appropriate.
- (iii) That the Director of City Development be requested to examine processes whereby elected Members can be briefed as to progress of the proposals.

175 Roundhay Road Proposed High Occupancy Vehicle Lane

The Director of City Development submitted a report on the proposed implementation of a scheme to improve the existing bus lane on Roundhay Road, which would facilitate its use by High Occupancy Vehicles, in addition to ensuring a more reliable passage for buses at an overall cost of £540,000.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Roundhay Road Bus and High Occupancy Vehicle Corridor Scheme, as illustrated on drawing numbers 760217/002, at an estimated cost of £538,717 be approved.
- (ii) That £511,717 expenditure, comprising £336,354 works costs, statutory undertakers costs of £103,619 and a further £71,744 staff costs for supervision, monitoring and enforcement be approved. These costs to be met from the Integrated Transport Scheme 99609 within the approved Capital Programme which is eligible for 100% Government funding and may be reimbursed at a later date via Section 106 contributions.
- (iii) That the previous approval of staff costs of £27,000 which were met from the Integrated Transport Scheme 99609 within the approved Capital Programme be noted.

176 Private Streets Programme

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided an update on the progress of the Private Streets Programme, sought approval to extend the programme for a further 3 years from April 2008 and to incur expenditure of a further £3,600,000, which was the remaining balance of the overall capital programme provision for the initiative.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the updated position report on the current Private Streets Programme be noted.
- (ii) That the continuation of the Private Streets Programme for a further 3 years up to and including 2010/11 be approved.
- (iii) That authority be given to the further expenditure of £3,600,000 on the continuing implementation of the Private Streets Programme, funded from Scheme Number 28967 in the approved Capital Programme, £4,200,000 expenditure having been previously approved.

(Councillor Wakefield declared a personal interest in this matter as the owner of a property adjoining a street which had benefited under this programme)

177 Albion Place Refurbishment

The Director of City Development submitted a report which sought approval of the project's scheme design, and sought authority to spend monies from Leeds City Council's capital budget for the refurbishment scheme.

Following consideration of appendix 1 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the scheme design, as outlined within the report be approved.
- (ii) That the release of scheme expenditure as detailed in table (vi) at lines CPRH (3) and CPRH (6) of exempt appendix 1 be authorised.

178 Yeadon Town and District Centre Regeneration Scheme

The Directors of City Development and Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report on a proposal to spend £941,218 to aid the regeneration of Yeadon High Street by making significant improvements to the public realm and pedestrian use of the area.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the project brief and scheme design as presented within the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Design and Cost Report for scheme 12154/YEA/000 be approved, and that the scheme expenditure, totalling £941,218 be authorised.

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING

179 Little London and Beeston Hill and Holbeck PFI Projects - Land Assembly Issues and Update on the Lovells Multi-Storey Flats

The Directors of Environment and Neighbourhoods and City Development submitted a joint report providing an update on the Beeston Hill and Holbeck and Little London PFI schemes, commenting on the Outline Business Case for Beeston Hill and Holbeck which had been made available to Members of the Board and proposing a number of key recommendations to enable the projects to progress.

Following consideration of appendices 5,7, 8 and 9 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) which were considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) In respect of the properties at **Little London**:
 - a) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods be authorised to make a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of such properties and interests as may be required subject to the Director being satisfied that the requirements of Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the provisions of Circular 06/2004 are complied with.
 - b) That officers be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order including:
 - (i) the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Councils case at any Public Inquiry
 - (ii) approving the acquisition of interest in land within the Compulsory Purchase Order either by agreement or by way of compulsory powers
 - (iii) approving agreements with landowners setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order including, where appropriate, seeking exclusion of land from the Order and/or making arrangements for the relocation of occupiers
 - (iv) such other agreements including Indemnity and Development Agreements as may be necessary to promote the Scheme.
- (ii) In respect of the properties at **Beeston Hill and Holbeck**:
 - a) That the development sites included in the PFI scheme be noted and the Director of City Development be authorised to enter into such negotiations as are required to acquire properties and interests within the area on such terms as she thinks appropriate in order to facilitate the Scheme, subject to the approval by government of the PFI Outline Business Case for Beeston Hill and Holbeck.
 - b) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods be authorised to make a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of such properties as may be required subject to the Director being satisfied that the requirements of Section 229(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Circular 06/2004 are complied with.

- c) That officers be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order including:-
- (i) the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry
 - (ii) approving the acquisition of interest in land within the Compulsory Purchase Order either by agreement or by way of compulsory powers
 - (iii) approving agreements with landowners setting out terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order including, where appropriate, seeking exclusion of land from the Order and/or making arrangements for the relocation of occupiers
 - (iv) such other agreements including Indemnity and Development Agreements as may be necessary to promote the Scheme
- (iii) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance), be authorised to make minor changes to the development site boundaries in both Beeston Hill & Holbeck and Little London where required as a result of further due diligence.
- (iv) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods be authorised to make an application to Government for Decent Homes funding for refurbishment of the Lovells multi-storey flats.
- (v) That the financial issues detailed in exempt appendix 9 to the report be agreed and that approval be given to the affordability of both the Beeston and Holbeck and Little London schemes and to the capital contribution for the Beeston Hill and Holbeck PFI scheme.

180 Disposal of Land for Affordable Housing

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on a proposal to dispose of the first six sites from the 77 acres within the Affordable Housing Strategic Partnership at less than best consideration calculated at £5,000 per plot. The report also sought approval for the Director of City Development to undertake further disposals of sites within the Affordable Housing Strategic Partnership at less than best consideration of £5,000 per plot.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the disposal of the first six sites within the Affordable Housing Strategic Partnership at less than best consideration, calculated at £5,000 per plot be approved.
- (ii) That the Director of City Development be authorised to dispose of other sites within the 77 acres allocated to the Affordable Housing Strategic

- Partnership where the disposal is at less than best consideration calculated at £5,000 per plot.
- (iii) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods be requested to prioritise progress on the Highfield Gardens site within the context of the Board's decision of 19th December 2007 on options for Building Council Housing with appropriate adjustments to this programme.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

181 Annual Standards Report - Primary

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report providing an overview of the performance of primary schools at the end of 2006/07, as demonstrated through statutory national testing, Ofsted inspections and the Education Leeds emerging concerns protocols. It also outlined the action taken by Education Leeds to fulfil its responsibilities to this Board and schools.

Following consideration of annex 2 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (2), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED – That the progress which has been made in recent years, in addition to the key issues and challenges which are currently being addressed be noted.

182 Annual Standards Report - Secondary

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report providing an overview of the performance of secondary schools at the end of 2006/07 which analysed the results of the tests at the end of Key Stage 3, GCSE and vocational examinations at Key Stage 4. The report also reviewed the progress of schools receiving additional support through the extended or focused partnerships.

Following consideration of annex 3 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (2) which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted, together with the good progress made in recent years, the improvements achieved in value added indicators particularly for progress between Key Stages 2-3 and Key Stages 3-4, the new floor targets which have been established at Key Stages 3 and 4 which focus upon achievement in English and mathematics and require new strategies from schools to ensure that pupils achieve, in addition to the co-ordination and combination of efforts from across the service areas of Education Leeds and Children Leeds that will be necessary to improve outcomes for underachieving groups and to close the gap between the most and the least successful.

- (b) That the Chief Executive of Education Leeds be requested to bring a further report to the Board on the strategies being used to address identified areas of comparative under achievement.

183 The 'Children's Plan - Building Brighter Futures'

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report summarising the content of the recently published 'Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures' and highlighting the key implications within the plan for children's services in Leeds.

RESOLVED – That the proposal for the authority to lead the development to renew the city's strategy for children's services through a revised Children and Young People's Plan be approved.

184 Integrated Capital Strategy for Youth Centres

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report on a proposal to develop an integrated capital strategy designed to enable quality integrated youth centres to be established in Leeds.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the establishment of an integrated capital strategy for youth centres, as described within the report be approved.
- (ii) That proposals be progressed for the establishment of quality youth hub centres in pursuance of the ambitions detailed within the report.
- (iii) That approval be given for the strategy to be progressed by the emerging Integrated Youth Support Service and as part of the wider Children's Services Asset Management Plan.

185 Leeds Independent Living PFI Project

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report providing an update on the affordability position of the Children's Services element of the Independent Living Project. The report also outlined the sites to be used within the Independent Living Project and sought approval to lease the relevant sites to the PFI contractor for use during the 25 year life of the contract.

Following consideration of appendix 1 to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the financial implications for the Council entering into the Children's Services element of the Independent Living Project be approved, and the maximum affordability ceiling for that element of £360,000 for the first full financial year (2010/11) as set out in exempt appendix 1 to the report be agreed.
- (ii) That, subject to consent being obtained as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988, authority be given to the Chief Asset Management Officer to determine the disposal of those sites detailed at appendix 2 to the report under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, to the housing management contractor under

the Independent Living Project, on a leasehold basis and at less than best consideration where indicated.

ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

186 Health and Wellbeing Partnership Arrangements

The Director of Adult Social Services submitted a report outlining the proposed changes to the functions and partnership structure under the Healthy Leeds Partnership, the consultation process which had been undertaken, and the response to the key points which had emerged from such consultation. As one of the key partners, the Executive Board was asked to give its approval to the proposed changes to the Healthy Leeds Partnership.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the summary of comments received through the consultation on revised partnership arrangements for health and well being be noted.
- (ii) That the proposals detailed within the consultation document on health and wellbeing partnership arrangements be supported.
- (iii) That Leeds City Council's support for the partnership proposals be reported to the Healthy Leeds Partnership at its next scheduled meeting on 10th March 2008.

187 Consultation Paper - Valuing People Now: From Progress to Transformation

The Director of Adult Social Services submitted a report providing information on the publication of a recent document from the Department of Health entitled 'Valuing People Now – From Progress to Transformation', which followed on from earlier Valuing People documents seeking to promote equal citizenship for people with learning disabilities.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the publication of the Valuing People Now document and the wide ranging proposals it makes in relation to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities be noted.
- (ii) That the implications for the Council as detailed in section 4 of the report, particularly in relation to the transfer of commissioning responsibilities from the PCT and in relation to the provision of more individualised and community based service provision for people with learning disabilities be noted.
- (iii) That the preparation of a consultation response by the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board be noted.
- (iv) That the proposal for the final report to be issued by the Department of Health in the summer be noted.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12TH FEBRUARY 2008

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 12th March, 2008

LAST DATE FOR CALL IN: 19TH FEBRUARY 2008 (5.00 PM)

(Scrutiny Support will notify Directors of any items called in by 12 noon on Wednesday 20th February 2008)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 12th March, 2008

This page is intentionally left blank

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 March 2008

Subject: Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 - 2011

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

This report introduces the text of the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11. This Plan marks several milestones for Leeds City Council. First, it demonstrates how the Council is exercising its community leadership and place shaping roles by outlining a single set of strategic outcomes, improvement priorities and targets for the city to be delivered by the Council on its own, or in partnership with others, over the next three years. Secondly, it constitutes the key delivery plan for the Leeds Sustainable Community Strategy ('Vision for Leeds 2004 – 2020') for the period 2008-11. Finally, it fulfils the Council's statutory obligations to provide a Local Area Agreement for Leeds as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the text of the Leeds Strategic Plan. The text of the Leeds Strategic Plan will be considered by Executive Board on 12 March before going to Full Council on 9 April 2008.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report explains the development, approach and broad content of the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11. A draft version of the text is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It seeks Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comment on the Plan prior to approval being sought by members of Executive Board and Full Council.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1. In July 2007 Executive Board agreed a new corporate planning framework for the Council. At the heart of this framework is the Leeds Strategic Plan which sets out a single set of strategic outcomes and improvement priorities for the city for the next three years, shared with the Council and its partners.
- 2.2 During the autumn of 2007 there was extensive consultation on the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities for this plan among Elected Members, public, private and voluntary community and faith sector partners and focus groups of local residents and Leeds City Council employees. The latest evidence on local circumstances and prospects and public opinion were also examined to draw up the priorities to capture the most important issues for the city for the next three years.
- 2.3 The Leeds Strategic Plan fulfils the requirements of the new Local Area Agreement as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

3.0. Main Issues

3.1. Partnership Approach

The Leeds Strategic Plan represents a new approach in that it covers what is being delivered by the Local Authority on its own or in partnership with others in the city over the period 2008-11. It therefore has a broader coverage than the former Corporate Plan because these priorities are also shared by the Council's public, private and voluntary, community and faith sector partners. A number of public bodies, designated as statutory partners in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, have a duty to cooperate in the delivery of the targets and to have regard to the targets in this plan when drawing up their own budgets and action plans.

3.2. Accessible Format

The Leeds Strategic Plan sets out the agreed strategic outcomes, improvement priorities and targets for 2008-11 for all relevant persons and partners as defined by the Local Government and Health Information Act 2007 as well as all statutory partners. It has therefore been designed to be as accessible as possible in terms of language and format.

3.3. Broad Content

The content of the Leeds Strategic Plan sets out in section 1: making a difference, an overview of the progress and challenges facing Leeds and the general ambitions of the Council and its partners in this context. Section 2: priorities by theme, follows the eight themes in the Leeds Sustainable Community Strategy ('Vision for Leeds 2004 – 2020'). Each provides the contextual explanation for the selected strategic outcomes, the real changes the Council and its partners want to see in the lives of people in Leeds, and the improvement priorities, the key areas where we want to focus our efforts to ensure these changes really take place.

3.4. Framework for Implementation

Supporting the Leeds Strategic Plan will be a number of thematic plans covering important policy areas in greater detail. Some such as the Children and Young People's Plan already exist and others such as the Climate Change Strategy and Health and Well Being Strategy are under development. The Leeds Strategic Plan refers to the most significant plans and strategies supporting each theme.

- 3.5. The third and final section of the plan sets out an agreed set of partnership principles on which joint delivery will be based. It also outlines how and by whom performance will be measured, monitored and relevant reporting arrangements. Finally it explains how the plan will be reviewed and revised.
- 3.6. An appendix will be attached to the Plan that will outline the targets to be set against each improvement priority and the indicators that will measure progress. This is not presented at this stage due to a number of the targets being subject to further negotiation with central government. These are the 'up to 35' designated targets that, as a package, will be eligible for a small performance reward grant. In a number of other improvement priority areas it will not be possible to establish targets in the first year of the Plan. This is due to the fact that the National Indicator Set has introduced new measures in these areas and the first year will be used to establish a baseline position against which to set targets for further years. It is anticipated that all targets that are possible to set at this stage will be presented for approval to OSC and Full Council as soon as possible.

4.0. Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1. The Leeds Strategic Plan is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been consulted twice on the development of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities for this plan and are consulted now on the text of the plan as a whole prior to Executive Board consideration.
- 4.2. The Council is preparing a separate Business Plan which will set out how the Council will align its activities and resources to deliver its contribution to the Leeds Strategic Plan. This will be presented to OSC for consideration separately.

5.0. Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1. The Leeds Strategic Plan fulfils the statutory obligations for a Local Area Agreement (LAA) for the Leeds area. In drawing up the contents of this plan the Council has consulted and negotiated with a number of partners including public sector partners designated as statutory partners in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. These partners have a duty to have regard to the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan when setting out their own plans and budgets.
- 5.2. The Leeds Strategic Plan will fulfil the duty of the Council to publish information about its LAA containing the specified information of a 'memorandum relating to the LAA'. It will be publicly available, accessible in its format and used as a basis for active communication to citizens. In this respect it will form an active role in the Council's duty to involve local communities in shaping their own future.
- 5.3. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 extends the scope of the Council's Scrutiny Boards to include the work of the public sector partners designated as statutory partners to deliver targets agreed in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed a protocol with partners on how to exercise this extended role for scrutiny.

- 5.4. There is no specific grant or budget for the delivery of the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Resources to deliver the targets in this plan will be identified from the budgets of the Council and its partners including the new Area Based Grant. Resources will have to be used as efficiently as possible to deliver all the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan and the scope to increase impact through innovative delivery methods including strategic commissioning, pooled budgets and joint service delivery will be explored as part of delivering the Leeds Strategic Plan.
- 5.5. The Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-2011, will require the formal approval of Members of full Council. Whilst the text of the plan is largely complete, amendments may need to be made to the detail of the Plan prior to formal consideration by full Council. Executive Board will be asked to authorize the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) to agree to further changes to the draft plan as may be necessary prior to formal consideration by Members of full Council . Members of the Executive Board will be duly informed of any substantive changes to the Plan should there be necessary.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1. The Leeds Strategic Plan marks several significant milestones for Leeds City Council. The Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11 sets out strategic outcomes, improvement priorities and targets for the city, shared by our key partners and stakeholders. It is a delivery plan for this three year period for the longer term Vision for Leeds 2004-20. It also demonstrates how the Council is rising to the challenge of its community leadership and place shaping role as defined in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the contents of the text of this plan before it is presented to Executive Board and Full Council for approval.

Leeds Strategic Plan 2008

Te consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla



Working in partnership through the Leeds Initiative

LIST OF PARTNERS HERE

DRAFT

Front Cover

Inside cover – logos of partner organisations

About this publication – other languages, formats

Foreword – (Leaders, Chief Executive) Background to plan, Our Values

Table of Contents

Section 1 – Making a Difference

Section 2 – Priorities by Theme

Section 3 – Making it Happen

Appendix 1 – Summary of all indicators, targets, lead and contributory partners

Appendix 2 – Useful information Glossary, Where to find out more

DRAFT

Foreword - to include:

- Delighted to present the Leeds Strategic Plan for 2008-11;
- The Plan is a significant milestone in working together as partners across the city to agree the real changes we want to see in the lives of the people in Leeds and in the city by 2011 and how we will deliver these in partnership;
- Builds on a strong history of partnership working, co-ordinated through Leeds Initiative. This has brought together the Council, business, voluntary, community and faith groups and public bodies and produced a longer term strategy for the Leeds Community, the Vision for Leeds 2004-20;
- The Leeds Strategic Plan shows how these long term goals will be translated into practical action over the next three years - both in terms of what will be achieved and how it will be delivered;
- Key areas for improvement by 2011 have been informed by consultation both from citizen representatives in different areas in the city and representatives of city wide networks who represent different 'interests' in the city. Also, analysis of the most up-to-date information about current conditions and prospects for Leeds and anticipated social and population changes;
- Leeds City Council has a key leadership role, with its partners, in both 'shaping' Leeds for now and future generations and in making sure that promises made are delivered.
- Recent government legislation reinforces this role, particularly enhancing the role of Councillors as leaders of change at city-wide and community levels.
- The Council has recently been awarded the highest possible '4 star' grading in terms of its performance placing it in an excellent position to undertake this role in Leeds.

SECTION 1

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DRAFT

PROGRESS and CHALLENGES

Leeds is recognised as one of Britain's most successful cities. It has transformed itself over the last 20 years from a mainly industrial city into a broad based commercial centre, the most important financial and legal and business service centre outside London. Leeds is the largest city in the Yorkshire region and is the biggest retail and employment centre.

Leeds is a quality place to live, work and raise families and has attracted the largest absolute increase in population in the country, 4.8% since 2001. This current population of over 750,000 embraces a rich diversity of 130 different nationalities.

Economic, cultural and environmental factors have made major contributions to Leeds being a successful place. Over the past decade Leeds has benefited from continued and significant economic growth. Between 1996 and 2006 the City has seen Gross Value Added, a measure of wealth creation, increase by 36% and 59,000 new jobs created with a forecast of a further 48,000 by 2010. Recent investment in the city has been impressive with £3.2bn invested in commercial property development and a further £7.2bn under construction or planned. The public sector has also invested significantly in new schools, health facilities and creating new spaces like Millennium Square.

Culturally, Leeds continues to invest in its magnificent and growing collection of concert halls, theatres, galleries, museums, parks and sporting venues. There is lively participation in community festivals across the city and Leeds offers the widest range of free events in the country.

Environmentally, Leeds is a green city with two-thirds of its area green belt land. Improving local neighbourhoods is also a strong priority and real improvements have been made. Cleanliness has been improved in 28 of the 31 most deprived neighbourhoods as a result of partner agencies working together with local residents. There has also been considerable investment to bring all our homes in Leeds up to the national 'Decent Homes' standard and by 2010 this will be met.

People in Leeds are generally living longer and more safely. Life expectancy for both men and women has grown by over a year over the last 10 years. Crime has fallen by approximately 30% since 2003/4, the second highest fall in crime in the country.

More children are doing well at school than ever before with results at GCSE showing strong and sustained improvement. These changes are being achieved by an approach that engages children and young people and puts schools and childcare centres at the heart of the community. It is being supported by large scale investment in new and refurbished schools and childcare centres. Leeds is also a major centre of learning for further and higher education, with two leading universities and a student population of over 124,000.

However, despite these positive trends, many problems still remain to be solved and recent developments present fresh challenges.

Too many children and young people still leave school with few or no qualifications, particularly from low income families, those with special educational needs, some black and minority ethnic groups and looked after children and young people.

Health inequalities continue to exist. Children born into the most deprived neighbourhoods can expect to live almost 12 years less than those in areas that enjoy the best health. The percentage of people over 60, currently 20% of the population, is forecast to grow raising issues of how older people's health, independence and contribution to the life of the community will be supported.

Some neighbourhoods and communities have not shared in the economic success enjoyed by much of the city. The numbers of people unable to work due to illness or injury remains a key issue for the city. Many local people are excluded from job opportunities or developing their careers due to a mismatch between their skills and aspirations and the skills now required. Only 50% of the Leeds workforce has level 2 skills (equivalent to five A* to C GCSEs) against a national skills target of 90% by 2020.

A growing population and greater prosperity puts pressure on the housing market in Leeds. The impact of climate change can be clearly seen in Leeds and will be an increasingly important issue for the city. Parts of the city were flooded in the summer and winter of 2007 and there is an urgent need to reduce CO₂ and other green house gas emissions to contribute to national and global targets. More people living and travelling to work in Leeds places greater strain on the transport system. Road traffic grew by 4.9% between 1996 and 2006 and further growth is predicted. Migration enriches our diversity but raises challenges for creating and sustaining a sense of belonging amongst all communities.

These are some of the key challenges facing the city and city region over the next three years and beyond. They are explained in fuller detail in section 2 of this Plan accompanied by an explanation of where we need to focus our efforts to overcome these challenges.

OUR AMBITION

Leeds has an ambitious vision for Leeds and for the people who live, work and visit the city. This vision is captured in the Leeds' sustainable community strategy, the Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020. This sets out the twin goals of 'going up a league' both economically and in terms of quality of life and 'narrowing the gap' between the richer and poorer parts of the city.

The Council and its partners all share the desire 'to bring the benefits of a prosperous, vibrant and attractive city to all the people of Leeds'. Our ambitions for the next three years are to see:

- people happy, healthy, safe, successful and free from the effects of poverty;
- our young people equipped to contribute to their own and the city's future well being and prosperity;
- local people engaged in decisions about their neighbourhood and community and help shape local services;
- neighbourhoods that are inclusive, varied and vibrant offering housing options and quality facilities and free from harassment and crime;
- an environment that is clean, green, attractive and above all, sustainable; and
- a city-region that is prosperous, innovative and distinctive enabling individuals and businesses to achieve their economic potential.

REAL CHANGE

The Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020 sets out eight themes that provide a broad framework for our actions. These are Culture, Enterprise and Economy, Learning, Transport, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Thriving Neighbourhoods and Harmonious Communities.

This plan sets out the outcomes - the real changes we want to see in the lives of people in Leeds and the city by 2011 in each of the Vision themes. It is based on a robust analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the city and identifies the key areas where we want to

focus our efforts to ensure we achieve results. These areas we describe as improvement priorities. Finally, it sets targets for what will be achieved and how we will measure progress over the three year journey.

VIEWS AND COMMITMENT

The experiences and views of a wide range of people in the city have been taken into account in identifying the outcomes and improvement priorities in this plan. 71% of the population of Leeds was involved in establishing the themes of the Vision for Leeds in 2004. As well as the consultation findings from that exercise we have updated our understanding of what the people of Leeds want by gathering fresh evidence. We consulted Councillors representing people of all communities in the City; we drew on the latest results of the Annual Citizen's Survey and we organized a series of focus groups representative of the gender, age, ethnic origin, disability and sexuality of the Leeds population.

We also consulted a wide range of city wide networks and key partners who represent different interests in the city. These included black and ethnic minority communities, local businesses and voluntary sector networks and representatives and partners from education, health, community safety, culture, transport, economic and environmental sectors.

Our discussions have been informed by the latest information available on the changing context of Leeds in terms of social, economic, demographic and environmental data and progress in reaching established targets in areas such as education, crime, health and employment and the overall prosperity of the city. We have also considered the implications of national policies where relevant, such as the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, promoting the health and wellbeing of adults and economic, transport and housing policy developments.

We now have a shared and inclusive vision of the changes we want to see and with our partners are committed to turning the vision into a reality in Leeds. We know too that there is a great commitment from those living, working, investing, volunteering and participating in organisations and communities that will also make a huge contribution to more positive changes in the city.

APPROACH

Many people have raised the importance of **how** we approach what we need to do over the next three years. Below, are key areas that have been highlighted and will inform the 'spirit' of implementation.

- **Interconnectivity and partnership working**

Getting to the 'root' of many challenges in the city will require an awareness of the 'interconnection' between our different outcomes and improvement priorities. For example, consistently raising achievement levels of young people in some of the most deprived areas of Leeds involves raising the quality of life for families living in those communities, finding solutions to, and engaging people in, employment opportunities, housing security and environmental and health issues.

Listening, sharing and learning from each other will help us identify where our efforts are best concentrated to achieve the best results. Such a 'partnership approach' is something we are already proud of in the city and in many areas is mature and embedded as an approach to delivering services. It has contributed to some impressive results. For example, neighbourhoods in the city that are the most deprived according to recent results of a national measure of multiple deprivation have reduced from 31 to 22 neighbourhoods.

However, it is important that we build on this strong basis and engage in more innovative thinking about how needs can be met and services improved, effectively and efficiently, through partnership working. A series of principles underpinning our approach to partnership working is outlined on page...

- **Equality, cohesion and integration**

We are committed to increasing equality for, and valuing the diversity of all communities in the city. We recognise that priorities and actions can affect some communities or groups of people who participate in the city differently. The plan has been reviewed in this respect and careful and thorough assessments of more detailed targets and actions in all areas will need to continue over its duration.

We also need to work more intensively to make sure that the implementation of our 'improvement priorities' supports and encourages a shared sense of belonging in all communities in the city and widely shared sense of the contribution of different individuals and groups to a future local vision. We recognise that people with different backgrounds should experience similar life opportunities and access to services and work to develop a strong sense of an individual's local rights and responsibilities.

- **Sustainability**

Finally, we need to ensure that any developments that meet the needs of the present do not compromise the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. The plan has been reviewed in terms of its impact on the environment and sustainable development. Sustainability also means ensuring we have the right resources and can use them effectively to implement the plan. The Council is producing its own separate business plan to outline its contribution; other key partners are also including their contribution to meeting agreed targets in their own corporate and business plans.

MAKING IT WORK

The Council's lead role in helping to shape the future of Leeds has been strengthened by recent legislation - the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The government has asked Council's to work with partners to ensure that they jointly agree the ambitions for their area over the next three years. Partners have also been asked to co-operate with Council's and other partners to agree and deliver targets that ensure the ambitions result in real change. These legal responsibilities are carried out in drawing up and implementing this Plan as it fulfills the requirements of a local area agreement for Leeds.

Leeds Initiative, the overarching partnership body in Leeds, provides the forum for collectively reviewing and steering resources to support the delivery of the priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan. However, all target-setting and consequent financial, commissioning or contractual commitments agreed are put in place through the Leeds City Council and other partners arrangements for making decisions. These will be subject to the normal scrutiny by Councillors and openness to the public. Leeds City Council will have overall accountability for the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

Leeds Initiative thematic partnerships contribute to the development of the supporting strategies and plans for the Vision for Leeds and for the Leeds Strategic Plan. Some of these strategies provide an in-depth and longer term expression of the objectives or aspects of a Vision theme, for example, Culture and Climate Change. Others are more specific, time limited thematic plans that contain more detail of what will be delivered and by whom during

the lifespan of the Leeds Strategic Plan. Key strategies and plans are signposted in each theme in Section 2.

Section 3 outlines how the plan will be delivered in greater detail. It shows how the Leeds Strategic Plan fits in the overall framework of city-wide planning. It also sets out the partnership principles that will guide how partners will work together over the duration of the plan. Accountability is further clarified with an explanation of how performance will be reviewed and managed. Finally, it explains the arrangements for reviewing and revising the Plan as a whole.

DRAFT

Section 2

Priorities by Theme

DRAFT

Culture

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Increased participation in cultural opportunities through engaging with all our communities.
- Enhanced cultural opportunities through encouraging investment and development of high quality facilities of national and international significance.

Context

Through culture in all its different forms, people can find enjoyment, enrich their lives and fulfil their potential. The benefits of culture are linked to improved health, wellbeing and educational attainment. A broad-based and diverse approach to culture can both help to regenerate communities and contribute to the standing and profile of a city. We seek to provide the widest range of opportunities for local people and visitors to experience and participate in.

Consultation on the priorities for this plan showed that Leeds' people prioritise the participation by all groups and communities, in cultural events. In the 2007 resident's survey, over a quarter of residents said that activities specifically for teenagers should be a priority for the council. Excellence, diversity and wider participation are also emphasised nationally and the run up to the 2012 London Olympics will focus attention particularly on participation in sport.

Leeds has a large and growing range of cultural events and facilities, including, theatres, galleries and museums, sporting venues, parks and open spaces, an International Concert Season of more than 200 concerts per year, young people's and adult International Film Festivals, 53 Libraries and renowned opera and ballet companies. Leeds City Council also has a longstanding commitment to free events for local people such as Party and Opera in the Park and the German Christmas market.

Over the last three years, substantial investment in cultural facilities has resulted in the first phase of restoration of the Art Gallery and Central Library (85% increase in visitor figures), opening of the Kirkstall Abbey visitor centre, refurbishment of the Grand Theatre, and opening of an Aquatics Centre at the John Charles Stadium. Further opportunities will be created by the opening of Leeds' new museum in 2008, restoration of the City Varieties Music Hall, a major redevelopment of Garforth Library and two new leisure centres in Armley and Morley funded by a £30m PFI project. Extensive consultation about parks and open spaces has resulted in an additional £4.5m of investment to improve community parks.

However, there is still a great deal of progress to be made in ensuring that Leeds has the highest quality cultural facilities and activity that are accessible and inclusive of all its citizens. Some of Leeds' cultural facilities still do not match the quality of its events or fulfil their potential to help put Leeds on an international stage. A sustainable future also needs to be found for some of Leeds' most exciting cultural events, for them to thrive and grow.

We need to do more to increase people's access to cultural opportunities. We are working towards doubling visitor figures for Leeds' museums and galleries; creating initiatives to

bring more people to cultural buildings in the city centre and finding ways to better represent all sections of the community and consult people about what they want.

Leeds is working particularly hard to ensure that young people can enjoy cultural opportunities on offer. The Breeze Card is an increasingly useful channel for children and young people to access cultural activities and facilities. Over 167,000 Breeze card holders participated in 100 holiday sports programmes while a further 15,500 attended Breeze on Tour activities across Leeds. We need to further develop ways of better coordinating opportunities for young people to engage in creative activity outside school, to ensure that no young people are left behind.

Our priorities listed below will enhance the cultural life of Leeds to reflect its status as a vibrant cosmopolitan city and enable everyone to participate in and enjoy what the city has to offer.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- Enable more people to become involved in sport and culture by providing better quality and wider ranging activities and facilities.
- Facilitate the delivery of major cultural schemes of international significance.

Supporting Strategies:

Cultural Strategy – (in development)

Informed by:

- Library Plan and associated strategies
- Renaissance in the Regions (Museums Strategy)
- Parks & Greenspace strategy (*in development*)
- Taking the Lead: A strategy for sport and active recreation in Leeds 2006 to 2012
- Physical Activity Strategy (*in development*)
- Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09

Enterprise and the Economy

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Increased entrepreneurship and innovation through effective support to achieve the full potential of people, business and the economy.
- Increased international competitiveness through marketing and investment in high quality infrastructure and physical assets, particularly in the city centre.

Context

The story of Leeds is undeniable a success and the renaissance of the Leeds economy underpins the city's success.

Between 1996 and 2006 the city has seen Gross Value Added increase by 36% and 59,000 new jobs, more than any city outside London. Recent investment in the city has been phenomenal with £3.2bn invested in commercial property development and a further £7.2bn under construction or in the pipeline. Major new developments such as the £300m Trinity Quarter retail scheme, the regeneration of the Aire Valley and the completion of the East Leeds Link road (which will unlock 400 hectares of prime development land and a potential 30,000 jobs over the next 10-15 years) will build on the recent history of success.

However, we are not complacent about Leeds' future economic performance and significant challenges remain. Leeds has produced fewer new businesses than other cities and far fewer new businesses are set up in the poorest parts of the city. Similarly, consultation for this plan showed that spreading enterprise to the more deprived parts of the city and equipping the workforce with the skills to participate in the economy were key priorities. The business community also emphasised the need to make the most of private sector investment and enhance the city's reputation as a centre for knowledge and innovation.

The city council fulfils a pivotal role in guiding the city's renaissance and providing a supportive framework for investment and development including investing in the public realm – such as creating new public spaces like Millennium Square. The council and its partners are supporting economic development and regeneration in neighbourhoods and local communities across the city in programmes such as the 'Town and District Centre' and Local Enterprise Growth Initiative which is specifically aimed at developing enterprise, creating new jobs and boosting prosperity in the city's most disadvantaged communities.

Leeds is also an engine of growth for West Yorkshire and the region as a whole. In 2006 a Leeds City Region Development Plan was launched to accelerate the creation of new jobs in the area, particularly by enhancing transport links and the skills of the local workforce. A multi area agreement with Leeds and its neighbouring local authorities and government will help deliver the ambitious goals set out in the City Region Development Plan.

However, if Leeds is to achieve all it can for its residents and the wider region it must establish itself on the international stage and attract businesses and investment from further afield. We are now developing a new Economic Development Strategy which will build on the current core aims and incorporate many recent changes. This includes the recognition of increasing globalisation and the consensus on climate change; the establishment of

Yorkshire Forward and the city region perspective and the potential statutory duty for local authority economic development including an economic assessment.

Our priorities listed below seek to support our aspiration to ensure Leeds' continued success and establish it as a leading European city which provides better outcomes for local people and narrows the gap between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the city.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- Increase innovation and entrepreneurial activity across the city.
- Facilitate the delivery of major developments in the city centre to enhance the economy and support local employment.
- Increase international communications, marketing and business support activities to promote the city and attract investment.

Supporting Strategies:

Leeds Economic Development Strategy – *(in development)*

Informed by:

- City Region Development Plan
- Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2015
- Leeds Renaissance Framework
- Regional Spatial Strategy to 2016 (Published December 2004)
- Local Development Framework, core strategy and other policies

Transport

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Increased accessibility and connectivity through investment in a high quality transport system and through influencing others and changing behaviours.

Context

Whether a journey is in a car, on a bus or train, on two wheels, or on foot and whether it is to get to work school or to the shops, quality of life is undoubtedly enhanced by being able to move around more easily. Similarly, moving people and goods within Leeds and beyond is key to the city being a good place to do business. Accessible, affordable, and convenient transport will make a big contribution to the city being a place where people want to live and work. Our aspirations are to deliver this goal and ensure that future growth is not constrained by transport difficulties.

Leeds has good transport links - the M1, M621 and A1(M) provide good road links to other parts of the country; Leeds' railway station has the highest number of passengers of any station outside London with 90,000 passengers using the station every day and it has recently undergone refurbishment to meet this growing demand. Leeds also has an extensive bus network with about 90 million passenger journeys every year. Innovations like guided bus routes along converted central reservations have improved journey reliability and punctuality.

Transport is however, a major concern for local people. Consultation during the autumn of 2007 to identify priorities for this plan found that improving the quality, accessibility and use of public transport was a priority for all groups and improving access to job opportunities was a key issue for many. Similarly, the business community emphasised the need to improve international links and connectivity for the benefit of both local businesses and people. In 2007 residents said that road and pavement repairs were the most important issue in their local area and should also be a top priority for the council.

However, as more people live in and travel to work in Leeds greater strain will be imposed on the transport system. Road traffic grew by 4.9% between 1996 and 2006 and further growth is predicted. In 2001 around 108,000 people commuted into Leeds daily for work and that number is estimated to have grown significantly in recent years; and in 2006 the total number of trips into the city averaged about 122,500 a day; consequently, further investment to boost the capacity of the transport system, particularly for buses and trains in Leeds will be needed to meet rising demand within the city and the surrounding area.

A proposal to upgrade the city's buses and develop a high grade transit system is under development and this could deliver a fast and convenient alternative to the car for many journeys, as well as reducing congestion and pollution. With our neighbouring local authorities and Metro we are working together to improve rail and bus links within and around Leeds and have established an ambitious 25 year Transport Vision which will ensure that these improvements are City Region based rather than just within Leeds. We are also investing heavily in highways maintenance to significantly improve the network. Supplementing Central Government funding, we have made an extra £82m available to

complete hundreds of schemes across the city by 2012 which will significantly improve the condition of our streets.

The priorities below address these issues and also indicate how improving our streets and roads and public transport can contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents as well as help to improve the city's environment.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- Deliver and facilitate a range of transport proposals for an enhanced transport system.
- Improve the quality, use and accessibility of public transport services in Leeds.
- Improve the condition of the streets and transport infrastructure by carrying out a major programme of maintenance and improvements.
- Improve road safety for all our users, especially motor cyclists pedal cyclists and pedestrians.

Supporting Strategies:

West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

Informed by:

- 25 year Leeds city-region Transport Vision
- Highways Asset Management Plan
- Traffic Management Action Plans (in development)
- Regional Transport Strategy as part of Regional Spatial Strategy

Environment

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Reduced ecological footprint through responding to environmental and climate change and influencing others.
- Cleaner, greener and more attractive city through effective environmental management and changed behaviours.

Context

We are fully committed to being at the leading edge of responding to the challenge of climate change and so managing and adapting to this challenge is a key priority for Leeds. Fortunately, Leeds is well placed to meet this challenge. The council monitors its impact on the environment through the rigorous EMAS standard including issues relating to air quality and environmental noise, and with local partners working together to develop a Climate Change Strategy to mitigate the impact of climate change on the city.

Local residents also feel the environmental challenge is important. In 2007, 14% of local residents surveyed said that a clean neighbourhood (without litter or graffiti) was one of the five things most in need of improvement in their area. A third of residents said that rubbish and litter lying around was a local problem and over a quarter said that vandalism and graffiti were also local problems. Linked issues like the state of pavements and roads and access to parks and green space were also cited as issues of concern. A well maintained environment contributes to other important aspects of well being like accessibility and opportunities for leisure and relaxation, and we are proud that two-thirds of Leeds' area is green space and six of our parks have achieved Green Flag status.

Waste and recycling is also important locally. Doorstep recycling collection and local recycling facilities have been used by virtually all local residents and there are generally high levels of satisfaction with the facilities provided in Leeds. However, Leeds' performance in terms of recycling and particularly waste going to landfill, is mediocre in comparison with other authorities and further progress will be needed to meet the Government's targets for recycling (40% by 2010 rising to 50% by 2020).

The environment is a key priority nationally and globally too. The UK Government is on track to reduce its CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 per cent (using 1990 levels as a baseline) as part of its commitment under the Kyoto Protocol. This has been achieved through greater energy efficiency, promoting less polluting and encouraging the use of renewable sources of energy and also reducing the amount of pollution emitted from all energy sources. The current Climate Change Bill (due for enactment in 2008) proposes a statutory framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will set 'carbon budgets' to drive forward reductions in CO₂ emissions by households, businesses, local authorities and other public bodies.

We will all have an obligation to change our behaviour to mitigate the effects of climate change. The council, for example, is already reducing its impact on the environment by switching the majority of its electricity to 'green electricity', establishing schemes within its buildings to involve staff in managing environmental impacts, and delivering and advising on

energy efficiency in both privately owned and Housing Association homes. Through planning regulations, developers and partners are being encouraged to improve design quality and sustainability to reduce the environmental impact of their activities. For example, developers working in Holbeck Urban Village have produced a sustainability report to support planning applications which covers energy efficiency, waste management and the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The impact of climate change can be clearly seen in Leeds and will be an increasingly critical issue for the city. Parts of the city were flooded, both in the summer and winter of 2007, and consequently we are working with our partners and actively participating in the delivery of an effective flood defence system.

The priorities below set out where we are concentrating our efforts over the next three years to take on the challenge to improve the city's environment.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- Increase the amount of waste reused and recycled and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Reduce emissions from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.
- Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.
- Address neighbourhood problem sites; improve cleanliness and access to and quality of green spaces.
- Improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.

Supporting Strategies:

- Local Development Framework
- Regional Spatial Strategy to 2016 (Published December 2004)
- Climate Change Strategy – *(in development)*
- Integrated Waste Strategy 2006 - 2025
- Leeds Strategic Flood risk assessment
- West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
- Energy and Water Management Plan
- Parks and Greenspace Strategy

Learning

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Enhance the current and future workforce through fulfilling individual and economic potential and investing in learning facilities.

Context

Learning is central to achieving our aspirations for the city. A skilled and well-trained workforce is vital for the future prosperity of Leeds and for everyone to share in that success. In addition, learning and educational success helps to promote better wellbeing and health for individuals and communities and supports a culturally vibrant city. The foundations for this are laid in our schools but, increasingly, training to update and acquire new skills will be a lifelong activity for us all.

Leeds' schools and early years providers have made great progress in recent years, strengthened by massive investment in award-winning new buildings and IT systems for schools and children's centres. Early years provision is a strength of the city and the most recent results show strong improvements. Primary schools are good and results are in line with national averages and performance in similar areas. Secondary schools have improved strongly in recent years, particularly in those schools in the most challenging circumstances. Results for 14 year olds are now in line with national averages and similar authorities. Outcomes at GCSE have seen strong and sustained improvement so that results are now in line with similar areas, and are close to the national average. However, despite this progress significant challenges remain. Particular priorities include: increasing the progress made by learners throughout secondary school; raising attendance in secondary schools and reducing the number of students who are persistently absent; and lastly narrowing the gap in achievement for vulnerable groups of children and young people, especially those from low income families, those with special educational needs, some Black and Minority Ethnic groups and lastly, but importantly, Looked After Children and Young People.

Increasing participation and educational success for young people is a key priority. At present fewer young people continue in learning or employment after the age of 16 in Leeds than in similar areas or nationally. Vulnerable groups of young people are more likely to not be in learning and work. As such it is important that schools, colleges and partners continue to work together to develop better choice and better routes and pathways to learning so that all young people are engaged, successful and ready for adult life.

Around a fifth of the Leeds workforce were recorded as having no skills in 2005, and although a survey showed in 2005 that 63 per cent of respondents had undertaken some form of training in the previous year, more will have to be done if the workforce in Leeds is to meet the national targets set out in the government's review of skills needs published in 2006. This review set a target of 90% of the workforce having level 2 skills (equivalent to five good GCSEs) by 2020. The current figure for Leeds is around 50%.

Consultation on the priorities for this plan showed strong support among all groups for improving the results achieved by children and young people and raising the participation levels among our children and young people in education and training. The business community also emphasised the importance of the city's universities and colleges.

The priorities below address these issues and will measure the improvement achieved by our young people and across the workforce over the coming three years.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- Enhance the skill level of the workforce to fulfil individual and economic potential.
- Improve learning outcomes for all 16 year olds, with a focus on narrowing the achievement gap.
- Improve learning outcomes and skill levels for 19 year olds.
- Increase the proportion of vulnerable groups engaged in education, training or employment.
- Improve participation and early learning outcomes for all children, with a focus on families in deprived areas.

Supporting Strategies:

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009

People Centred Places (*In development*)

Informed by:

- Leeds 14-19 Strategy 2006-2010
- Education Leeds Strategic Plan 2004 – 2007
- HE/FE Plans

Health and Wellbeing

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Reduced health inequalities through the promotion of healthy life choices and improved access to services.
- Improved quality of life through maximising the potential of vulnerable people by promoting independence, dignity and respect.
- Enhanced safety and support for vulnerable people through preventative and protective action to minimise risks and maximise wellbeing.

Context

People in Leeds are growing healthier and living longer. At birth men can expect to live for 76.2 years compared to 74.6 years in 1997. Life expectancy at birth for women has increased from 80.1 years to 81.2 in the same period.

A challenge for Leeds is that this increase is not evenly spread across the city. The gap between richer and poorer areas of Leeds can be counted in extra years of life and it is not narrowing. Despite the death rate falling in Leeds during the last ten years, the fall has been faster in the wealthier parts of the city. Children born in the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhood can expect to live almost twelve years less than those in areas of Leeds which enjoy the best health.

As people live longer they should also enjoy more years of good health. Again this is more likely in wealthier parts but across the city it is inevitable that longer life and the increasing number of older people will increase the need for additional services or support to maximise the capacity of elderly or vulnerable people to continue living independently.

Health is influenced by many different factors. Some of these will be improved by action undertaken within other themes, particularly culture through sport and physical activity and the environment through cleaner air and noise reduction. Our lifestyles and choices around issues like smoking, drinking or exercise have an impact not just on our health as individuals but also on the health needs of Leeds as a whole. People with poor diets or who do not take enough exercise are much more likely to become overweight or obese which brings with it a higher risk of diabetes, stroke or heart disease. Excessive drinking also contributes to ill health and increases the risk of injury or accidents. The rate of sexually transmitted diseases is rising among young people in Leeds.

Leeds is rising to the challenge to have active lifestyles that encourage improved health and well-being. In 2007, there were over four million visits to Leeds City council leisure centres and 36,470 visits to 'Active Life' classes, for people aged over 50, across the city.

Through schemes such as the Keeping House project, which provides domestic services for over 2,000 older and disabled people in Leeds, the council and its partners are working hard to help adults and particularly older adults to live happy and independent lives. Adult care services in Leeds have recently been commended for achieving quality of life improvements for vulnerable adults and helping them to get better access to services. We are working to build up the opportunity for people to have direct payments so that they can choose the services they want and there has been a **X%** increase in take-up since **?**

Despite recent progress, we are facing significant challenges over the next few years, the most important of which will be to reduce the health inequalities gap. With our key partners in the health service we will work to help people quit smoking, and increase their rate of physical activity. Whilst the general health of the population has improved, new threats to health are emerging, including increasing levels of obesity and teenage pregnancies. We want to give greater independence to vulnerable people by supporting them to choose the services to improve their opportunity and quality of life. Direct payments and individual budgets will help to achieve this alongside improved access to mainstream services, such as training for a job or enjoying local community and recreational facilities.

There remains much more to do to reduce health inequalities for local people and improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing. Our new priorities set out below how we will meet these challenges in the coming years.

Improvement Priorities

By 2011:

- Reduce premature mortality in the most deprived areas.
- Reduce the number of people who smoke.
- Reduce rate of increase in obesity and raise physical activity for all.
- Reduce teenage conception and improve sexual health.
- Improved assessment and care management for children, families and vulnerable adults.
- Improved psychological mental health and learning disabilities services for all.
- Increase the number of vulnerable people helped to live at home.
- Increased proportion of people in receipt of community services enjoying choice and control over their daily lives.
- Embed a safeguarding culture for all.

Supporting Strategies:

Health and Wellbeing Plan (In development)

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-9

Informed by:

- Leeds Tobacco Control Strategy 2006-2010
- Food Matters: a food strategy for Leeds 2006-2010
- Leeds Childhood Obesity Strategy 2006-2016
- Leeds Alcohol Strategy 2007-2010
- Older Better Strategy 2006-2011
- Leeds Emotional Health Strategy 2008/11
- Leeds Mental Health Strategy 2006-2011
- Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
- Physical Activity Strategy
- West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan



Thriving Neighbourhoods

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- Improved quality of life through mixed neighbourhoods offering good housing options and better access to services and activities.
- Reduced crime and fear of crime through prevention, detection, offender management and changed behaviours.
- Increased economic activity through targeted support to reduce worklessness and poverty.

Context

The priorities in this theme are the key concerns of local people. Low crime, low levels of anti-social behaviour and affordable, decent housing are the three most important things for making somewhere a good place to live according to Leeds residents in 2007. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour were also cited as two of the top five priorities for the Council in 2008.

Stakeholders consulted on priorities for this plan echoed the views of residents; crime, housing and reducing worklessness were chosen as the top priorities in that exercise. Councillors in particular saw this theme as vital for 'narrowing the gap' in the city between areas with low crime, good housing and high employment and more deprived parts of Leeds.

Partnership work with West Yorkshire Police to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime in those neighbourhoods with the highest crime levels has proved successful with crime falling by more than a quarter over the last three years, the second highest fall in crime in the country. However, there is more to do to reduce crime further by targeting persistent offenders and addressing anti-social behaviour and the problems that arise from alcohol and drug misuse.

The council has made significant progress in improving council housing to ensure that by 2010 it will meet the national 'Decent Homes' standard. Work with private sector landlords has resulted in over 2,300 empty homes being brought back into use in the last year and we have provided grants and advice to enable lower income households to heat their homes as cheaply and efficiently as possible. However, many households are finding it increasingly difficult to buy or rent a home in the city and higher fuel bills mean that an increasing number of residents find it difficult to heat their homes.

The Council will work with its partners to deliver more new housing at a level that is affordable to buy and rent to ensure that we can meet the housing needs for all residents and not just those on high incomes. Work is underway to improve existing homes and build new homes through our existing PFI scheme in Swarcliffe with further work planned for Little London and Beeston Hill. The East and South East Leeds Project (EASEL), will deliver over 5,000 new homes, along with community facilities and businesses over the next 15-20 years, helping to create strong, sustainable communities in those areas.

There are neighbourhoods where too many people do not have a job, households are dependent on benefits and children grow up in poverty. Many residents do not have a bank account or can not borrow or save money at reasonable rates. The Council will work with its partners to support residents to obtain the right skills to secure work and progress in existing and new jobs. We will extend our award winning programmes to give households greater control over their money and access to trustworthy and reliable savings and credit so that families can be financially secure.

The priorities below build on these successful programmes to create the conditions for thriving neighbourhoods over the next three years.

Improvement Priorities

By 2011:

- Increase the number of “decent homes”.
- Increase the number of affordable homes.
- Reduction in the number of homeless people.
- Reduce the number of people who are not able to adequately heat their homes.
- Increased financial inclusion in deprived areas.
- Reduce crime and fear of crime.
- Reduce offending.
- Reduce the harm from drugs and alcohol to individuals and society.
- Reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Reduced bullying and harassment.
- Reduce worklessness across the city with a focus on deprived areas.
- Reduce the number of children in poverty.
- Develop extended services, using sites across the city, to improve support to children families and communities

Supporting Strategies:

Leeds Housing Strategy 2005/06 – 2009/10

Regional Spatial Strategy

Local Development Framework

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-9

Safer Leeds Strategy 2005 -2008

Regional Spatial Strategy - 2016

Local Development Framework

Informed by:

- Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2016
- Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy 2004-2007
- Leeds Alcohol Strategy 2007-2010

DRAFT

Harmonious Communities

Strategic Outcomes

What we want to see by 2011:

- More inclusive, varied and vibrant communities through empowering people to contribute to decision making and delivering local services.
- Improved community cohesion and integration through meaningful involvement and valuing equality and diversity.

Context

Local pride, a sense of belonging and neighbourliness are key ingredients for the sorts of places people want to live in. Leeds residents report high levels of belonging and satisfaction with where they live. In the 2007 Residents Survey three quarters of respondents said they feel they belong to their neighbourhood and nearly half (46%) said they feel that local people work together to improve their neighbourhood. Two thirds of residents said that people of different backgrounds got on well together and three fifths of residents said that people respected ethnic difference where they lived. Overall 81% were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

However, not all parts of the city share this sense of belonging and neighbourliness in equal measures. Residents in the south of the city were less likely to say they belonged to their neighbourhood or that people worked together to improve their neighbourhood. Young people were less likely than older people to say that people of different backgrounds got on well together where they lived or that people respected ethnic differences where they lived. Although a third of residents said they were satisfied with the way they could influence public services in their area, over a third said they would like more say in making decisions that affected their local area.

A growing and increasingly diverse population creates new challenges as well as opportunities for creating strong cohesive communities. Integrating new migrants from eastern Europe as well as long established communities will enrich the city over time but perceptions of disadvantage or unfairness need to be addressed immediately. Fostering more ways for people to engage in and shape the life of their communities will be a vital part of the process of creating strong, sustainable and harmonious communities.

In parts of the city the Council has put in place Neighbourhood Managers to encourage local people to speak out and work with those delivering services to make the changes needed in their neighbourhood. Results show that people in these areas feel that they can make themselves heard and that they are listened to. Satisfaction with the way that problems like litter, graffiti or anti-social behaviour are dealt with has risen. Other services like the Police have also put in place neighbourhood teams so that they are closer to the local community they serve.

There are numerous groups and organisations in the city, known collectively as the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector, that support a wide range of activity and services needed in local communities. These organisations provide opportunities for local people to volunteer their time and skills to help others in their community and foster good relationships. Groups such as these are often community led and supported by grant funding and are

vulnerable to changes in the way public services are delivered and grant funding is provided. The council is committed to working in partnership with this sector to ensure that it can continue to offer locally based services and opportunities for local citizens to take an active part in community life.

The priorities and targets below will measure progress towards these goals over the next three years.

Improvement Priorities

What we want to deliver by 2011:

- An increased number of local people engaged in activities to meet community needs and improve the quality of life for local residents.
- An increase in the number of local people that are empowered to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery.
- Enable a robust and vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector to facilitate community activity and directly deliver services.
- An increased sense of belonging and pride in local neighbourhoods that help to build cohesive communities.

Supporting Strategies:

Community Engagement Framework 2006

Community Cohesion action Plan

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-9

SECTION 3
MAKING IT HAPPEN

DRAFT

STREAMLINING THE CITY'S PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Leeds Strategic Plan sets out the goals that Leeds City Council and its partners have agreed to achieve over the next three years to help achieve the longer term objectives contained in the Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020. The Leeds Strategic Plan is effectively the delivery plan for the long term Vision for Leeds.

We have used the legal requirement to develop a new Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Leeds as an opportunity to make the planning process in the city simpler. The Leeds Strategic Plan replaces two plans, the Council's Corporate Plan, which contained the Council's priorities for the City (and itself as an organisation) and the Leeds Regeneration Plan which focused on 'narrowing the gap' between the poorest and wealthiest parts of Leeds.

Leeds Initiative has also revised its structures to ensure that they include all the key partners and stakeholders and can monitor and manage performance and shape the delivery of targets in the Leeds Strategic plan effectively.

The council has produced its own Business Plan which will describe how the council will organise itself to deliver what it has agreed to do in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Other partners will also have their own business and action plans to deliver what is agreed in this plan and integrate their other goals.

City wide plans will be translated into action at an area level and for particular services. Area delivery plans (ADPs) will provide the local interpretation of the Leeds Strategic Plan reflecting and shaping the partnership activities for each area. The ADPs are developed by each of the ten area committees. These committees are led by councillors representing local citizens embedding democratic accountability into partnership activities at an area level.

On a different scale, it is increasingly an accepted fact that the Leeds economy works on a wider scale than the administrative boundaries of the city, and the success of Leeds also brings greater prosperity to neighbouring towns and cities. Therefore, to complement the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan we have also agreed a Multi Area Agreement (MAA) for Leeds and its neighbouring authorities.

We have also taken into account other local and regional plans, including the Local Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy.

DIAGRAM OF PLANNING FRAMEWORK HERE

EFFECTIVE DELIVERY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Leeds has a good record of partnership working. Since 1990 Leeds Initiative has brought together public agencies, private businesses and voluntary, community and faith groups to develop a shared vision of a successful, prosperous and inclusive Leeds. Leeds Initiative has also developed a 'Compact for Leeds' to support the work of the city's voluntary, community and faith groups. This recognises the role of value and community activity. It encourages the effective use of resources and promotes equal partnerships through good communication, consultation and sharing of information.

Building on these foundations Leeds City Council and its partners have adopted a set of partnership principles to make sure that our joint efforts really do achieve our common ambition:

to bring the benefits of a prosperous, vibrant and attractive city to all the people of Leeds

through:

- focusing on the partners' common purpose and community needs;
- having clear responsibilities and arrangements for accountability;
- good conduct and behaviour, treating all partners and stakeholders equally, fairly and respectfully;
- informed, transparent decision-making and managing risk;
- developing skills and capacity individually and as a partnership to deliver the outcomes and priorities in this plan; and
- engaging stakeholders in drawing up our outcomes, priorities and targets and keeping people informed on how well we are delivering.

The challenge for the Leeds Strategic Plan is to apply these principles to deliver real improvements for local people. This requires new ways of working in Leeds, sharing information and pooling resources among partners where this brings benefits through greater effectiveness and efficiency. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act creates a new duty for partners to cooperate in the delivery of targets in this Plan and this sets a context for us to deepen partnership working. Closer partnerships may be the right solution in many cases and the Council and its partners will explore the potential of extending joint service delivery and joint commissioning to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

MEASURING AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE

Delivering on our targets is essential if the Leeds Strategic Plan is to achieve our ambitions for Leeds and its residents. This will be a collective endeavour for all the partners to this agreement. Senior council officers will have lead accountability for each of themes, improvement priorities and targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan and will work with similar senior officers in partner organisations. Every partner will have regard to all the targets in the Plan when drawing up their own budgets and business plans. Partners will commit to leading or contributing to the achievement of specific targets in the Plan and will then be held to account for doing the things needed to meet those targets. In the appendix, lead and contributory partners are identified to each target.

We have developed reliable measures for each target and have put in place robust processes for regularly reporting performance. These processes will measure progress against each targets as well as the plan's impact on wider objectives for Leeds like equality, community cohesion and sustainability. For some targets, measures will be broken down by their impact on particular areas of the city and on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, age, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Council is ultimately accountable for drawing up and delivering the Plan. The Plan will be approved by whole Council involving all 99 Councillors. The Executive Board (of senior councillors) will receive regular reports on performance and recommend actions and changes to plans where performance is not on target. The council's Scrutiny Boards will also receive regular performance reports and have an opportunity to discuss issues of concern, call in council officers and partners to account for their work to deliver targets in the plan and make recommendations to the council and its partners to improve performance.

The Leeds Strategic Plan is a partnership plan and the Council will, through the Leeds Initiative, agree its contents with and engage partners to monitor and manage the performance of the plan. The Leeds Strategy Group will bring together the Council and its partners to monitor performance against the targets in the plan, allocate resources, develop new ways of delivering more effectively for Leeds and regularly review the contents of the plan.

Other thematic groups in the Leeds Initiative will also be kept informed of progress in relevant areas and contribute to the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan through developing more in depth strategies and action plans. Local business representatives and representatives from voluntary, community and faith groups are involved alongside public sector partners in the work of these groups.

The ten area committees across the city will also be reviewing progress towards achieving targets identified at an area level. They will be particularly vigilant in assessing improvements at a neighbourhood as well as an area level. The achievement of these targets will make a fundamental contribution to achieving the overall city wide targets and outcomes

Local people will receive regular updates on performance through stories in About Leeds, the Council newspaper, on the Council and Leeds Initiative websites and elsewhere. For example, progress will be reported to the Leeds Youth Council. Everyone will have opportunities to give their views on how well the Leeds Strategic Plan is being delivered.

Up to 35 targets in this plan have been negotiated and agreed with Government Office and reflect shared priorities with national government. Progress against these targets must be reported annually to the government who must agree to any changes to these targets. The government will reward Leeds with additional funding if these targets are met.

REVIEWING AND REVISING THE LEEDS STRATEGIC PLAN

Leeds' priorities will inevitably change over time and the priorities and targets in the Leeds Strategic plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure this plan is still relevant and addresses the city's real needs.

The council and its partners will collect and use information on social, economic and environmental conditions and trends, including performance data against the targets in this plan, to change priorities and set new targets as necessary. Already, the council and the PCT are working jointly to assess current and future health needs in Leeds through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The findings from this assessment will inform future health priorities in this plan.

Public opinion, gained through regular resident surveys will also feed into the setting of priorities and targets in future versions of this plan. The views of council Scrutiny Boards, Area Committees and other partners and stakeholders will also be taken into account before the council and its partners agree any changes to the contents of the Plan.

The Government will regularly assess conditions and prospects for every part of England through a new Comprehensive Area Assessment process. Achievement of the targets in the Leeds strategic plan will form part of the Government's annual assessment of how well Leeds is improving. The Government will look at the full range of performance indicators on local conditions and prospects. Further, more specific reviews on particular issues can be required where the Comprehensive Area Assessment suggests there is a risk of underperformance. Where the Government feels that performance in Leeds is unsatisfactory it will recommend new priorities for the Leeds Strategic Plan and the council and its partners will negotiate with the Government whether a target should be set to address that issue. Government Office will monitor performance and initiate discussions where performance is not on track and can intervene where performance is significantly below what is expected.

At every stage the Council will inform, consult and involve local people, representatives of geographical communities and communities of interest, partners and stakeholders in the city and beyond where relevant, and draw on expert analysis to ensure that the priorities and targets in the plan have been rigorously challenged, are truly robust and are relevant to the achievement of our ambitions for Leeds.

DRAFT



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th March 2008

Subject: Local Petitions and Calls for Action - Consultation

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the new provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 regarding the 'Councillor Call for Action' and to seek Members' responses to proposals set out in a consultation document issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled "Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation"

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which was enacted on 30th October 2007, contains new provisions which will enable Councillors to refer matters to Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The relevant provisions have not yet come into force but it is anticipated that they will be implemented in April 2008. The purpose behind the new provisions is to give support to all Councillors to raise matters for their constituents.

2.2 The so called "Community Call for Action" which was contained in the Police and Justice Act 2006 has been aligned with the provisions in the 2007 Act.

2.3 Key features of the Councillor Call for Action are as follows:

- The power to initiate a Councillor Call for Action rests with the local Councillor
- It will be up to individual Councillors to determine what matters to take forward and they may decide that they do not wish to take a matter forward –

in that event, there is no right of appeal against that decision available to constituents.

- A Councillor Call for Action may cover any local government matter relating to any function of the authority and affecting the Councillor's ward or constituents.

2.4 Whilst a councilor may refer the matter for consideration by scrutiny, it will be up to the scrutiny board to determine whether or not to hold a scrutiny inquiry into the matter and respond.

2.5 The consultation document sets out more detailed proposals as to how the Councillor Call for Action might operate and also sets out proposals for a legislative framework for handling local petitions. (Appendix 1)

2.6 Responses to the consultation document are invited by 20th March 2008. The consultation questions, together with draft responses, are provided below for consideration.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Local Petitions

The government is consulting on placing a duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions where they have achieved sufficient local support.

Question

The Government believes there should be a statutory duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions. What conditions must be met before a local authority is required to respond formally to a petition? (paragraph 19)

Suggested Response

Petitions have been used by the public for many years as a way of drawing attention to an issue of concern. We believe that authorities should be required to respond to any petition that asks them to consider any issue which falls within their functions.

We consider a response to be more substantial than simple acknowledgement of receipt. We consider this to be basic customer care. However flexibility must remain with the local authority as to how a petition is dealt with internally and what (beyond simple acknowledgement) the level of response is. On occasions it would be appropriate for an individual elected Member to respond to a petition rather than the 'body corporate'.

On some occasions a response to a petition would be "no"

The Government already has a tried and tested model on its own well-known Prime Minister's Downing Street petition website.

The acceptable use policy governing petitions received on this website is set out at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/terms>.

It provides that petitions are not accepted if they are similar to or overlap with existing petitions; ask for things outside the remit or powers of the PM or

Government; are statements that don't actually request any action or are impossible to understand or amount to advertisements; humorous petitions or ones which have no point about government policy or which are about a purely personal issue.

Also excluded are party political issues; potentially libelous, false or defamatory statements; information which may be protected by an injunction or court order; information which is potentially confidential, commercially sensitive or which may cause personal distress or loss; commercial endorsement, promotion of any product service or publication; URLs or web links since they cannot be vetted; names of individual officers of public bodies unless they are part of the senior management of the organisation; names of family members of elected representatives or officials of public bodies; names of individuals or information where they may be identified in relation to criminal accusations; language which is offensive, intemperate or provocative.

A similar code governing acceptance of petitions should be included in any statutory framework since all the matters that the Government would consider as part of their acceptable use policy for petitions will be equally relevant when local authorities receive petitions.

We would not support any external appeals mechanism for aggrieved parties should a petition be rejected other than a council's normal complaints procedure.

Question

In particular, how should we define the level of support required before a petition must get a formal, substantive response?

By a fixed number of signatures?

By a percentage of the electorate in the area?

By a hybrid of the two?

Or in some other way?

Suggested Response

As most petitions are likely to relate to local rather than authority wide matters, a fixed number of signatures is preferable to a percentage of the population.

However we would be loath to define a number. Our experiences have shown that on occasions fewer than 25 people have signed a petition because of its very local nature.

It would send out a negative message to citizens if we were to say that their concern was not legitimate because it failed to meet an arbitrary agreed threshold.

3.2 Calls For Action

Question

What if any matters should be excluded from the Councillor Call for Action?

Suggested Response

There are already a number of matters that are excluded from scrutiny. Some of these are excluded by legislation;

Quasi-judicial decisions such as planning and licensing applications

Some by local rules;

Employment issues

Statutory processes

School admission appeals

Issues currently being investigated by Audit/Ombudsman/ongoing legal

Proceedings/formal complaints procedure

The same restrictions should apply

We are also of the view that the cases of individuals should be excluded.

Question

What guidance should government provide on the operation of the Councillor Call for Action?

Suggested Response

Many authorities including Leeds have operated a Councillor Call for Action since 2000 by virtue of the fact of allowing 'requests for scrutiny from any source' (including elected Members). In Leeds these arrangements are detailed within the Council's Constitution.

We would not support any additional guidance which imposed an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy on the process.

Authorities should be allowed to make their own arrangements as to how Inquiries are conducted and not as suggested in paragraph 39 impose the requirement for joint committees in some circumstances.

Paragraph 43 implies that petitions are Community Calls for Action and therefore should come to Scrutiny. We would oppose the introduction of such directives as often petitions are best dealt with and quicker dealt with by the appropriate decision maker. We believe authorities should have local discretion as to how petitions are dealt with.

3.3 Overall

Question

Taken together, would petitions and Call for Action sufficiently empower communities to intervene with their elected representatives? Should we contemplate other measures?

Suggested Response

There are various ways in which the public can raise issues of concern with Councils. Some Councils, including Leeds have the facility for citizens to bring 'deputations' to Council. The most common method is via local Councillors. We are of the view that no additional measures are required of a statutory nature.

Question

Do you have other views on the operation of the new duty to respond to petitions and the Call for Action?

Suggested Response

The overriding feeling is that authorities should be allowed to make their own arrangements for ensuring petitions are responded to and Councillors have the right to ask for a matter to be scrutinised. Government regulation is not required to affect this

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Committee is requested to;

- (i) Consider the suggested responses to the questions posed by the Government's consultation.
- (ii) Approve the formal response to be sent to Government.

This page is intentionally left blank



Local petitions and Calls for Action Consultation

www.communities.gov.uk
community, opportunity, prosperity



Local petitions and Calls for Action Consultation

December 2007
Department for Communities and Local Government: London

Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 020 7944 4400
Website: www.communities.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright, 2007

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

This publication, excluding logos, may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium for research, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to it being reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the publication specified.

Any other use of the contents of this publication would require a copyright licence. Please apply for a Click-Use Licence for core material at www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/system/online/pLogin.asp, or by writing to the Office of Public Sector Information, Information Policy Team, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ.
Fax: 01603 723000 or email: HMSOlicensing@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

If you require this publication in an alternative format please email alternativeformats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Communities and Local Government Publications
PO Box 236
Wetherby
West Yorkshire
LS23 7NB
Tel: 08701 226 236
Fax: 08701 226 237
Textphone: 08701 207 405
Email: communities@twoten.com
or online via the Communities and Local Government website: www.communities.gov.uk

75% recycled
This is printed on
75% recycled paper

December 2007

Product Code: 07CE04983

Contents

Preface	Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	5
Chapter 1. Introduction		6
Chapter 2. The consultation criteria		7
Chapter 3. Local petitions		9
	Evidence for change	9
	General principles underpinning a new duty	10
	Signatures	11
	Guidance	12
Chapter 4. Calls for Action		13
	The Councillors' Call for Action	13
	Empowering communities to call for action	14
Chapter 5. Consultation questions		16
Chapter 6. How to submit your views		17
	Next steps	18
Regulatory Impact Assessment		18

Preface

This Government is determined to breathe new life into local democracy. That means giving elected local councillors the space to show a lead: less red tape from Whitehall and more freedom to spend money on local priorities. But it also means giving local people new opportunities to set the agenda for themselves, to have their say about local services and get things done on the issues they care about. Whether it's improving housing, cleaning up the streets, or getting tough with anti-social behaviour, it's often local people themselves who understand the problem best and can come up with the best solutions.

We've taken big steps towards 'devolution to the doorstep' in recent years. The 2006 Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities* made clear that new discretion for town halls needed to go hand in hand with greater accountability to local people. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provided a vital framework – a duty on local authorities to inform, consult and involve local people in their decisions and services, and new powers for local councillors to call for action on a broad range of local issues.

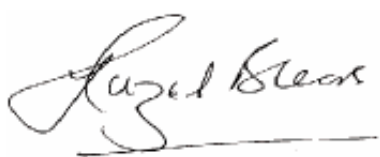
Today, we want to go further still. In *The Governance of Britain* the Prime Minister launched a national conversation about renewing our democracy, including at the local level; and in October, I published an *Action Plan for Community Empowerment*, setting out what my Department is doing to give people a real say over their neighbourhood.

This consultation takes forward one of the commitments in that plan – to look carefully at the idea of placing a duty on local authorities to respond constructively to the petitions they receive from local people.

We in the UK are some of Europe's biggest petition writers. People use petitions as a way to raise local issues they really care about – speed bumps, local shops, social care. Many local authorities already deal with petitions systematically, scrupulously and fairly.

But I want everyone, no matter where they live, to have the confidence of knowing that their concerns will be taken seriously. I believe that there is a case for acting to ensure that standards everywhere are brought up to those of the best, and am inclined to put all authorities on the same footing by providing a legislative framework for dealing with local petitions. I want to give people the chance to help shape that framework before reaching a conclusion on the best way forward.

I look forward to hearing your views.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Blears', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP,
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**

Chapter 1

Introduction

1. The Governance of Britain Green Paper, published in July 2007, said that petitions can provide an important way for local communities to express their views collectively and generate local debate, and improve the connection between residents and local authorities. It added that the Government is considering the introduction of a duty requiring local authorities to consider and investigate petitions from local communities, and guarantee a response on the issues which have been raised.
2. In the Green Paper, the Government also announced its intention to consult on extending the right of people to intervene with their elected representatives through community rights to call for action.
3. This consultation paper seeks views on:
 - how the arrangements for local petitions can be strengthened and the details of how the new system might operate
 - the call for action introduced under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
4. This consultation does not cover petitions to the House of Commons or the Government, which are dealt with separately in paragraphs 157 to 163 of the Governance of Britain.

Chapter 2

The consultation criteria

5. The Government has adopted a code of practice on consultations. The criteria below apply to all UK national public consultations on the basis of a document in electronic or printed form. They will often be relevant to other sorts of consultation. Though they have no legal force, and cannot prevail over statutory or other mandatory external requirements (eg under European Community Law), they should otherwise generally be regarded as binding on UK departments and their agencies, unless ministers conclude that exceptional circumstances require a departure.
 - Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy
 - Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses
 - Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible
 - Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy
 - Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator
 - Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.
6. The full consultation code may be viewed at:
http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/consultation_guidance/index.asp
7. Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed these criteria? If not, or if you have any other observations about ways of improving the consultation process please contact:

Albert Joyce,
Communities and Local Government Consultation Co-ordinator
Zone 6/H10
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

or by email to albert.joyce@communities.gsi.gov.uk

8. Please note that responses to the consultation itself should be sent to the contact shown within the main body of the consultation (page 17).
9. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published by 12 June 2008 (within three months of end of consultation period) at the address below.

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/consultations/

Paper copies will be available on request.

10. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).
11. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.
12. The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and, in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Chapter 3

Local petitions

Evidence for change

13. There is evidence that a formal process for handling petitions adds value to public life. In 2005, 38 per cent of respondents to the Citizenship Survey said they had undertaken a civic activity. 60 per cent of them claimed that they had signed a petition in the previous twelve months. Petitioning was the most commonly undertaken of the nine activities grouped under civic engagement for the purposes of this survey.
14. Qualitative research in 2006 found that participants felt that petitions were a good method for bringing issues to the attention of local government. However, they were sceptical about local government's ability or willingness to act on or be responsive to petitions¹.
15. Overall, research indicates that responsiveness is a key element to petitions' political efficacy, whether in the form of a formal response from the governance body concerned, or of a referendum or ballot to decide the issue.
16. Petitioning is used in a number of countries as a trigger leading to electoral action, typically in the form of a referendum – Switzerland and the USA are typical examples. These can be either citizens' initiatives or popular referendums. In some instances, the referendums are binding. Petitions can also be used to initiate recall ballots. This system is used in the USA (at state and local/municipal levels), and in British Columbia, Canada.
17. Other jurisdictions, for example Scotland and Queensland, have formal petitioning systems which do not lead to ballots. Instead, the petitioner can expect a response from either the relevant committee or MP. In these examples, a response is not guaranteed.
18. Political parties and campaign groups in countries where petitioning is a well-established feature of the democratic landscape have become adept at using petitions to further their own agendas. They can also counteract a petition campaign, either through developing a counter proposal or by demobilising support for the petition. The evidence therefore indicates that petitioning (as a tool of direct democracy), can support representative democracy.

¹ BMG, 2006

General principles underpinning a new duty

19. The Government believes that there should be a duty on local authorities to respond to petitions in the following circumstances:
 - (a) **The subject of the petition relates to the functions of the local authority, or other public services with shared delivery responsibilities with the local authority through the Local Area Agreement or other partnership arrangement**
20. Local authorities have a wide range of functions, which include the promotion of the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area and its people. They are the “place shapers” for their area, and this has been reinforced by provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which require a long list of partner organisations to cooperate with the local authority in developing the Sustainable Community Strategy for the area, and in setting local improvement targets. The role of local authorities has also been reinforced by the Sub National Review published in July 2007.
21. The Government’s proposal is that local authorities should be required to respond to any petition that asks them to consider any issue which falls within their broad functions as outlined above. Petitions which would more properly be dealt with by another public body – and raise issues which relate neither to local improvement targets agreed by that body, nor to the area’s sustainable community strategy – would fall outside the proposed new duty.
22. An important example of this principle will arise in the context of education services. A local authority would not be required to respond to a petition which raises issues which can only be addressed substantively by the governors and head-teacher of a particular school. On the other hand, the duty would apply where the petition relates to the education functions of the local authority.
 - (b) **The petition has been organised by a local person**
23. It is proposed that there should be nothing to prevent local petitioners from invoking the help of national organisations having wider interests – but that the organiser of record of a local petition should be a local person. It is that person who should present the petition to the local authority. We would welcome views about how “local person” should be defined. Obvious options are:
 - (a) a person appearing in the electoral register for the local authority’s area
 - (b) any adult who lives or works in the area at the time the petition is submitted, or
 - (c) any adult who has lived or worked in the area for at least a qualifying period of time before the petition is submitted.

24. Options (b) and (c) might both be extended to anyone who attends a school or college in the area, in order to make this form of engagement available to children. We would welcome respondents' views on that possibility.

(c) The petition demonstrates a sufficient level of support from local people

25. On the one hand, requiring local authorities to respond to all petitions, even those with a minimum level of support, could impose unnecessary processes and costs. On the other, setting a very high level of support as a requirement for a petition to receive a formal response would frustrate the underlying purpose of the policy. There are three possible approaches to setting a threshold of a sufficient level of support. They are to define:
- in absolute terms the number of relevant signatories that a qualifying petition must have (for example, "at least 250 signatures"); or
 - a qualifying petition as one that has the signatures of a given proportion of those whose signatures are regarded as relevant (for example, at least 1 per cent of the electorate of the area in question). This could make it difficult for the petition organiser to know how many signatures were required for the petition to be valid; or
 - an absolute number, or a given proportion of the population, whichever is the lower (for example. "200 signatures or 5 per cent of the population" would mean that communities of less than 4,000 people would have to find fewer than 200 signatures).

Signatures

26. In the above options, a "relevant" signature could be regarded as that either of:
- (a) an elector of the area; or
 - (b) anyone who lives or works in the area.

Support would have to be reasonably current (eg signature within the last 12 months).

27. We would, in either case, want to consider options for extending the range of relevant signatures to local children who either live in the area, or attend school there. We would welcome respondents' views on that possibility.
28. Support for petitions might take the traditional form (signature, date, and address), but we would want to allow for electronic petitions too, and would be glad to have respondents' views on how they might work.
29. We believe local authorities should be entitled to accept signatures without further validation if they have no reason to doubt them; but should be empowered to investigate if they felt it necessary, and to strike them out if appropriate.

30. It is proposed that petitioners ought to be able to present their petitions either to the council, or to one of its councillors.
31. Councils and their councillors would be under a general duty to consider whether any request or document they receive is a petition. We would hope to avoid technicalities here. The word “petition” would, we hope, have a plain English meaning; we would probably not seek to define it in statute. Where a council or councillor is of the view that a document is a petition, that decision would trigger the petition provisions.
32. We take the view that a petition should at least contain:
 - (a) the proposition which it promotes
 - (b) the name and address of the organiser
 - (c) the local authority from which a response is sought (and, if more than one, all the local authorities to which it has been submitted)
 - (d) the area to which it relates (ie the whole authority, or a defined area forming part of it)
 - (e) the names, addresses and signatures of those who support it (or, in the case of an electronic petition, their names, addresses and email addresses).

Guidance

33. We believe that the Secretary of State should have the power to issue guidance about all aspects of the process.

Chapter 4

Calls for action

The Councillors' Call for Action

34. In the recent Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Parliament amended section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 – before, indeed, it had come into force – to align it with the provision in section 119 of the 2007 Act. All councillors are thus empowered to refer local government matters and local crime and disorder matters for consideration by the relevant overview and scrutiny committees of their local authorities.
35. The result amounts to a “**councillor call for action**”. Any councillor will be able to refer a local matter affecting his or her ward or division to the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee of his or her authority. In the case of a local crime and disorder matter, that will be to the authority’s crime and disorder committee.
36. The committee is required then to put the matter on its agenda, and discuss it at a meeting. It is not to be required to take any further action; but all the powers it has – to mount inquiries, to require information, and to make reports and recommendations – are to be available to it, if it decides to take the matter up.
37. The power to refer a matter is available only where the matter is of direct concern to the ward or division which the councillor represents. A councillor can refer a matter even if no citizen has asked him or her to consider it. There is no requirement for councillors in multi-member wards to agree – any of them can refer a matter.
38. A local government matter, in relation to a member of a local authority, is defined as a matter which:
 - (a) relates to the discharge of any function of the authority
 - (b) affects all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works in that area, and
 - (c) is not an excluded matter.

A local crime and disorder matter, in relation to a member of a local authority, has been defined to mean a matter concerning:

- (a) crime and disorder (including in particular forms of crime and disorder that involve anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), or
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

that affects the electoral area represented by the member, or the people who live or work in that area.

39. It will no doubt happen that some local issues have implications in more than one field. The Government's view is that, in such a case, the councillor would be entitled to refer it to every overview and scrutiny committee which covers some aspect of the issue. In practice, committees will, no doubt, take the sensible decision to join forces in order to consider such matters in the round.

Excluded matters

40. The Secretary of State has power to exclude by order specified descriptions of matter that would otherwise be "local government matters". This was included primarily so that confusion could be avoided between calls for action and well-defined statutory processes such as planning and licensing appeals. We now wish, as part of this consultation, to seek views about exactly what ought to be excluded, and why.

Guidance

41. The Secretary of State is empowered to issue statutory guidance for local authorities, their committees, and their members. She intends to do so when these measures are brought into force. Respondents are invited to highlight the key issues on which guidance (whether statutory or not), would be helpful.

Empowering communities to call for action

42. In the *Governance of Britain* green paper, Government highlighted its desire to achieve greater direct empowerment of communities, and undertook to consult on a number of areas, including "extending the right of people to intervene with their elected representatives through community rights to call for action".

43. Having established a *councillor* call for action (in law, if not yet in practice), we take the view that a duty on local authorities to respond to qualifying local petitions would amount to a *community* call for action – albeit a call made by a community of interest. We should, however, like to hear views on whether other steps should be considered as well.

Chapter 5

Consultation questions

44. We wish to take the views of citizens, local authorities, councillors and community organisations on all the details of the proposals set out in this document, but particularly on the following questions.

Petitions

- (a) The Government believes there should be a statutory duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions. What conditions must be met before a local authority is required to respond formally to a petition? (*Paragraph 19*)
- (b) In particular, how should we define the level of support required before a petition must get a formal, substantive response?
- By a fixed number of signatures?
 - By a percentage of the electorate in the area?
 - By a hybrid of the two?
 - Or in some other way? (*Paragraph 25*)

Calls for action

- (d) What if any matters should be excluded from the call for action? (*Paragraph 40*)
- (e) What guidance should Government provide on the operation of the councillor call for action? (*Paragraph 41*)

Overall

- (f) Taken together, would petitions and calls for action sufficiently empower communities to intervene with their elected representatives? Should we contemplate other measures? (*Paragraph 43*)
- (g) Do you have other views on the operation of the new duty to respond to petitions and the call for action?

Chapter 6

How to submit your views

Responses from individuals and organisations may be submitted in writing to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Comments should be received no later than 20 March 2008 and should be sent to:

Rosie Milner
Communities and Local Government
5th floor, Zone F8
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

or emailed to:

petitions@communities.gsi.gov.uk

The consultation document and its response form can be downloaded from the consultations page on the Communities and Local Government website (www.communities.gov.uk). For details of how to order hard copies see the inside front cover.

This consultation is available on request in alternative formats.

We may publish or make public the responses and comments received. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request.

If you wish your response, if published, to be unattributable, please let us know when you send it to us. Unattributable responses may also be included in any statistical summary of comments received and views expressed.

Next steps

The consultation will run until 20 March 2008. Once this deadline has passed, Government will consider the responses received by that date and issue a report on the consultation by 12 June 2008.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

An Impact Assessment has not been produced as the cost to the public sector is likely to be less than £5 million per annum and the impact on the private and third sectors is likely to be negligible and currently unquantifiable. We would welcome suggestions as to how such impacts might be determined and will consider the need for an Impact Assessment as we take this policy forward.

This page is intentionally left blank



Originator: P N Marrington

Tel: 39 51151

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th March 2008

Subject: Financial Health Monitoring 2007/08 – Third Quarter Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee now receives budget information on a quarterly basis. The attached report presents the Council's financial performance for 2007/08 quarter 3. Officers will be in attendance at today's meeting to answer any questions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to note the Council's financial performance for 2007/08 quarter 3 and consider any potential areas for further scrutiny.

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda item:

Originator: D Meeson

Tel: 74250

Report of the Director of Resources

Executive Board

Date: 8th February 2008

Subject: Financial Health Monitoring 2007/08 – Third Quarter Report

Electoral wards affected:

Specific implications for:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in

(details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the financial health of the authority after nine months of the financial year in respect of the revenue budget and the housing revenue account. Separate reports on the Council's Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account are elsewhere on this agenda.
2. The report identifies that a number of council services are continuing to face financial pressures in 2007/08. However additional funding sources have been identified to mitigate against these pressures, and after funding those areas of concern outlined at the half year stage, an increase in reserves carried forward to 2008/09 of £2.3m is projected.
3. It is proposed that this increase in reserves will be used to support the 2008/09 revenue budget as detailed in the separate revenue budget and Council Tax report.
4. Members are asked to note the projected financial position of the authority after nine months of the financial year.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out for the Board the Council's financial health position for 2007/08 after nine months of the financial year. The report covers revenue expenditure and income to date compared to the approved budget, the projected year end position and proposed actions to ensure a balanced budget by the year end. The report also highlights the position regarding other key financial indicators, including Council Tax collection and the payment of creditors.
- 1.2 A separate report on the Housing Revenue Account position can be found elsewhere on this agenda.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the net budget for the general fund was set at £505.2m, which provided for a contribution of £4.3m from reserves. As a result, the level of general fund reserves at 31st March 2008 were estimated to be £13.0m.
- 2.2. As reported in the 2006/07 outturn report to Board in June 2007, the net contribution to General Fund reserves was £6.3m in excess of the budget giving a balance carried forward of £23.6m. Taking account of the budgeted usage of reserves of £4.3m, the £0.67m approved by the Board at their meeting on the 4th April 2007 to support a number of one off initiatives, together with other potential liabilities identified in the report, it is considered that this is a prudent level to ensure that reserves at 31st March 2008 will be capable of covering the estimated financial risk of the authority as assessed using the risk based reserves strategy.
- 2.3 Budget Monitoring is a continuous process throughout the year, and this report reviews the position of the budget after nine months and comments on the key issues impacting on the overall achievement of the budget for the current year.

3. MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 In the half year report, members were informed of a number of potentially significant pressures facing the Council 2007/08. it was recommended that funding was made available in savings from capital financing costs and by releasing general fund reserves in the sum of £5m to areas of immediate concern. This was approved by full Council on the 16th January 2008.
- 3.2 After funding these pressures general fund reserves were still projected to be above the minimum level required under the risk based reserves policy.
- 3.3 At month 6, pressures within Adult Social Care were reported at £3.3m, of which £1.9m was allocated to fund learning disability commissioning and direct payments. At month 9 the projected overspend has reduced to £0.6m and work is continuing to balance the budget overall by the year-end. The remaining variance at month nine mainly reflects some budgeted savings that are not now projected to be achieved in full, although contingency actions have been identified to partly offset the financial impact.

- 3.4 Within Children's Services, the pressures within social care being experienced in the early part of this financial year have continued. After allocating £1.3m at the half year to the service, the projected spend is still £2.9m above the approved budget. This mainly reflects increased numbers of children and fee-paid foster carers, together with higher than anticipated spend on leaving care services and costs for unaccompanied asylum seeking children exceeding the grant claimable.
- 3.5 All other directorates are on line to achieve a balanced budget position net of amounts allocated at the half year.
- 3.6 As agreed by Board at month 3 savings in capital financing costs of £4.2m were transferred to the job evaluation reserve. The latest projected costings for job evaluation in year is around £6.5m compared to the base budget of £3.0m, although this is still subject to agreement. It is proposed therefore to release funds from the reserve once the position is finalised.
- 3.7 Further debt savings of £6.4m have been achieved through the continuation of debt rescheduling, the effect of the revised accounting treatment of premiums and discounts and borrowing in advance of the capital programme need requirements.
- 3.8 Taking account of all of the above, the projected surplus is £2.3m and it is proposed to transfer this to reserves to support the 2008/09 revenue budget as detailed in the separate revenue budget and Council Tax report elsewhere on this agenda.

4 SCHOOLS

- 4.1 School reserves stood at £6.1m as at 31st March 2007. This comprised aggregate surpluses in the primary and special schools sectors and an overall deficit of £1.6m in the secondary school sector.
- 4.2 There are a number of schools which have set deficit budgets for 2007/08. In accordance with the Council's policy on licensed budgets, such schools are required to submit action plans detailing how they intend to move towards a balanced position. The evaluation of these plans does raise a number of issues as to deliverability and the current licenced deficit policy, and its application is being reviewed in conjunction with Education Leeds.

5 COLLECTION OF LOCAL TAXATION

- 5.1 The level of Council Tax collected at the end of December 2007 is 83.68% of the debit for the year of £226m. This is slightly behind the same period last year due to more clients choosing to pay over 12 months instead of 10. The performance target for the year of 96.5% is being closely monitored.
- 5.2 The collection of non-domestic rates for the first nine months is 88.13% of the current net debit of £289.2m, which is broadly in line with the same period last year. Again, the performance target of 98.6% is being closely monitored.

6 PROMPT PAYMENT OF INVOICES

- 6.1 A local target of 92% for paying all undisputed invoices within 30 days of receipt of agreed terms was set for the year. For the period 1st April to 31st December the actual

performance was 92.3% (91.4% as at month 6), which represents improved performance since the transfer of the function to the Business Support Centre.

- 6.2 The total number of invoices processed in the period which meet the prompt payment criteria was 407,608. After accounting for 9,299 (6,793 at month 6) invoices in query with the supplier, 367,811 invoices were paid within 30 days, leaving 30,498 paid after 30 days.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Members of the Executive Board are asked to
- Note the projected financial position of the authority after nine months of the new financial year
 - Approve the transfer of the projected surplus to general reserves.

Report of the Director of Resources and the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Executive Board

Date: 8 February 2008

Subject: Housing Revenue Account Budget 2008/2009

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Eligible for Call In <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Not Eligible for Call In (Details contained in the report) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report summarises the HRA budget and ALMO management fee distribution for 2008/09. Overall ALMO management fees have been held at their 2007/08 basis.
2. Changes to housing subsidy property allowances have seen a loss of subsidy of £7.4 m; in overall terms, the level of negative subsidy payable in 2008/09 will be £46.4m.
3. Communities and Local Government (CLG) has removed the 5% cap on average rent rises in operation during 2006/07 and 2007/08. Rent setting under rent restructuring has been re-introduced but with the convergence date extended beyond the original date of 2011/12. Under the Government's rent restructuring policy, the average 2007/08 rent increase for Leeds should be 7.8%, although the housing subsidy system assumes that the average rent increase will be no lower than 5.8%. The budget is based upon an average rent increase of 5.8%.
4. There have been no changes in the methodology of allocating management fees via the formulaic approach agreed in previous years apart from the introduction of a £4 per property allowance for Energy Performance certificate production.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1. This report sets out:-

- the Latest Estimate for 2007/08 and the Original Estimate for 2008/09 and comments on the major issues which have influenced the Budget.
- the proposals for rents to rise in 2008/09.
- the principles for allocating budgets to the ALMOs, via their Management Fees.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The 2008/09 Original Estimate has been prepared at outturn prices which means that allowances for inflation have been included in the budget submission.

2.2 This report includes the ongoing financial arrangements in respect of the Arms Length Management Organisations (“ALMO’s”) which took responsibility for managing the Council’s stock of housing from February 2003. Following an ALMO review, including a city wide ballot of tenants, the management function has been delivered by three new ALMOs from 1st April 2007.

2.3 In accordance with the Council’s Policy and Budget Framework, decisions as to the Council’s budget and Housing Rent increases are reserved to Council. As such the purpose of this report is to propose a budget to Council, and thus the decisions recommended by this report are not eligible for call in.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Appendix 1 shows the projected Housing Revenue Account Summary for the 2007/08 Original Estimate, Latest Estimate 2007/08 and the 2008/09 Original Estimate.

Variation Original Estimate 2007/08 to Latest Estimate 2007/08

3.2.1 The original budget assumed that general HRA reserves would be £4.21m at 1st April 2007, although the final position was actually £0.5m lower at £3.71m due to the creation of the Housing Decency Reserve.

3.2.2 The latest estimate projects an unchanged net budget position. However, the main reasons for the movement in 2007/08 are:

- a) ALMO performance incentives – an additional £0.6m has been passed to the ALMOs for improved void performance and CPA.
- b) SCA allowances – the figure of £34.8m contained in the final 2007/08 subsidy determination was overstated and has now been corrected by CLG to £30.581m.
- c) Expenditure of £350k for Little London Structural surveys, £200k for Swarcliffe Environmental Works and £125k for Easel demolition (borrowing) costs are now

reflected in the supplies and services and capital budgets. This total spend of £675k is funded from the specific reserves existing at 1st April 2007.

- d) Property and void numbers – Property numbers are higher than originally projected due to lower RTB sales and demolitions, and lower void turnover. As a result, additional rental income of £0.8m is currently projected – this is partly offset by higher void performance incentive payments to the ALMOs (£0.6m).
- e) There is additional projected income of £0.4m from the ALMO bad debts penalty, £0.3m from leaseholders and £0.3m from the IT ALMO SLA.
- f) Latest subsidy calculations show that the compensation for restricting rent rises to 5% (RCA) may have been overstated by CLG by £1m leading to a higher negative subsidy figure.
- g) Disrepair - The number of claims for disrepair has been steadily falling throughout the year with the average number of cases per month now around 9. Accordingly it has been possible to further reduce the provision required to meet these claims by £0.025m.
- h) In line with recent write-off trends and reductions in the amount of arrears and Housing Benefit (HB) overpayments, the bad debts provision has been adjusted downwards by £1.1m.

3.3 Variation Original Estimate 2007/08 to Original Estimate 2008/09

3.3.1 The budget for 2008/09 has been constructed on the achievement of working balances of £3.7m at 31 March 2009, which represents around 2.5% of the non-ALMO costs including negative subsidy. This is considered to be an acceptable minimum level of balances following the transfer of services and responsibilities to the ALMOs. The transfer of services also includes an element of transfer of risk and the ALMOs are able to retain their own working balances.

3.3.2 The reasons for the movement from 2007/08 to 2008/09 are:

- a) The negative subsidy the Council is required to pay back to the Government has increased significantly following the housing subsidy settlement. The Council revenue contribution per property in negative subsidy has increased from £1,008 (net of Rental Constraint Allowance) per property to £1,154 which is a £7.4m increase. Additionally falling interest rates and reduced premiums and discounts have generated a cost of £2.1m, although this is offset by reductions in actual capital charges.
- b) There is no proposed increase in the management fee to ALMOs, apart from the disaggregation of budgets during the year, although further provision has been made for ALMO Performance Incentives of £0.271m to reflect the ALMO's contribution to the CPA assessment.
- c) Finalisation of the SCA allowances payable through the Housing Subsidy grant to the ALMOs is still awaited from CLG.
- d) The transfer of HR and payments staff to the new Business Support Centre during 2007/08, along with the revised treatment of regeneration staff as an internal

recharge rather than direct employee cost, has resulted in a reduction of £0.8m in employee costs.

- e) For the staff directly employed within the Housing Revenue Account, a pay award of 2.0% has been provided, which together with other inflationary increases means additional costs of £0.28m, plus FRS17 pension adjustments of £0.17m.
- f) Increases in net rentals & service charges are expected to generate an additional £5.9m, details of which are given below in section 4.
- g) The number of claims for disrepair has been steadily falling throughout the year with the average number of cases per month now around 9. Accordingly it has been possible to further reduce the provision required to meet these claims by £0.025m.
- h) Improved collection of current and historical debt has allowed a reduction of £1.026m in the cost of bad debts;
- i) Costs relating to support & other services reflect a £2.36m increase. This increase reflects increased costs relating to customer services (£1.235m), and £1.1m PPPU and regeneration charges for the Little London and Beeston Hill & Holbeck PFI schemes. There is an ongoing review of the appropriateness of the support charges to the HRA and any changes arising from this review will be phased in over later budgets.
- j) After an increase in the unitary charge for Swarcliffe (£0.315m), a budgeted contribution of £0.5m (£0.8m 2007/08 OE) will be made to the sinking fund which represents the net surplus made in the year.
- k) Interest rates have dropped marginally, but the major change in the capital budget is the deferment of the planned repayment of unsupported heat lease borrowing by one year to fund budgetary pressures in 2008/09.

3.4 Swarcliffe PFI

- 3.4.1 There is also a contribution to the Swarcliffe PFI sinking fund of £508k in 2008/09. The contract for Swarcliffe PFI commenced on 1 April 2005.
- 3.4.2 This reflects the net surplus made in year being the excess of income, including government grant and the unitary charge. This is as a result of the way in which the Government allocates grant support for PFI which results in surpluses in the early years of such schemes.
- 3.4.3 The reserve is to be retained to fund deficits in future years.

4.0 **Rentals**

- 4.1 The level of Council House rents are controlled through the application of the Government's Rent Restructuring programme.
- 4.2 The Government's Rent Restructuring Policy is based upon the following principles:
 - social rent should remain affordable and well below those in the private sector;

- social rent should be fairer and less confusing for tenants;
- there should be a closer link between rent and the qualities which tenants value in properties; and,
- differences between the rent set by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSL) should be removed.

4.3 Rent Restructuring

- 4.3.1 The intention of the rent restructuring policy is that tenants across the country should be paying comparable social rents, allowing for variations in type of property and 'economic' circumstances. A formula has been devised to enable rents across the country to move to 'convergence' by the extended date of 2016/17.
- 4.3.2 In order for the Council's rents to reach convergence with the rest of the country, rents need to increase by 7.8% in 2008/09. This rental increase is 'relatively' high in order to 'catch up' after the dampening effect caused by the two years of 5% rent caps in 2006/07 and 2007/08, and that Leeds's rents are comparatively low compared to the rest of the country; rents should have risen by 7.3% in 2007/08 if this cap of 5% hadn't been implemented by the Government. Assuming no changes in inflation rates, then rents would also rise by around 4.9% in 2009/10; if rents are raised by 5.8% in 2008/09, then the equivalent rise in 2009/10 would be 6.5% to 'restore' convergence.
- 4.3.3 It should be noted that in calculating the Housing Subsidy grant, the Government has assumed that rents will increase by 5.8%, called the guideline rent. In making this assumption, the Government have given the Council the 'freedom' to raise additional rental income over and above the rental income it takes back through the subsidy system, through application of the 'convergence' rent of 7.8%.
- 4.3.4 Subsequently, Government policy implies a rent increase that should be 7.8% under rent restructuring, but no lower than 5.8% under the Housing Subsidy system; a 5.8% rent increase impacts upon the ability of the HRA to resource any uplift in the ALMO management fee.

4.4 Rent Compensation

- 4.4.1 After two years during which rent increases have been capped at 5%, CLG have informed Authorities that this cap is no longer applicable. Rents are again to be set under the rent restructuring formulae in accordance with their rent restructuring policy, but with a convergence date put back to 2016/17; this convergence date is still subject to review and may change. As a consequence of this removal of the 5% cap, the compensation mechanism (Rental Constraint Allowance) in operation during these two years has been removed. Instead, authorities are expected to replace the loss of this compensation through the newly restored 'freedom' to raise rents above their guideline rent.
- 4.4.2 Compensation will no longer be paid in the year in which the rental loss has been incurred. Instead, CLG have proposed that compensation will be based upon the lost rent incurred through capping rent increases by inflation + a half % (4.4%) +/- £2.00 per week, and will be recognised in the following year's subsidy determination.

4.5 Overall changes in rents

4.5.1 Following the application of the seventh year of the Government's rent restructuring policy, the basis of which is partly determined by the value of properties & the number of bedrooms in each property, would mean that average rents would rise by 7.8%, representing an average rent increase of £4.23 over 48 weeks. Individual tenants are protected from large increases in rent in that the formula only allows rents to rise by inflation + a half % (4.4%) +/- £2.00 per week.

4.5.2 However, it is proposed that a lower average rent 'cap' of 5.8% is applied, representing a lower average rent increase of £3.16 over 48 weeks; although the effects on individual tenants will vary according to the restructuring formulae.

4.5.3 Consequently, rental income from housing stock is now budgeted to increase by £8.7m offset by a reduction of £2.8m through changes in property numbers.

4.5.4 The comparative figures are:

	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>		
Actual Rent (average)	£54.54	£57.70	+5.8%	+£3.16

4.5.5 Rentals from garages (currently £5.25 per week) fall outside the rent restructuring rules and normally rise in line with average rental increases. It is proposed to increase garage rents by 5.8% to £5.55 per week.

4.6 Service Charges

4.6.1 Service charges, which fall within the constraints of rent restructuring, are subject to the same 5.8% average increase as rents.

4.6.2 It is the intention of the Government's rent restructuring policy that service charges will be disaggregated by the end of the ten year implementation programme (2010/2011) and that rental income will reflect purely management & maintenance of properties. This is not currently the case and will need to be kept under review between now and the end of rent restructuring.

5.0 **Housing Subsidy**

5.1 Housing subsidy is a notional calculation based on what the Government estimates we ought to spend on housing management and maintenance plus capital financing costs, offset by our guideline rental income & assumed mortgage interest receivable. Where this is negative we have to pay money to CLG. Leeds is a negative subsidy authority.

5.2 Allowances by property compared with the current year are:

<u>Housing Subsidy</u>	<u>2007/08</u> £	<u>2008/09</u> £	<u>change</u> £	<u>change</u> %
Guideline rent	(2,645.18)	(2,799.03)	(153.85)	5.8
Rental Constraint Allowance	113.53	0.00	(113.53)	(100.00)
Management allowance	537.68	564.86	27.18	5.1
Maintenance allowance	985.87	1080.49	94.62	9.6
Management & maintenance	1,523.55	1,645.35	121.80	8.0
Negative subsidy per property	(1,008.10)	(1,153.68)	(145.58)	14.4
Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	581.10	636.10	55.00	9.5
Total allowances	(427.00)	(517.58)	(90.58)	21.2

5.3 The overall impact on subsidy, after allowing for changes in property numbers and unit allowances is as below:

	<u>Final</u> <u>Determination</u> <u>2007/08</u> £K	<u>Final</u> <u>Determination</u> <u>2008/09</u> £K	<u>Change</u> £K	<u>Change</u> %
Management & maintenance	93,168	98,810	5,643	6.1
Guideline rent & RCA	(151,739)	(164,754)	(13,015)	8.6
	(58,571)	(65,944)	(7,373)	12.6
Capital allowances	21,659	19,558	(2,100)	(9.7)
Negative subsidy	(36,912)	(46,386)	(9,473)	25.7
ALMO allowances	30,581	30,581	0	0.0
PFI	6,097	6,097	0	0.0
	(234)	(9,708)	(9,473)	4,039.0
MRA	34,702	37,294	2,592	7.5
	34,468	27,586	(6,881)	(20.0)

5.4 Initial expectations were for a two year settlement covering 2008/09 and 2009/10. However, this determination is only for 2008/09 and a new determination will be issued for 2009/10. On the 12th December 2007, Housing Minister Yvette Cooper announced a review of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. This review will make its final report in spring 2009, setting out a way forward for the subsidy system, rents policy across all social housing, and spending needs for council housing; earlier advice is expected in 2008 to inform decisions about council rents and subsidy determinations for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

5.5 Subsidy trigger (2007/08)

5.5.1 Within subsidy, there is a possible variation in the basis of calculation of property numbers whereby if stock changes by 10% or 3,000 properties over two years, subsidy is then based on average stock in the year, whereas if we fail to hit that trigger, subsidy is based on property numbers at the start of the previous year (i.e. 1

April 07 for 2008/09). Property numbers need to fall by at least 1,802 to meet this trigger in 2007/08.

5.5.2 The current projections for 2007/08 are for sales of 469 properties (393 actually sold between 1 April and 31 December) compared with a total of 1,191 sold in 05/06 and 665 in 06/07. Additionally, demolitions of 578 are projected and other changes of 80; sales of 420 properties are currently projected for 2008/09.

5.5.3 There are a number of factors affecting RTB sales, not least:

- Property valuations are increasing generally.
- Decency work is being undertaken and it may be that potential applications are held up awaiting completion of this work. This will have an impact on valuations as well.
- The maximum discount in this region is £24,000 for both flats and houses, meaning that any increase in valuations is met by the potential purchaser.
- Discounts are also affected by the amount of expenditure on a property in the years prior to sale. Only approx. half a dozen RTBs are affected by this each year, although with expenditure on decency this may increase.
- From 18 January 2005 new tenants have to have a five year qualifying period. This is most likely to have an impact from 08/09 onwards as these tenants would have been entitled to exercise RTBs under the old rules at that point.

5.5.4 The RTB sales are a major factor in achieving the subsidy trigger. As a result of the reduction in RTB numbers this year, for the reasons outlined in 5.5.3., it is projected that the subsidy trigger will not be achieved resulting in an increase in negative subsidy of £2.0m.

5.5.5 Should we hit the subsidy trigger, then negative subsidy will decrease by £2.0m, although there will be a partial offset through an decrease in the MRA of £1.1m; MRA resource is related to housing capital expenditure.

6.0 ALMO Management Fees

6.1 The Management Fees to the ALMOs are divided into three elements: one for repairs; one for management costs; and a third category for grounds maintenance was introduced in 2005/2006. The principles for allocating repairs & management budgets to the ALMOs was established in 2003/2004, broadly based on the national housing subsidy model, and the allocation of grounds maintenance is based on land area.

6.2 The total repairs budget for the ALMOs takes account of the percentage increase given by the Government for repairs, adjusted for the reduction in stock. The ALMOs management costs are allocated in accordance with a formula, which follows the same factors which the Government use to allocate resources to Local Authorities and thus, in effect, treats each ALMO as if it were a mini HRA. The formula allocates resources to each area based on the numbers of properties, factors which acknowledge the additional costs associated with flats, and the extent of crime and social deprivation in an area.

6.3 It is proposed to hold the 2008/09 ALMO management fee at the 2007/08 level. The impact on the HRA budget is shown at Appendix 1.

6.4 Disaggregation

6.4.1 After discussions with the ALMOs, it has been agreed to disaggregate Emergency tree work (£102k) and grant funding RTGs (Resident Tenant Groups, £17k).

6.5 Performance Incentives

6.5.1 A number of performance incentives have been put in place to reward ALMO performance, especially in relation to contributions to a successful CPA assessment. Additional Performance Incentives are in place for arrears & voids management.

7.0 Risks

7.1 The following section sets out the significant risks which, should they materialise would affect the budget. The HRA maintains a level of reserves in order to meet the impacts of such risks should they crystallise.

7.2 These risks are reviewed throughout the year as to likelihood and action taken to mitigate any impact wherever possible.

- In year changes to subsidy regulations.
- ALMOs are not able to fully validate the base data used in the subsidy claim.
- ALMOs may incur additional costs that require additional financial support from the HRA.
- The level of additional support required by the ALMOs may not be sustainable in the long term future.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Executive Board is asked to recommend to the Council the adoption of the resolutions below -

- (i) that the budget be approved at the average rent increase figure of 5.8%.
- (ii) that service charges are increased in line with average rent rises;
- (iii) that the charges for garage rents be increased to £5.55 per week.

Appendix 1

Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget - 2008/2009

Summary Budget

	<u>2007/08 OE</u> £000s	<u>2007/08 LE</u> £000s	<u>2008/09 OE</u> £000s
Employees	9,755	9,887	9,401
Premises	1,721	1,724	1,798
Supplies & Services	15,080	15,551	12,960
Transport	231	232	230
Internal charges	7,938	8,065	10,383
Provisions	3,435	2,230	2,325
Capital	21,029	22,622	18,735
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59,189	60,310	55,832
internal income	(1,216)	(1,216)	(1,216)
rents	(153,872)	(154,701)	(159,854)
recharges to ALMOs	(6,151)	(7,019)	(6,602)
other income (inc. service charges)	(7,424)	(7,832)	(7,129)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(109,474)	(110,457)	(118,968)
Housing Subsidy	36,917	37,917	46,386
ALMO Allowances	(34,839)	(30,581)	(30,581)
PFI allowance	(6,097)	(6,097)	(6,097)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(113,493)	(109,218)	(109,260)
contribution to pensions Reserve	(41)	(41)	(113)
contribution to PFI Reserve	801	801	508
Contribution from specific reserves	0	(675)	
Contribution from ALMO Insp . reserve	0	(1,000)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(112,733)	(110,133)	(108,865)
 <u>Payments to the ALMOs</u>			
Management fees	76,844	76,844	76,844
Disaggregation of budgets	0	0	119
Distribution of ALMO Inspn. reserve	0	1,000	
Performance incentives	1,050	1,708	1,321
SCA Allowances	34,839	30,581	30,581
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Budgeted Deficit	0	0	0
 <u>Reserves</u>			
General Reserves b/f	3,712	3,712	3,712
In year projected outturn	0	0	0
Budgeted deficit	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,712	3,712	3,712



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th March 2008

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The attached appendices provide Members with a copy of the Committee's current Work Programme (Appendix 1) and the Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix 2).

1.2 The Forward Plan of Key Decisions covers the period 1st March 2008 to 30th June 2008

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

- (i) Receive and make any changes to the attached Work Programme following decisions made at today's meeting.
- (ii) Receive and note the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

This page is intentionally left blank

Item	Description	Notes	Type of item
Meeting date – 8TH April 2008			
Annual Report			PM
Planning Performance Update			PM
Unscheduled Items			
Working Groups			
Working group	Membership	Progress update	Dates of meetings
ALMO Working Group	Cllrs Grahame, Bentley, Hanley, Pryke, McKenna and Anderson	Initial meeting held and further information requested.	14/11/07

Key:
 CCFA / RFS – Community call for action / request for scrutiny
 RP – Review of existing policy
 DP – Development of new policy
 MSR – Monitoring scrutiny recommendations
 PM – Performance management
 B – Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
 SC – Statutory consultation
 CI – Call in

This page is intentionally left blank

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

For the period 1 March 2008 to 30 June 2008

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
Highway Maintenance To approve the Local Transport Plan: Highway Maintenance Programme 2008/2009.	Director of City Development	3/3/08		Report to Director of City Services	Director of City Development
Bridge Capital Maintenance 2008/09 Approval of programme of design and implementation of strengthening and maintenance schemes and authority to incur expenditure	Director of City Development	3/3/08	Ward members will be consulted at the appropriate time prior to construction	LTP Settlement 2008/09	Director of City Development
Major Arts Grants Agreement of funding 2008/09	Chief Officer Libraries, Arts and Heritage (Portfolio:Leisure)	3/3/08	Executive Board Member	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of City Development
E Services delivery Development of the Council website to increase accessibility of Council Services	Director of Resources	3/3/08		E Services Business case, Delegated Decision notification	Director of Resources

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>Town and District Centres Parking Strategy and Priorities</p> <p>To note the contents and recommendations of the Town and District Centres Parking Strategy and Priorities Study, and to approve recommendations for the development of local parking strategies for the centres identified in the report.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>	<p>No specific consultation is associated with the report. The development of strategies for the centres recommended in the report will be progressed subject to approval by Elected Members to the detailed consultation stage.</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>
<p>Fountain Primary School</p> <p>Approval to carry out capital works and to incur expenditure in respect of the scheme to provide additional accommodation and to carry out internal alterations at Fountain Primary School.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Children's Services)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>		<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of Children's Services</p>

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
Roundhay Road Relocation Project Use of the capital receipt from the sale of site to support relocation of the 25 teams into more suitable accommodation plus approval to identified relocation proposals with cost estimates.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Adult Health and Social Care)	12/3/08	Executive Members, Asset Management Group , Staff, Managers and Service Users of affected services.	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of Adult Social Services
Quarry Hill, Leeds 9 To consider options relating to the sale of Quarry Hill following the receipt of a substantial unsolicited unconditional offer.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)	12/3/08	Members of the Council	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of City Development
ICT "Applications Infrastructure" (software) Approval of purchase and deployment of ICT "Applications Infrastructure" (software) components and services as required.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Central and Corporate)	12/3/08	Directors / Chief Officers and Lead Members	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of Resources

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>Joint Services Centre Approval to proceed to Lift stage 2 for Joint Service Centres at Chapelton and Harehills</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio:Neighbourhoods and Housing)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>		<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods</p>
<p>RHB funded clearance sites and their inclusion in the Strategic Affordable Housing Approval of proposal to incorporate the RHB funded clearance sites into the pool of Council owned land, currently 77 acres, which has been set aside for the development of affordable housing via the Strategic Affordable Housing Partnership.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio:Neighbourhoods & Housing)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>		<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods</p>
<p>Under occupation in Council Housing Policy decision for legal powers</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio:Neighbourhoods and Housing)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>	<p>ALMO officers and Leeds Tenant Federation.</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods</p>

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>Stage 1 application for a Parks for People Heritage Lottery Funding for Middleton Park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval to submit a Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, with support from Wade's Charity, to restore Middleton Park. 2. Approval of the surrender of the leases of 218 and 220 Middleton Town Street to Wade's Charity to facilitate the sale and subsequent use as match funding for the restoration project at Middleton Park. 	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Leisure)</p>	<p>12/3/08</p>	<p>Ward Members, Wade's Charity, Friends of Middleton Park and young people.</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>New Leaf Leisure Centres - Design and Cost Report and Third Party Funding notification</p> <p>Approval of an injection into the Capital programme and authority to spend in respect of off site highway works at Morley and Armley leisure centres.</p> <p>Notification of the securing of third party funding to part offset the highway costs.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)</p>	<p>16/4/08</p>	<p>Ward Members, Leisure Centre users, Executive Member for Learning and Leisure</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>
<p>Pudsey Bus Station Redevelopment</p> <p>Approval to construct the highway works associated with the redevelopment of Pudsey Bus Station</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)</p>	<p>16/4/08</p>	<p>As this is a joint LCC/Metro scheme, joint consultation is ongoing</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>
<p>Abbey Mills and St Ann's Mills, Kirkstall, Leeds</p> <p>To consider the offers for St Anns' Mills.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)</p>	<p>16/4/08</p>	<p>Ward Members</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
Proposed Leeds Arena Development, Selection of Preferred Operator To seek approval to the selection of the preferred operator for an Arena in Leeds	Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)	16/4/08	Yorkshire Forward, Arena Project Board	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of City Development
Children's Centre Programme Approve the localities affected by final phase of CC Programme	Executive Board (Portfolio : Children's Services)	16/4/08	Education Leeds, Children's Services, Providers and Stakeholders city wide. First consultation undertaken in 2006.	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of Children's Services
Care of Looked after Children - Independent Fostering Agencies Award of a framework contract to various Independent Fostering Agencies	Chief Officer - Children and Young People's Care	17/4/08	Full tender exercise involving looked after young people	Panel Report	Director of Children's Services

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
Supply of Coated Materials and Ready Mixed Concrete 2008-2012 Acceptance of Tenders in Accordance with Contract Procedure 22 To approve the acceptance of tenders for the supply of coated materials and ready mixed concrete 2008-2012.	Director of City Development	28/4/08	None	Report and tender documents	Director of City Development
Otley - Heavy Goods Vehicle Traffic To seek approval for proposals for HGV Management in the Otley area.	Executive Board (Portfolio: Development and Regeneration)	14/5/08	Ward Members, Neighbouring Local Authorities	The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting	Director of City Development

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>New Leaf Leisure Centres - Approval of Final Business Case, Affordability and off site Capital Works</p> <p>Approval to submit the final business case to the Department of Culture Media and Sport for approval. Approval to an injection into the Capital programme and authority to spend in respect of off site highway works at Morley and Armley leisure centres and a multi use games area at Armley.</p> <p>Notification of the securing of third party funding to part off set the highway costs.</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio:Leisure)</p>	<p>14/5/08</p>	<p>Ward members, Leisure centre users, Executive Member for Learning and Leisure.</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of City Development</p>

Key Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be Considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer (To whom representations should be made)
<p>Leeds Children and Young Peoples Plan Review 2008/09</p> <p>To approve the Annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan for Leeds</p>	<p>Executive Board (Portfolio: Children's Services)</p>	<p>14/5/08</p>	<p>A wide range of consultation with stakeholders through an open forum event, meetings with specific groups, input from localities and through the children's trust arrangements and an online consultation form.</p>	<p>The report to be issued to the decision maker with the agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>Director of Children's Services</p>

NOTES

Key decisions are those executive decisions:

- which result in the authority incurring expenditure or making savings over £500,000 per annum, or
- are likely to have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards

<u>Executive Board Portfolios</u>	<u>Executive Member</u>
Central and Corporate	Councillor Richard Brett
Development and Regeneration	Councillor Andrew Carter
Environmental Services	Councillor Steve Smith
Neighbourhoods and Housing	Councillor John Leslie Carter
Leisure	Councillor John Procter
Children's Services	Councillor Stewart Golton
Learning	Councillor Richard Harker
Adult Health and Social Care	Councillor Peter Harrand
Leader of the Labour Group	Councillor Keith Wakefield
Leader of the Morley Borough Independent Group	Councillor Robert Finnigan
Advisory Member	Councillor Judith Blake

In cases where Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive Board are not included in the Plan, 5 days notice of the intention to take such decisions will be given by way of the agenda for the Executive Board meeting.

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DECISIONS

Decisions	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision Maker	Lead Officer

NOTES:

The Council's Constitution, in Article 4, defines those plans and strategies which make up the Budget and Policy Framework. Details of the consultation process are published in the Council's Forward Plan as required under the Budget and Policy Framework.

Full Council (a meeting of all Members of Council) are responsible for the adoption of the Budget and Policy Framework.