

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

Meeting to be held in Rooms 6 & 7 - Civic Hall, Leeds on
Thursday 6 February 2020 at 10.30 am

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

MEMBERSHIP

- B Anderson (Chair) - Adel and Wharfedale;
- J Akhtar - Little London and Woodhouse;
- J Bentley - Weetwood;
- A Blackburn - Farnley and Wortley;
- D Collins - Horsforth;
- A Gabriel - Beeston and Holbeck;
- P Grahame - Cross Gates and Whinmoor;
- A Khan - Burmantofts and Richmond Hill;
- P Gruen - Cross Gates and Whinmoor;
- M Harland - Kippax and Methley;
- N Sharpe - Temple Newsam;
- K Brooks - Little London and Woodhouse;
- T Smith - Pudsey;

Please note: Certain or all items on this agenda may be recorded

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A G E N D A

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

3

LATE ITEMS

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

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

4

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 13-16 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

MINUTES - 9 JANUARY 2020

5 - 12

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020.

7

FUEL POVERTY UPDATE

13 - 22

To receive an update from the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team regarding the approach taken in Leeds to alleviate fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth.

8

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

23 - 32

To provide an update on the energy efficiency activity undertaken within council housing stock.

9

CARBON REDUCTION IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

33 - 42

To receive a report from the Director of Resources and Housing detailing the Council's approach to supporting carbon reduction in the private rented sector.

10

WORK SCHEDULE

43 -
66

To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2019/20 municipal year.

11

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 5 March at 10.30am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 10am).

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

THURSDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, A Blackburn,
A Gabriel, A Khan, M Harland, N Sharpe,
K Brooks, T Smith and D Jenkins

63 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal.

64 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

65 Late Items

There were no late items.

66 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

67 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bentley, Collins, Grahame and Gruen.

Councillor Jenkins attended as a substitute for Councillor Collins.

68 Minutes - 3 December 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2019, be approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Minute 59 – *Disposal of Green Spaces*. Members were informed that an invitation had been sent out to Members of the three Scrutiny Boards (Environment, Housing and Communities, Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth and Strategy and Resources) in regard to a joint working group to be held 27th January 2020 2-4pm.

Minute 60 – *Anti-social use of fireworks*. Members were informed that a working group had been proposed for the 9th March 2020 10am – 12pm, and invitations would be sent in due course.

69 Financial Inclusion and Universal Credit Update

The Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare submitted a report that provided Members with an updated position on the roll out of Universal Credit (UC), a year on from the introduction of full service in Leeds.

Appended to the report included:

- Universal Credit Claimants by Ward and Community Committee
- Citizen's Advice Enquiries
- Welfare Rights UC enquiries by ward
- Financial Inclusion Update – Executive Board Report 19th September 2019

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- Jo Rowlands, Financial Inclusion Manager
- Mandy Sawyer, Head of Neighbourhood Services
- Kevin Bruce, Service Manager
- Lee Hemsworth, Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare
- Nick Hart, Deputy Head Customer Contact
- Simon Betts, DWP
- Allison France, DWP
- Nick Morgan, Chapeltown CAB

The officers in attendance provided Members with a presentation highlighting some background context of UC, the National Policy Changes in 2019 and Key Statistics in regard to LCC Welfare and Benefits, LCC Housing, DWP and Citizens Advice. Members heard that issues remain outstanding with the Advanced Payments Process, residents receiving incorrect advice to claim for UC and those residents whom remain in vulnerable situations requiring assistance to deal with their claims.

Members' discussed a number of matters including:

- *Out of Hours queries provision.* Members were informed that 37 Community Hubs across the city provided free public access to phones with a direct CAB hotline. In regard to the DWP, a service was available until 6.30 p.m.; the service had been considering an online service subject to a need being identified.
- *Pre-existing debt.* A Member raised concerns in regard to the UC advanced payments, and whether pre-existing debt had been taken into consideration to alleviate further debt concerns. Members were informed that a comprehensive review is undertaken prior to lending, and subject to the outcome, the resident could be referred to further services around the city. Further to this, the Executive Member for Communities suggested that residents who are being impacted from UC, be provided with the opportunity to attend a future Scrutiny Board meeting.
- *Food poverty.* A Member queried the mechanisms in place to help support foodbanks, and whether data could be provided per ward. In responding, the Board heard that due to the various 'in-formal'

foodbanks (churches, schools and charity organisations), it would be difficult to produce such data. Further to this, the Board were informed a report on Food Insecurity was expected at a future Executive Board meeting.

Members of the Board welcomed the collaborative approach taken by partners in the city to support those Leeds residents who have become, or are in the process of becoming, recipients of Universal Credit.

The Board recognised the need for continued Scrutiny, and the Chair proposed its successor Board hold a working group, to hear from those Leeds claimants affected by UC, and that this be prioritised by mid-2020.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the contents of the report, along with Members comments raised during the meeting;
- b) Requested that the successor Scrutiny Board undertake a working group to gain insight into the issues claimants are experiencing with UC.

70 Locality Working and Priority Neighbourhoods

The report of the Director of Communities and Environment provided an update on the progress of key developments in 2019 on the implementation of the locality working approach in our most disadvantaged wards and neighbourhoods.

Appended to the report included the Locality Working Strategic Framework; Community Engagement Approaches; Community Committee Activity; and the Draft Priority Area Annual Report 2019.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- Shaid Mahmood, Chief Officer Communities
- Elizabeth Jarmin, Head of Stronger Communities
- Martin Dean, Area Leader
- Alison Szustakowski, Localities Programme Manager
- Andrew Birkbeck, Localities Programme Manager
- Jane Pattison, Localities Programme Manager
- Stuart Byrne, Localities Programme Manager

The Chief Officer Communities provided Members with a presentation highlighting:

- The progress of work in priority neighbourhoods and target wards and the themes that have emerged;
- The application of the principles of locality working using examples from work programmes to articulate good practice;
- Ongoing challenges and the 'Big Asks' that have been made to the council's directorates through the Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB);

- The emerging performance management framework for locality working;
- Key achievements 2018/19.

In addition, officers in attendance briefly provided the Board with an update of the work undertaken in 2019, highlighting:

- Partnership work with Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)
- New Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Leeds Neighbourhood Approach (LNA)
- The plans for demolishing the former Gate pub and establishing an ambitious plan for the site

Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by the Communities Team, in making a difference to those areas of deprivation in Leeds.

Key issues raised in discussions, were as follows:

- The Board discussed CCTV service charges, and the on-going work being undertaken in order to transform the service digitally.
- A Member sought clarity on the long term comprehensive solution to the challenge of Kingsdale Court. The Board were informed work is undergoing to look at different approaches for the site, and proposals would be brought back to the Scrutiny Board at a later date.
- The Board discussed the Councils engagement with local and national businesses, and the work on-going cross directorate and with the Leeds Business Innovation District (BID).
- Members were informed that detailed guidance could be provided in regard to the Rethink Formulation – Leeds Model. Members were keen to understand how the formulation provided a consistent and clear model for developing a shared understanding of a family and their presenting issues.
- Particular reference was made to the lack of involvement GP's had at the Neighbourhood Improvement Boards (NIBs). Members heard that discussions had taken place, for GP's to attend the Holbeck NIB, and an update would be provided at the 6 NIBs. Furthermore, the Executive Board Member for Communities suggested that the report be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider involvement, in tackling health inequalities in the most deprived areas of Leeds.
- Members discussed the changes in the Indices of Deprivation for Leeds, and queried the timeliness of expanding the remit of work into other priority neighbourhoods. The Executive Member for Communities explained that with the resources available, 6 out of the 16 priority neighbourhoods had been focused on; the team will be working efficiently in order to effectively move on to the others.

The Chair proposed that the Scrutiny Advisor in conjunction with the Chair, write to the Health and Wellbeing Board, to suggest providing an input into this area of work as part of their agenda.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the contents of the report, along with Members comments raised during the meeting;
- b) Requested that the Board recommends to the Health and Well-Being Board that the report is considered by its members with a view to determining whether the Board can take action to support the work of the Neighbourhood Improvement Board.
- c) All Scrutiny Boards to be made aware of the report by the Chair of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board in order to identify opportunities to support the activity and best practice set out in the report.

71 Referral to Scrutiny: River Cleanliness

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented a referral for Scrutiny, alongside some background information to help inform the Board's consideration.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Lamb, referrer
- Jonathan Moxon, Flood Risk Manager
- Councillor Rafique, Executive Board Member for Environment and Communities

The referral for Scrutiny was submitted as follows:

To consider an inquiry to look at how plastic pollution can be reduced in the River Wharfe, how relevant agencies such as the Council, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water can co-ordinate their efforts more effectively, whether the local treatment plant upgrade is operating effectively to deal with sewage, how effective storm collecting tanks are and how the public and businesses can be encouraged to reduce plastic waste getting into the river network.

Councillor Lamb presented the request for Scrutiny to the Board, and expressed his concern in regard to the large amounts of plastics and raw sewage being deposited into the waterways; and the negative impact this had on eco-systems. Councillor Lamb further explained difficulties of meeting with third sector organisations, such as Yorkshire Water, and asked the Scrutiny Board to further this investigation. Members heard that a deputation came to Full Council on 13th November 2019, raising concerns about plastics, raw sewage and wider pollution in the River Wharf; a response had yet to be provided.

In responding, the Flood Risk Manager informed the Board that the paper in response to the deputation hadn't been finalised, but confirmed it contained information such as an extension programme, in order to engage local people to coordinate and facilitate activities. It was confirmed that the Council have minimal powers in the action that can be taken; the involvement of third party organisations is critical in securing a response to the challenges identified.

Members acknowledged the importance of resolving the problem, further agreeing that deferring the matter for Scrutiny until the Board meeting in March provides the opportunity for the deputation response to be received, and meetings to take place with those third party organisations.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):
a) That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted;
b) That the matter be deferred for consideration by the Scrutiny Board (EHC), by March 2020.

72 Financial Health Monitoring

The report of the Head of Democratic Services, provided Board Members with information with regard to the financial health of those service areas that fall within the remit of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board.

Information for Month 7 of the financial year, was appended to the report.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- Councillor Lewis, Executive Member for Resources
- Neil Evans, Director Resources and Housing
- Paul Money, Chief Officer Safer Leeds
- Michael Everitt, Head of Finance
- Kevin Mulvaney, Head of Finance

RESOLVED - The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) noted the contents of the report and the appended documents.

73 Initial Budget Proposals 2020/21

The report of the Head of Democratic Services, set out a report for the budget proposals 2020/21.

The proposals had been considered at the Executive Board meeting on 7th January 2020, and would be re-submitted to Executive Board, following Scrutiny considerations in line with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework; for the approval of the budget.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- Councillor Lewis, Executive Member for Resources
- Neil Evans, Director Resources and Housing
- Paul Money, Chief Officer Safer Leeds
- Michael Everitt, Head of Finance
- Kevin Mulvaney, Head of Finance

RESOLVED - The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) noted the contents of the attached Executive Board report.

74 Best Council Plan Performance Report Quarter 2 2019/20

The report of the Director of Resources and Housing and Director of Communities and Environment provided a summary of the Best Council Plan (BCP) performance data for Quarter 2 2019/20.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Coupar, Executive Member for Communities
- Councillor Rafique, Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles
- James Rogers, Director Communities and Environment
- Neil Evans, Director Resources and Housing
- Jill Wildman, Chief Officer, Housing Management

RESOLVED - The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) noted the contents of the report and the appended documents.

75 Best Council Plan Refresh

The report of the Head of Democratic Services, advised Members of an approach to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Lewis, Executive Member for Resources
- Coral Main, Head of Business Planning and Risk

RESOLVED - The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) noted the contents of the attached Executive Board report.

76 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board's schedule for the 2019/20 municipal year. Copies of the draft work schedule and the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held Monday, 25th November 2019 were appended to the report.

Members discussed the items on the upcoming work schedule, including working groups for:

- Disposal of Green Spaces 27th January 2-4pm;
- Car Parking Policy – 17th February 12.30 – 2.30pm;
- Community Impact of Nuisance Fireworks – 9th March 10am – 12pm.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the matters outlined in the report
- b) Noted the Executive Board minutes
- c) Agreed the overall work schedule

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Thursday, 6th February, 2020

77 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as 6th February 2020 at 10.00 p.m.

(The meeting concluded at 13:00)

Report of the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team

Report to the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 6th February 2020

Subject: Update on fuel poverty in Leeds

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- The scale of fuel poverty in Leeds is significant. In 2017, 11.1% of households (36,926) in Leeds were living in fuel poverty. This is higher than the figure for England which is 10.9% of households
- In order to prioritise schemes and ensure that residents most in need are assisted when they need it, we take a three pronged approach where funds allow, including city wide programmes aimed at future proofing the whole housing stock against fuel poverty, schemes targeted at specific areas with household and/or building characteristics that make them particularly susceptible to fuel poverty and projects to identify and assists individuals who are vulnerable or fuel poor.
- We estimate that to increase the average SAP (energy efficiency) rating of housing in Leeds to band C, approximately 75,000 solid walled properties would need to be insulated and their heating upgraded where necessary at a cost of roughly £10,000 per property, amounting to approximately £750m. There would also need to be heating upgrades to a further 26,500 non-solid walled properties at a cost of £53 million, meaning total a total cost of £803m. Of the above properties, there are 19,000 SAP F&G households which would require improvements costing £5,000 to £10,000 or £95-190m altogether, to bring them up to band E.
- If we are to continue to reduce fuel poverty at the same time as reducing carbon emissions from domestic housing, we will need to substantially improve the energy efficiency of Leeds' housing stock, particularly older properties that are expensive to insulate

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The fuel poverty programme contributes to the Best Council Plan in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of residents by enabling them to live in warm homes. The work programme contributes to the energy efficiency and quality of homes, as set out in the Leeds Housing Strategy and contributes to the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-2030.
- Work to tackle fuel poverty plays a key role in achieving the council's ambition to build a compassionate city and tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. The overarching aim of the Best Council Plan is 'Tackling Poverty and Reducing Inequalities'. The activities set out in this report support the Best City Priority of Safe, Strong Communities through;
 - a. Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable.
 - b. Helping people out of financial hardship.
 - c. Being responsive to local needs, building thriving, resilient communities.
 - d. Promoting community respect and resilience.
- The projects and initiatives outlined to tackle fuel poverty in this report also contribute towards the Best City Priorities of Inclusive Growth through targeting interventions to tackle poverty in priority neighbourhoods. The actions also contribute to the priorities of Health & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly City, Age-Friendly Leeds and Housing.
- The fuel poverty programme plays a key role in helping the council to respond to the climate emergency by improving domestic energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

3. Resource Implications

- The programme outlined in this report is being undertaken within current budgets, there are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

- a) That the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board notes the content of this report.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update members of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board on fuel poverty within Leeds.
- 1.2 The report outlines the nature of the challenge in Leeds as well as the approach taken in Leeds to alleviate fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth.

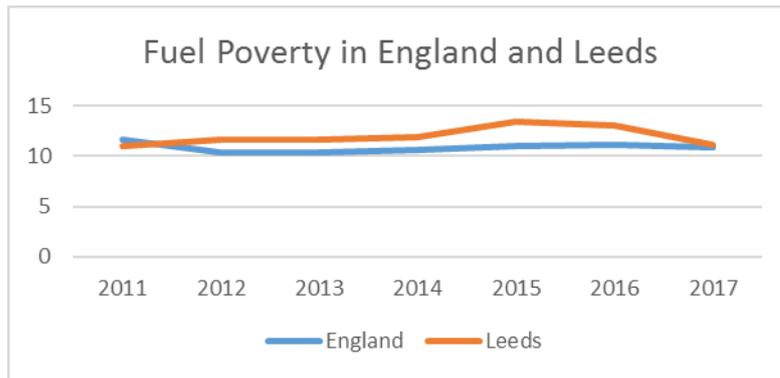
2. Background information

- 2.1 A household experiencing fuel poverty is defined as one where they have required fuel costs that are above the national (median) average, and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the poverty line. As well as having a comparatively high proportion of low income residents, a large proportion of the housing stock in Leeds exhibits characteristics which are likely to result in residents having higher than average fuel costs, often in areas where low income households are concentrated. When people are in fuel poverty, they often struggle to afford hot water or electricity to run appliances for day-to-day living such as cooking, washing, charging, and so on.
- 2.2 Living in a cold home can often have an adverse effect on people's health, particularly vulnerable residents such as the very young or elderly and those living with long term health conditions such as respiratory, cardiovascular or mental illness.
- 2.3 The complicated nature of fuel billing, tariff switching and complaint resolution within the fuel industry often acts as a barrier to many people obtaining a better deal for their gas and/or electricity and make them vulnerable to fuel poverty.
- 2.4 Some residents experience barriers in terms of language or digital exclusion for example, which make it difficult for them to obtain the best tariffs or resolve problems with suppliers.
- 2.5 In 2017 (the most recent year for which BEIS has fuel poverty statistics), 11.1% of households (36,926) in Leeds were living in fuel poverty. This is slightly higher than the figure for England which is 10.9% of households.
- 2.6 Since England started using the Low Income, High Cost definition of fuel poverty in 2011, fuel poverty in Leeds has, with the exception of 2011 been higher than the the average for England. However, since 2015, this gap has narrowed considerably (See Table and Graph 1)

Table 1, % households in fuel poverty (DECC/BEIS)

	England	Leeds
2011	11.7	11.0
2012	10.4	11.6
2013	10.4	11.6
2014	10.6	11.9
2015	11.0	13.5
2016	11.1	13.1
2017	10.9	11.1

Graph 1, % households in fuel poverty (DECC/BEIS)



- 2.7 As the third largest city in the UK, Leeds contains some of the lowest income areas in the UK. According to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data (2019), 114 out of 482 (24%) Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) in Leeds are ranked amongst the lowest 10% nationally.
- 2.8 The council has worked to implement the fuel poverty strategy for England, produced in 2015. Consultation to update the strategy closed mid-September and we are awaiting the publication of the updated document in 2020.
- 2.9 Over many years, the council has worked across directorates and with partners to develop and undertake work to alleviate fuel poverty across Leeds. Engagement with partners has taken place through the Affordable Warmth Partnership, and follows the aims and objectives set out in the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-2030. These aims are:
- 2.9.1 To increase the average SAP (i.e. energy performance) rating of housing in Leeds to band C as a whole, and to ensure that no properties are below band E by 2030. This reflects the national fuel poverty target “improve as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by the end of 2030”. At present, the average SAP rating of housing across Leeds is 63.4 and would need to reach 69 to achieve C, so there is still some way to go to achieve the first part of this aim.
- 2.9.2 To ensure that resident’s health and wellbeing isn’t put at risk due to being unable to heat their home, as per the NICE guidelines on preventing excess winter deaths.
- 2.10 Reducing fuel poverty in Leeds is a particular challenge for a number of reasons, including a large number of homes that are difficult to improve in terms of energy efficiency. These include pre-1919 terraced housing with solid walls, requiring expensive internal or external wall insulation and in many cases attic rooms, requiring insulation to be built into the roof. There are also many post war homes built with non-standard wall construction, which aren’t suitable for cavity wall insulation. Leeds also contains a number of properties that are off of the gas network, for example in high rise flats.
- 2.11 Leeds has a large proportion of private rented homes (according to the 2016 stock condition survey, 20% of the total) which have traditionally had a lower average energy efficiency than other tenures. There are many causes for this, however a high proportion of low income households, disengagement of some landlords and short term tenancies mean that take-up of energy efficiency improvements in privately rented properties has traditionally been lower than other tenures. Recently introduced minimum energy efficiency standards for private landlords are expected to make some difference, however there would need to be a lot of work done to

catch up with other tenures and there are various means for landlords to obtain exemptions from them, particularly where improvements needed are comparatively expensive.

- 2.12 According to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, residential homes emitted 15% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 (the most recent year for which finalised data is available).

3. Main issues

- 3.1 [Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017 – 2030](#) was adopted by the Leeds Affordable Warmth Partnership as a blueprint for promoting affordable warmth and alleviating fuel poverty across the city. The strategy has the following objectives:

3.1.1 Increase energy efficiency

3.1.2 Reduce fuel poverty

3.1.3 Improve health and wellbeing through affordable warmth

3.1.4 Enable residents to benefit from renewable energy

- 3.2 We estimate that to increase the average SAP (energy efficiency) rating of housing in Leeds to band C, approximately 75,000 solid walled properties would need to be insulated and their heating upgraded where necessary at a cost of roughly £10,000 per property, amounting to approximately £750m. There would also need to be heating upgrades to a further 26,500 non-solid walled properties at a cost of £53 million, meaning total a total cost of £803m. To ensure that no properties are below band E would require improvements to around 19,000 SAP F&G households at a cost of £5,000 to £10,000 or £95-190m altogether.

- 3.3 Since the Affordable Warmth Strategy was adopted, Leeds has gone even further and committed to becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030. To achieve this will require a range of measures including insulation as mentioned above, as well as changes to heating systems including a greater use of renewable energy. This could cost between £1.1 and £2.4 billion, depending on the form of heating chosen.

- 3.4 Without increased levels of investment nationally the above aims will be impossible to achieve. In order to prioritise schemes and ensure that residents most in need are assisted when they need it, we take a three pronged approach where funds allow:

3.4.1 City wide projects aimed at improving the entire housing stock to future proof residents against fuel poverty (there is currently little national Government funding available to support this aim, however as a landlord, Leeds city Council continues to upgrade the energy efficiency of its own properties).

3.4.2 Targeted areas with particular characteristics that make them susceptible to fuel poverty, for example areas of low income or hard to treat housing. Projects include the Holbeck area improvement scheme, Transformational Insulation in Back to Backs (TIBB), providing external wall insulation in solid walled properties, Fitting the Future (FtF), providing heating upgrades and renewable energy to council properties and the Swarcliffe gas mains extension scheme (Please see the accompanying report by Leeds Housing for further details). These schemes are often designed to work across tenures to ensure that individual households aren't missed out.

3.4.3 Crisis intervention to identify and assist vulnerable residents most in need. To achieve this, teams within Leeds City Council, including Sustainable Energy

and Air Quality, Public Health and Housing and Health work together with partners in the health and voluntary sectors to identify and support vulnerable residents. Projects commissioned by Leeds City Council to do this include:

3.4.3.1 The Home Plus Service is a partnership between Care and Repair Leeds, Groundwork's Green Doctors and Age UK Leeds supports people with health conditions exacerbated by living in cold and damp conditions, people living with frailty and people who are at risk of falls. Since the service started in October 2018, the Green Doctors have installed over 3,000 small energy efficiency measures in properties, such as lightbulbs, reflective radiator panels and draught excluders, in combination with energy saving and utility bill advice. The service is jointly funded by Adults and Health, Public Health and the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team, whilst heating and insulation improvements for residents suffering from a cold related illness are funded by Housing and Health.

3.4.3.2 In addition, Care and Repair as part of Home Plus continue to support crisis interventions such as facilitating emergency heating, servicing and repairs in vulnerable people's homes and supported over 300 clients between October 2018 and September 2019.

3.4.3.3 Each year, Public Health lead a system wide Adverse Weather Plan which aims to protect vulnerable people in Leeds through evidence-based prevention programmes to reduce seasonal deaths and illness. The plan includes three priorities including "Protecting people from the adverse effects of cold weather", a key part of which is improving affordable warmth. In order to ensure vulnerable residents can benefit from schemes as described above, a concerted effort is made through campaigns, events and training to build capacity and raise awareness with frontline staff and the public on how they can help themselves and others. An example of this is the Winter Friends programme that engages with a wide range of partners including council-funded services such as Home Care, and third sector groups such as luncheon clubs, to target and support the most vulnerable people and their communities during the winter months, ensuring they are referred to relevant services if needed.

3.5 Leeds City Council has commissioned its own white label energy company, White Rose Energy, which aims to provide consistently competitive tariffs to customers that they can pay for in the way that suits them best. For example, customers with pre-payment meters are offered the choice of having them replaced with a smart pay-as-you-go meter, which gives them the option of staying on pay-as-you-go with a large range of ways to top up, or easily switching to credit metering if the resident avoids going into their emergency credit for a fixed period.

3.6 If we are to continue to reduce fuel poverty at the same time as reducing carbon emissions from domestic housing, we will need to substantially improve the energy efficiency of Leeds' housing stock, particularly older properties that are expensive to insulate.

3.7 In order to meet our carbon target, there will need to be a switch away from gas central heating to either hydrogen fuel, district heating or heat pumps. Housing will need to be energy efficient for these to be effective and affordable, otherwise residents will be at risk of fuel poverty.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The Affordable Warmth Partnership, which includes council members as well as representatives from the health, housing and voluntary sectors, is our main vehicle for consulting on and developing affordable warmth policy. This meets on a quarterly basis.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 A key focus of the work outlined in this report has been to support people struggling against fuel poverty in particular, as well as broader issues of hardship, poverty and inequality. Many of the projects in this area also look at communities holistically, thereby strengthening cohesion and integration too.

4.2.2 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the adoption of the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017 – 30.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The fuel poverty programme contributes to the Best Council Plan in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of residents by enabling them to live in warm homes. The work programme contributes to the energy efficiency and quality of homes, as set out in the Leeds Housing Strategy and contributes to the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-2030.

4.3.2 The work to tackle fuel poverty plays a key role in achieving the Council's ambition to build a compassionate city and tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. The overarching aim of the Best Council Plan is 'Tackling Poverty and Reducing Inequalities'. The activities set out in this report support the Best City Priority of Safe, Strong Communities through;

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable.
- Helping people out of financial hardship.
- Being responsive to local needs, building thriving, resilient communities.
- Promoting community respect and resilience.

4.3.3 The projects and initiatives outlined to tackle fuel poverty in this report also contribute towards the Best City Priorities of Inclusive Growth through targeting interventions to tackle poverty in priority neighbourhoods. The actions also contribute to the priorities of Health & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly City, Age-Friendly Leeds and Housing.

Climate Emergency

4.3.4 The above fuel poverty programme helps to reduce the city's emissions of greenhouse gases by improving the overall energy efficiency of the housing stock.

4.3.5 In Leeds, as globally, it is the poorest people and communities who are most affected by the negative impacts of climate change and extreme weather, and who have the fewest options available to them in order to respond. The council has a crucial role to play in assisting these communities wherever possible by reducing fuel poverty and improving affordable warmth.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 All of the projects and services referred to in this report are being undertaken within current budgets, there are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 There are no specific risk management issues with this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The large number of older, solid wall homes in Leeds makes fuel poverty both more likely and harder to deal with. Significantly increased levels of investment are needed nationally to enable Leeds to meet targets to increase the average SAP rating of housing to band C and ensure no housing is below band E.

Tackling the energy efficiency of housing in Leeds is central to efforts to achieve both our carbon reduction target and a reduction in fuel poverty. Failure to tackle fuel poverty effectively would also have a serious ongoing impact on the health and wellbeing of people living in the 11.1% of households in fuel poverty in Leeds.

- 5.2 Crisis intervention helps to identify and assist those residents that are most vulnerable and at risk. Leeds' approach, as set out in the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017 – 30 of undertaking city wide schemes to future proof the whole housing stock against fuel poverty, targeting areas which are likely to be susceptible to fuel poverty and identifying individuals who are in, or at risk of fuel poverty is the best way to ensure that prevented from experiencing fuel poverty as well as assisting those who are already most in need.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Environment, Housing and Communities Board notes the content of this report.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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Report of Director of Resources and Housing

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 6 February 2020

Subject: Planned Investment to Improve Energy Efficiency in Council Housing Stock

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

Summary

1. Main issues

Leeds City Council owns over 55,000 homes in the city and invests over £120m annually in these homes through a combination of improvement projects of varying scale and complexity, responsive repairs and statutory compliance activity. An £80m annual capital investment programme provides the Housing Authority with an opportunity to make a significant impact to the health and wellbeing of our tenants through the provision of good quality homes and the external improvement works undertaken bring benefits not just to the physical structure of building but also offers a regeneration benefit by improving the perception of locality, place and community.

The housing investment programme has historically been driven primarily by the need to meet the Decent Homes standard with a more recent focus on reducing fuel poverty. This has been through the delivery of a series of programmes to renew roofs, windows, doors, kitchens and bathrooms. In the main this approach has been generally well received by tenants as they see an immediate benefit to the investment, current customer satisfaction post-completion of works is above 92%. The current Asset Management Strategy is due for review within 2020 which is timely given the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in March 2019. The revised 5 year strategy is anticipated to be a forward-looking plan aligned to meeting the aspiration to improve our housing stock beyond decency standards, to be an exemplar housing provider, support the council's ambition to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 and tackle inequalities in the city.

In order to meet ambitions of carbon neutrality it is acknowledged that levels of investment will need to be secured which are considerably higher than the funding available through

the HRA. Work will therefore be carried out to quantity that level of required investment. It should also be noted that irrespective of our local ambition to be at the forefront of efforts to decarbonise heating, there is a clear recognition that such activity must be premised on policy decisions being taken at a national level.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

The Housing Investment programme contributes to the Best Council Plan in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of residents by enabling them to live in warm homes. Reducing heating costs increases disposable income for local communities. The investment programme contributes to the energy efficiency and quality of Council homes and aligned to the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017 -2030

Reducing fuel poverty plays a key role in achieving the council's ambition to build a compassionate city, tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. The Best Council Plan particularly emphasises improving energy performance in homes whilst reducing fuel poverty.

The capital investment programme is responsive to priority neighbourhoods and therefore supporting local needs and building thriving and resilient communities.

Improving energy efficiency within the City Housing Stock does improve customer satisfaction and has a regeneration effect. Our investment programme will contribute to building community pride and resilience.

The investment programme plays a key role in helping the council to respond to the climate emergency by improving domestic energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

3. Resource Implications

Staffing resources are aligned to deliver the programme of works set out in this report; where required the expertise of external specialist consultants is commissioned. These arrangements are becoming easier to access and more streamlined as we better understand and articulate our requirements to the market. Procurement, project and governance officers are working together with housing to increase our agility in procurement of contractors and consultants to meet the (often tight) timeframes to enable government and other external funding to be secured. The programme of activity set out in this report has been prioritised in the 20/21 housing revenue account (HRA) capital programme.

Recommendations

It is requested that Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities): note the contents of this report.

Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the specific energy efficiency activity undertaken within council housing stock, covering two areas:

- The current programme of investment (2019/2020)
- The 2020/21 programme and beyond

2. Background information

2.1 In terms of stock profile, the majority of our current stock is aged, built before 1980

65% of the stock dates to prior to 1964

29% to between 1964 and 1980

6% dates to the period from 1990 to the present day.

2.2 Our current housing portfolio includes a large numbers of inter-war estates, 1960's built high-rise and non- traditional properties and 1970's sheltered housing schemes, all of which present their own particular challenges. The council has a greater proportion of flats / maisonettes than the city average and a lower proportion of semi-detached and detached properties. Some of this is a consequence of over thirty years right to buy (RTB) with freehold tenure more attractive to purchasers than terraced houses. It has also created a wide spread of privately owned, former council properties mixed in with council- owned properties on estates across the city

3. Main Issues

3.1 The council declared a 'climate emergency' in March 2019 with a commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Until this point the key strategic drivers for investment in relation energy efficiency in council homes has been aligned to the following council priorities:

Delivering modern fit for purpose homes and neighbourhoods, reducing fuel poverty, cutting carbon and improving health.

Over the last 10-15 year period an ongoing programme of investment to improve energy efficiency has been successfully delivered. The schemes within this have included the following activity:

- replacement of inefficient heating systems and boilers with modern, higher efficiency models
- installation of district heating systems into high rise blocks
- installation of 1,000 solar PV panels across the council housing portfolio
- continuous programmes of loft and cavity wall installation
- replacement of single glazing to double glazing

The cumulative effect of the schemes listed above has increased the average SAP rating of homes in council ownership from D to C. The council housing portfolio has a higher average SAP rating than other tenure types within the Leeds area in particular the private rented sector and homes in private ownership.

3.2 Alongside this there is clear commitment within the current asset management

strategy to improve energy efficiency across all council housing stock by 2020 (from a SAP rating of 68 to 70). As at 31st December 2019 the citywide average SAP rating is 70.150 (Band C) The current strategy will be reviewed in 2020 a major theme will be the climate emergency agenda and stretch targets will be set to further improve energy efficiency in existing council homes. The refresh of the asset management strategy will also be utilised to review opportunities to replace some of the lowest SAP stock with new homes that meet current standards. If, alongside building higher energy efficient homes, we can also create additional capacity, the council may be able to access external funding to support this ambition.

In terms of new- build housing, the Council has developed the Leeds Standard, this sets out the councils requirements in respect of all new homes in Leeds The specification primarily focusses on cutting carbon, improving air quality and tackling fuel poverty, and central to this is the well-being of tenants. It plays a key role in ensuring excellence in delivery through design quality, space standards and energy efficiency standards.

3.3 Table A below captures the energy efficiency activity programmed to be delivered in the 2019/2020. The programme is on track on be fully completed by the end of the current financial year.

Table A - Current programme of investment

Project	Investment Outcome
Windows	410 properties benefited from install of double glazed windows.
Loft Insulation	808 Loft insulation installs - increased loft insulation levels from 150mm to 300mm.
RERF District Heating System (Leeds Pipes)	District Heating connections to 365 flats within the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill areas of Leeds have been connected to the RERF. This provides heating and hot water replacing old storage heaters with radiators. Results - lower energy bills and controllable heating (customer priority) to the properties in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. <i>Programme to be fully completed by September 2020.</i>
External Wall Insulation in High Rise blocks	297 flats within Shakespeare Court, Grange and Towers have benefitted from installation of EWI, programme fully completed.
Clyde Biomass District Heating Network	The Biomass boiler at Clyde DHN facility has generated c328, 916 Kwh of heating and hot water, burning biomass pellets which are carbon-neutral. Supported by £20k from Renewable Heat Incentive grant administered by Ofgem.
Solar PV Panel Installation	1216 MWh of electricity generated since March 2019. Prevented 566 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions £15,291.48 income generated through Feed- In- Tariff.
Energy	41 customer-facing technical officers have received training to

efficiency Training	advise vulnerable tenants on how to improve energy efficiency in their homes
Targeted activity in Priority Neighbourhood Areas (PNN)	Invested in 1250 PNN properties. Following a detailed review of stock conditions data for all council properties in PNN areas. Investment directly targeted into properties to generate the biggest gains in energy efficiency including gas central heating, loft and cavity wall insulation, EWI and double glazed windows.
First Time Gas Central Heating	500 properties (part funded £750k generated through Warm Home Funds). This scheme involved replacing high cost (electric storage) heaters with affordable warmth through gas central heating Whilst not reducing carbon emissions this scheme resulted in better controlled heating, improved energy efficiency and higher satisfaction for tenants.
Ground Source Heat Pump Pilot Project	A feasibility study/pilot scheme is currently in development for the installation of a new heating system two high rise blocks in West Leeds using ground source heat pumps (relatively new technology to the UK) - installation planned during 2020 subject to pilot scheme review and potential wider roll- out.
High Rise Roof Replacement	£710k planned investment for the High Rise Roof Replacement programme (including improved insulation to 120mm thickness). 16 blocks planned - 9 completed to date.
Green Doctor visits	Increasing energy advice to tenants via Green Doctor Energy visits – with 1250 consultations since Aug 2017

3.4 Table B - Forward Plan – 2020/21 Investment Programme

Planned Projects	Investment Outcome
Roxby Close (Burmantofts)	High rise block (60 flats) to benefit from concrete repairs project. Alongside the concrete repairs, EWI will be installed to improve energy efficiency reducing energy bills and offering a regeneration benefit within a priority neighbourhood area.
Technical Innovation in Back To Back's (TIBB1)	£3m planned investment (matched by £3m government funding) bringing an innovative approach to installation of a bespoke EWI to 800 back to back properties. Pilot scheme in Harehills in 2018/19 programme was successful – now moving to roll out and increase volumes. Priority areas Harehills, Holbeck and Beeston.
Leeds Pipes	Completion of an exemplar project bring heating and hot water to multi-storey flats in Richmond Hill and Burmantofts will be completed this year – Total number of flats benefitting 1,380.
Air Source Heat Pumps project	£100k planned investment (supported by £200k government funding) to install 100 air source heat pumps to council homes (low rise flats and houses) that currently have inefficient heating.
District Heating Clusters Phase	Phase 2 – Develop a procurement strategy in collaboration with external consultants for the design and delivery of a further six

Two Programme	DH clusters to serve up to 30 high rise blocks resulting in six energy centres with installation over a 5-6 year programme. This will replace inefficient electric heating with a controllable wet systems.
Fitting For The Future	£5.2m investment programme (£2.6m ERDF, £1.1m private investment and £1.5m HRA) to install EWI, solar PV and batteries on 250 system built council homes.
LED lighting	Project in development to replace incandescent light bulbs with LED lighting to 300 properties during void turnaround period.
Windows	£1.9m investment to install double glazed windows in council homes.

- 3.4 The council has engaged the University of Leeds to make recommendations on the use of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme to maximise energy efficiency. Table C below sets out the energy efficiency (SAP rating) of our current housing stock by archetype. The ambition is to steadily improve SAP rating over a period of investment years across all archetypes. The recommendations from this commission will tell us both how much investment is required and where to target this to make the greatest gains in relation to energy efficiency, carbon reduction and tackling fuel poverty.

Table C - Archetype of Housing Stock	Average SAP	% of Stock
SAP Band C	71.517	59.79%
1945-1964 Traditional Terrace/Semi/Detached Houses	69.766	10.16%
1965-1974 Traditional Houses	71.973	3.11%
High Rise Flats	69.996	13.44%
Medium Rise Flats	72.097	7.47%
Post 1944 Low Rise Flats	72.448	17.38%
Post 1974 Traditional Houses	72.451	4.90%
Pre 1945 Low Rise Flats	71.890	3.33%
SAP Band D	68.140	40.21%
Bungalows	68.703	5.44%
Non Traditional Houses	68.342	13.40%
Pre 1945 Traditional Houses	68.144	6.85%
Pre 1945 Traditional Semi-detached Houses	68.178	9.31%
Pre 1945 Traditional Small Terrace Houses	67.337	5.21%

3.5 This information will also feed into the refreshed strategy and inform our forward programme of investment over the next 5 year period. Although the recommendations are not available yet, we anticipate that these will contain some ambitious and challenging actions, such as:

- Options to switch c40, 000 homes away from natural gas by 2030, either through the gas grid switching to hydrogen or by retrofitting with heat pumps.
- Completion of an aggressive insulation programme to ensure that all homes, regardless of age and construction type, are as well insulated as possible.
- Major programme of renewable energy deployment, particularly solar PV combined with batteries, to decarbonise power use within homes.
- A review of green spaces and gardens to increase tree planting, biodiversity and food growing.
- Ideas for Housing Management to make cutting carbon easier for tenants, such as establishing electric vehicle car clubs, replacing all lighting with LEDs, offering discounts on the most efficient appliances, creating 'tool libraries' for individuals to use, etc.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

The annual budget for the capital programme is approved by the Executive board. The 20/21 programme will be submitted for approval to the meeting in February 2020. In the main the investment programme is intelligence led based on elemental stock conditions data. Tenants and elected members are consulted on and kept updated on the delivery programme. All procurement of external resources to support delivery of the capital programme is undertaken in line with the Council's contract procedure rules and governance framework.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 Equality impact assessments are undertaken for all projects and major schemes of work.

4.2.2 The cashable benefits to tenants will vary depending on the nature of scheme and tenant lifestyle, affordability and how they choose to heat their homes. There are wider, less measurable benefits including more disposable income, improved health and wellbeing and more sustainable tenancies.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 Climate Emergency

The Capital investment programme for the council housing portfolio will support the climate emergency agenda by:

- Improving the SAP rating of all council homes, therefore, reducing the carbon footprint.

- Encouraging a mixed economy of energy solutions better quality homes and standards which will help reduce energy consumption.
- Utilising external funding to install innovative energy efficiency measures.
- Improving energy awareness for council house tenants across the city.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 All procurements are undertaken in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.
- 4.4.2 All contractor costs are subjected to rigorous financial review by in-house quantity surveyors to ensure value for money is achieved.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 There is a risk that any changes in the availability of external funding could adversely impact on the council's ability to deliver a future programme of energy efficiency activity. The demands on the capital programme are extensive and it should be noted that investment in energy efficiency activity does mean less activity elsewhere unless supported purely through external grants. There is also a risk that the procurement process can impact on our ability to meet key milestones and deadlines to qualify for funding be that upfront or retrospective claim back funding.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A number of programmes have been underway over the last five years to improve energy efficiency in council housing stock. The total investment in relation to this has been circa £84m, with just under 25,000 homes benefitting from specific investment such as double glazed windows, improved boilers and loft installation and new roofs. In addition /this includes investment in establishing an infrastructure to deliver district heating network systems.

Further work is planned to ensure council housing stock contributes to the ambitions of carbon neutrality by 2030 our investment plans moving forward will be clearly to this strategic priority and energy efficiency which will be key theme in the revised asset management strategy. This will include stretch targets to ensure that the SAP ratings continue to improve in council housing stock.

6. Recommendation

It is requested that Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) note the contents of the report.

7. Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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Report of Director of Resources and Housing

Report to Scrutiny Board

Date: 5th February 2020

Subject: Carbon reduction in the private rented sector

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Beeston and Holbeck	Yes X No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	Yes x No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Reducing carbon emissions from the private rented sector is complex and difficult for the Council. Landlords will invest in basic maintenance and the provision of amenities but are unlikely to incorporate carbon reduction measures into their business and investment models.
- The sector has always had the lowest simple SAP rating compared to others. In Leeds the private rented sector has a simple SAP rating of 55 compared to 58 for owner/occupiers and 60 for the social sector. This is not a surprise given that over 50% of the sector is located in the hard to treat pre 1919 stock.
- The Government has introduced legislation to improve the thermal efficiency of property. It is now illegal for any property with a simple SAP rating below E to be rented out by a landlord and this increases to a rating of C by 2030. Initially this can be achieved by installing central heating which is usually gas which is more likely to increase carbon emissions, However as the standard increases landlords will require to install more retrofit measures such as significant insulation to be compliant.
- The Council does and will continue to try and reduce carbon emissions from the sector. This by such means of enforcement through the powers under the Housing Act 2004 as well as education and help for landlords working with the National Landlord Associations, and the provision of financial assistance such as in Cross Green and Holbeck which saw homes improving their thermal efficiency from a SAP rating of F/G to a B/C, increasing internal wall temperatures from as low as 12c to over 18c and saving an estimated 1450 tonnes of CO2 per annum. It has helped to reduce fuel costs by an estimated 25/30% or around £350/400 per annum.

- The Council has lobbied and will continue to lobby with partners for changes which will help address carbon emissions. The legislation is complex and difficult to enforce. By simplifying and ensuring consistency of the law and it will allow better enforcement as well as landlords being able to understand their legal requirements and duties.
- Since the loss of the Private Sector Renewal Grant in 2010 there has been no specific funding available to address issues in the private sector. To achieve large scale retrofit of homes there needs to be monies available to allow investment such as schemes in Cross Green and Holbeck as well as financial incentives for landlords to invest directly into their businesses and property.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The investment in the area has contributed to providing homes of the right quality, type and affordability in the right places and minimising homelessness
- The way of working in the area it contributes to keeping people safe from harm and promotes community respect and resilience.
- Contributes to tackling poverty helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential
- Helps to reduce health inequalities and supporting active lifestyles

3. Resource Implications

- There are no additional resource implications associated with this report

Recommendations

- a) Scrutiny Board are requested to note the contents of the report

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Scrutiny Board on carbon reduction in the private rented sector, and the Council approach to addressing carbon reduction as part of the Climate Emergency in order to achieve the targets set by Government to meet the 2050 target

2. Background information

- 2.1 The reduction of carbon in the private sector is a complex and difficult one to achieve. Being private the ability for the Council to make significant changes in the market is difficult as the priority for investment for most landlords is basic maintenance and amenities. This is what customers of this market expect and as such until carbon reduction is either made a legal requirement which is enforceable, a financial incentive to achieve in the market or it market driven there is little incentive for landlords to consider this as an investment option.
- 2.2 The Government has made it illegal for landlords to rent properties below an EPC rating of E. This level will be systematically increased over time to improve the quality of people's home but also help to reduce carbon emissions. By 2030 the level required to be able to rent is proposed to be an EPC Rating of C.
- 2.3 Initially for landlords to achieve the Rating of E most have undertaken works to heating systems rather than measure to reduce carbon via energy efficiency works. This is generally in the form of the installation of gas central heating which is cheaper and will actually increase carbon emissions. With targets to reduce carbon there is likely to be move in the sector to electricity as the means of heating, this will reduce carbon emissions but is currently a more expensive form of heating so could increase fuel poverty.
- 2.4 The private rented sector has generally been the poorest sector in terms of energy efficiency. The 2017 Private Sector Stock Condition Survey showed that the simple SAP rating for the sector was on average 55 compared to 58 for owner/occupiers and 60 for the social sector. However this is an average for the city and lowest SAP levels tend to be in the inner city areas with higher levels of low income families poorer housing stock conditions and increasing levels of the private rented sector. This marked increase in these markets is a challenge for the city if it is to reduce the level of carbon emissions in the sector as a whole.
- 2.5 It is not a surprise that the lowest SAP rating is in this sector given that over 50% of this market can be found within the pre1919 housing stock which is more difficult to address. It is mainly solid walled back to back or through terrace properties which are hard to insulate. Whilst most now have double glazed windows and some roof insulation, many have rooms in roof making this of limited effect. Being solid walled construction they have no cavities to fill so making them hard to insulate. This is demonstrated by the fact that nearly 70% of the sector has a simple EPC rating of D or E and 15% a rating of F or below.
- 2.6 Prior to 2010 the Private Sector Renewal Grant ring fenced money to addressing the improvements in the private sector. Whilst not a significant amount in terms of the overall needs of the city, it did provide money to address issues such as carbon reduction. This had allowed area based improvements in areas such as Beeston and Cross Green. Post 2010 there has been no monies directly ring fenced to this area of work making it more difficult to develop a programme of works, to help improve properties. To achieve the improvements in Cross Green and Holbeck the

Council has had to look trying to put packages of funding together, including significant amounts of its own Capital Programme to try and help fund such works.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Whilst a difficult area for the Council to make a difference this does not mean that programmes of work and initiatives have not tried to address carbon reduction and improve the private sector stock in the city.
- 3.2 Working with the sector and its National Associations the Council has and continues to try and educate landlords. This has involved various landlord forums, provision of help and advice via mailshots information on the Council's website as well as working with the Associations to try and better engage with the sector as a whole. Part of the approach is to look at the development of a potential property passport that identifies the type of works required and efficiencies needed to ensure compliance with targets and also reduce carbon in the sector.
- 3.3 The Landlord Conference in November 2019 was themed around carbon reduction and what landlords can do to improve their properties. It included information on how to achieve this in a practical and systematic way and what they need to do given that providing central heating will not achieve a SAP rating of C by 2030 and more structural measures such as wall insulation will be required. This educational approach will continue to try and empower landlords to help them achieve the standards required by the increasing Government targets over the next few decades.
- 3.4 The Housing Act 2004 Part 1 places a duty to address hazards, one being excess cold. However to address this hazard landlords are more likely to install gas central heating which will increase not decrease carbon emissions. The Government has recently announced a review of Part 1 of the Act. This would be an opportunity for a review of this hazard to potential included carbon emissions and the overall cost to tenants as part of the assessment of the works to be provided rather than just removing excess cold by putting in a gas central heating system. This could then help with carbon targets but minimise the potential for increased fuel poverty. The review also needs to link legislation together so that achieving the minimum SAP Rating by a particular year could be included and therefore enforceable.
- 3.5 Since 2010 the Council has invested in improvements to private rented sector despite the loss of the Private Sector Renewal Grant as part of the overall settlement it receives from Government. The two main areas that have benefited have been Cross Green and Holbeck. These investments have been as part of an overall regeneration plan for the areas and not stand alone projects. As well as addressing energy efficiency they also improved to overall condition of the homes including new roofs, windows doors and boundary works.
- 3.6 The projects and their outcomes are detailed below:

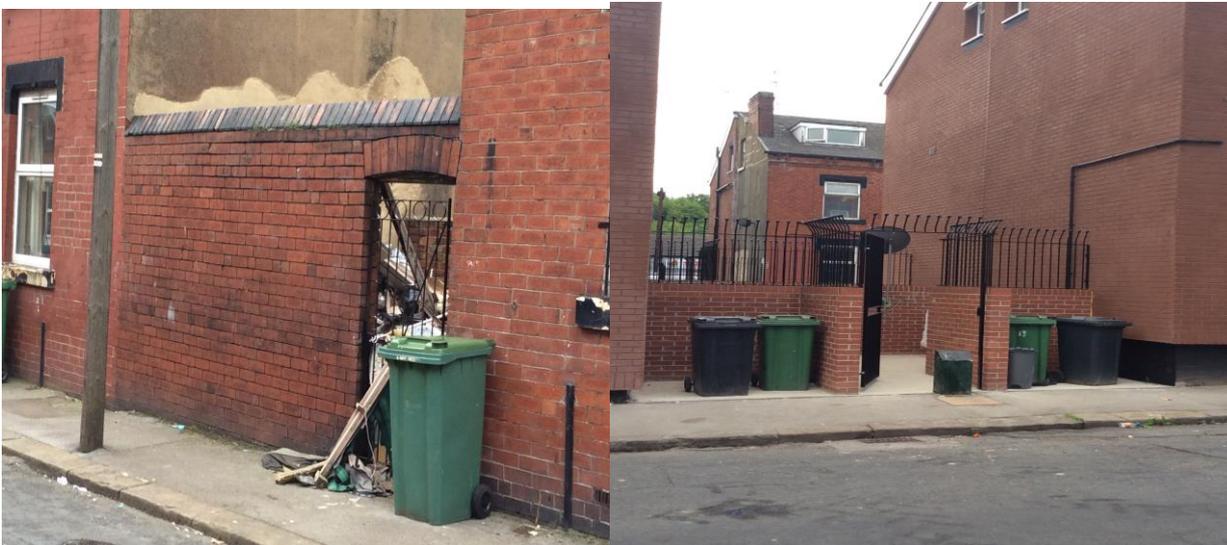
Project	Objective(s)	Outcomes
Cross Green (£4.5m and £2.9m match funding from Green	The renovation of 180 homes to provide improved energy efficiency and external improvements such	261 homes were improved (81 more than the target). Of these 182 received full external improvements with full external wall insulation. 79 properties were provided with

<p>Deal (£0.77M) (Energy Company Obligation (ECO) (£0.18m), the Housing Revenue Account (£1.4m), and private sector contributions towards works (£0.6m))</p>	<p>as new roofs, windows, doors and rainwater goods.</p>	<p>full energy works to their roof and walls. Energy Efficiency works has improved the SAP ratings of all these properties from an average rating of F/G to B/C. Due to energy efficiency works, residents have seen a reduction in their average fuel bills by £400-500 per annum. This equates to a saving of c£100,000 per annum for all properties. Families and individuals are able to keep their homes warmer for longer and increase household disposable income. The University of Leeds undertook monitoring of energy usage before and after works. This demonstrated that the average property achieved a 34% reduction in energy usage. Where central heating replaced gas fires a 73% reduction in energy usage was recorded and allowed average internal temperatures to increase from 12 degrees to 18 degrees. Carbon emissions were reduced by 4.4 tonnes per annum in a back to back property and by 6.6 tonnes for a through terrace. This equates to</p>
<p>Holbeck Phase 1 group repair Budget £4.5m) Spend £4m (Budget - £1.5m LCC capital £1.5m Local Growth Fund £0.2 Energy Company Obligation, £0.5m private sector contributions, £0.85m HRA)</p>	<p>To target 180 within the Receptions to provide improved energy efficiency and external improvements such as new roofs windows, doors and rainwater goods</p>	<p>153 houses were improved and are now warmer in one of the most deprived communities in the country Energy Efficiency works has improved the SAP rating of all properties from an average of F/G to B/C Have increased the internal room temperatures from as low as 12c in certain cases to over 18c following the works. Increasing the internal house temperatures has the effect of reducing the risk associated with respiratory cardiovascular conditions from</p>

		<p>living in such conditions</p> <p>An estimated 1450 tonnes of CO2 saved per annum</p> <p>A potential reduction in fuel bills of around 25/30%. This equates to a saving of around £350/400per annum or £50k for the community overall.</p> <p>Won the Yorkshire and Humberside Large Energy Project of the Year in the Energy Efficiency Awards 2019</p>
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3.7 The photographs below show the improvements in the housing conditions as a result of the investment made in the group repair scheme





- 3.8 In addition to both these areas, as part of the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach in the Nowell's', it was possible to obtain monies for solid wall insulation to a number of properties. This was facilitated by the Council but delivered as part of the Better Homes contract by a private contractor.
- 3.9 The Council has supported and will continue to support the work of the Community Housing Led Sector. Organisations such as LATCH. Canopy and GIPSIL have undertaken considerable work to bring back empty homes and retrofitting extensive energy efficiency works as part of the renovation. The Council has supported this work by helping with financial assistance such as Right to Buy Funds to make project viable and allow works which otherwise would not be affordable such as solid wall insulation to be a viable option.
- 3.9 The Council along with others such as the Private Housing Officer Group (Core Cities) and the LGA, have lobbied Government and continue to lobby Government to provide financial incentives such as reinstatement of funding such as the Private Sector Renewal Grant, tax changes to make it a viable business option for landlords to undertake works, the linkage of public money such housing benefit to housing

conditions including the SAP rating and the make the legislation around this matter less complex and more enforceable. This would not just allow Council to enforce and improve standards but also make it more understandable for landlords and what they need to comply with their responsibilities.

- 3.10 When dealing with returning empty homes back into use, owners are encouraged to incorporate energy efficiency measures as part of the renovations. This is the best and most effective way to incorporate such works as they can be disruptive to any occupiers, it is cheaper and it will provide a home that is better value to rent out, longer term save costs on updating to meet future legislative changes and reduce maintenance costs as part of a landlords business plan. Equality loans are available for substantive works will would include the provision of thermal efficiency works.
- 3.11 One of the issues is the inner city in relation to the private rented sector. As part of the Council Locality Approach there are three main areas which the service is concentrating its resources. Holbeck with the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach and now Beeston and Harehills with the recently designated selective licensing schemes. All seen an increase in the sector with landlords hard to engage with in these areas. By proactively working in these areas it gives an opportunity to better engage as we will know who the majority of landlords are to work with to support to improve their homes and to help with the reduction of carbon from these in the future.
- 3.12 The Council is also partnering with organisations such as Leeds Acts! who have brought together organisations to consider how to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon as a city and look at retrofit solutions on a large scale as part of the innovative thinking in the city.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation has occurred with all stakeholders and continues to occur based on the initiatives undertaken to address carbon reduction

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 A full Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Assessment for all the initiatives has been undertaken on an individual activity by activity basis.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 The initiatives contributed to the compassionate city agenda, improving housing and helping to improve communities.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The initiatives above have and will help with issues affecting the climate:
- Better quality homes and standards will help to reduce energy consumption
 - Empty homes in the area have been and will be targeted to reduce the numbers in the area but also to contribute to an overall net reduction in the city preventing the need for new build and in many cases reducing the carbon footprint these create compared to renovating the existing stock.

- Education of both tenants and landlords to help reduce waste and improve recycling in the area
- Better engagement with landlords to improve education specifically around the changing energy legislation requirements which affect the sector
- By investing in improved and more energy efficient homes via the capital investment has helped to reduce energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 All initiatives have been or will have to be considered in relation to the resources available and value that they have or will give.
- 4.4.2 Currently all initiatives have been assessed against this criteria as part of any decision making process.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 The report is eligible for call in
- 4.5.2 All initiatives have been subject to reports detailing any legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 All initiatives have their own risk management in place

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Addressing carbon reduction in the private rented sector is a complex and difficult for the Council to achieve. Landlords priorities for investment tends to be basic repairs and the provision of amenities not carbon reduction measures.
- 5.2 The sector is found mainly in the pre1919 stock which is hard to tackle and costly due to its solid wall construction. This means that the sector has and continues to have the lowest average simple SAP rating at 55 of all sectors in the city. However lower SAP ratings can be found in the lower rental markets of the inner city which have also seen an increase in the level of the sector in general in these areas.
- 5.3 The Council has and continues to address the issue of carbon reduction via help and education of landlords including the recent Landlord Conference, the investment ion Cross Green and Holbeck, working in partners in the Community Housing sector to improve properties and empty homes. and
- 5.4 The Council has worked with others to try and lobby Government for changes in the legislation and policies, including financial incentives to help landlords address carbon reduction in their properties and to consider the issue of carbon reduction in the review of Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 around excess cold.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Scrutiny Board are requested to:
- 6.2 Note the content of this report

7. Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 6 February 2020

Subject: Work Schedule

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Scrutiny Board’s work schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year.

2. Background information

2.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.

3. Main issues

3.1 The latest iteration of the Board’s work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.

3.2 Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 7 January 2020 are also attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and identify any matter where specific scrutiny activity may be warranted, and therefore subsequently incorporated into the work schedule.

Developing the work schedule

3.3 When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:

- Avoid unnecessary duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue.
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
- Avoid pure “information items” except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review.
- Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings, taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place.
- Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year.

3.4 In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Developments since the previous Scrutiny Board meeting

3.5 A joint working group took place on 27 January involving members of the Environment, Housing and Communities, Strategy and Resources and Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Boards to consider the Council’s approach to the disposal of green spaces. A formal update will be provided to the Board at its meeting on 5 March 2020.

3.6 Two further working groups are scheduled:

- **Nuisance Fireworks:** working group to meet with a view to feeding its findings back into the main Board. **Date: 9 March 2020 10am - 12pm**
- **Car Parking Policy:** to be considered at a meeting involving representatives from Environment, Housing and Communities and the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Boards. **Date: 17 February 12.30pm – 2.30pm**

4. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director(s) and Executive Member(s) about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include ‘to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council’s Equality and Diversity Scheme’.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 When considering areas of work, the Board is reminded that influencing climate change and sustainability should be a key area of focus.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.

4.4.2 The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.

Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should:

- Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources;
- Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue;
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5. Conclusions

5.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider the matters outlined in this report and agree (or amend) the overall work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2019/20.

6.2 As part of that consideration members are asked to specifically confirm their response to the three referrals to scrutiny presented to the Board at its meeting on 3 December.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2019/2020 Municipal Year

June	July	August
Meeting Agenda for 13 June 2019	Meeting Agenda for 11 July 2019	No Scrutiny Board meeting scheduled.
Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference and Sources of Work (DB) Performance Update (PM) Credit Union (Exec Board referral) (PSR)	Formal Response – Waste Inquiry Report (RT) Draft Waste Strategy for Consultation (PDS) Finance - Out-turn Report 2018/19 (PM) LASBT Review Update (PSR) –EXB on 26 June.	
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

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Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2019/2020 Municipal Year

September	October	November
Meeting Agenda for 12 September 2019	Meeting Agenda for 17 October 2019	Meeting Agenda for 14 November 2019
Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – Priorities and Work Programme (PSR) Parks and Greenspace Strategy – Early Consultation (PDS) Car Parking – current strategic position, how this supports climate change, implementation and enforcement of TRO’s (x ref waste inquiry) (PSR)	Inquiry into Leeds’ response to Grenfell - (RT) Standards in Private Rented Sector – Monitoring and Regulation (including energy efficiency) (PSR) Housing Responsive Repairs & Voids Services (PSR) Consider request for scrutiny (Cllr Wadsworth)	**MOVED TO DECEMBER**
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

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Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2019/2020 Municipal Year

December	January	February
3 December	Meeting Agenda for 09 January 2020	6 February 2020
<p>Inquiry into Kerbside Collection and Recycling (RT) & Response to Cllr Wadsworth's referral for scrutiny</p> <p>Referral to scrutiny (Cllr Campbell): Sale of green spaces in the context of the climate emergency</p> <p>Referral to Scrutiny (Cllr Firth): Proposals for Temple Newsam</p> <p>Referral to scrutiny (Cllrs Carter/Robinson): Impact of the anti-social use of fireworks on Leeds Communities</p>	<p>Performance report (PM)</p> <p>Financial Health Monitoring (PSR) and 2020/21 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS)</p> <p>Best Council Plan Refresh (PDS)</p> <p>Reducing Poverty and improving Financial Inclusion – Current position, challenges and response, including impact of Universal Credit. (PSR)</p> <p>Priority Neighbourhoods update (PSR)</p> <p>Referral to scrutiny (Cllrs Lamb/Harrington): cleanliness of the River Wharfe</p>	<p>Climate Change – Energy efficiency in Council House Stock (PSR)</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p>
Working Group Meetings		
	<p>2-4pm 27/1/20: Disposal of green spaces JOINT – EHC, IIIG, S&R</p>	<p>12.30-2.30pm 17/02/20: Car Parking Policy JOINT – EHC, IIIG</p>
Site Visits		

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Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) Work Schedule for 2019/2020 Municipal Year

March	April	May	Unscheduled Items
Meeting Agenda for 05 March 2020	Meeting Agenda for 16 April 2020	No meeting scheduled.	
<p><i>Cllr Lamb due to attend pre-meet for River Cleanliness update.</i></p> <p>Housing Repairs – Response Management, contractual arrangements and performance Progress update following working group 26 Sept 18. (PSR)</p> <p>Reducing Repeat Customer Contacts (RT)</p> <p>Development of Community Hubs – Update position (PSR)</p>	<p>Clean Air Zone – post implementation (January) review (PSR)</p> <p>Council House Growth Programme – progress report (PSR)</p> <p>Agree Scrutiny Inquiry Report(s) (if any)</p>		<p>Universal Credit – themed session on service user experience</p> <p>River Cleanliness - TBC</p>
Working Group Meetings			
2-4pm 09/03/20: Nuisance Fireworks			
Site Visits			

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response

- Further progress on P&C Strategy required early 2020

EXECUTIVE BOARD

TUESDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor J Blake in the Chair

Councillors A Carter, R Charlwood,
D Coupar, S Golton, J Lewis, J Pryor,
M Rafique and F Venner

APOLOGIES: Councillor L Mulherin

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

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

- (a) That Appendix B to the report entitled, 'Capital Receipts Programme Update and Approval of Future Disposals', referred to in Minute No. 134 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that Appendix B contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, and of the Council. This information is not publicly available from the statutory registers of information kept in respect of certain companies and charities. It is considered that since this information was obtained through the inviting of best and final offers for the property/land, then it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this point in time as this could lead to random competing bids which would undermine this method of inviting bids and affect the integrity of disposing of property/land by this process. Also, it is considered that the release of such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to other similar transactions in that prospective purchasers of other similar properties would have access to information about the nature and level of offers which may prove acceptable to the Council. It is considered that whilst there may be a public interest in disclosure, much of this information will be publicly available from the Land Registry following completion of this transaction and consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time.

117 **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared at the meeting.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 12th February, 2020

118 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS

119 Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report presenting the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for 2018/19, together with an 'easy read' version and also a copy of the associated Strategic Plan. In summary, these documents summarised the Board's achievements over the past 12 months and set out its ambitions for the coming year.

The Board welcomed Richard Jones CBE, Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to the meeting, who was in attendance in order to introduce the key points of the annual report and to highlight key priorities.

Together with the Independent Chair, Members discussed the key role of carers and the actions being taken to ensure that the correct balance was achieved when engaging with service users by seeking the views of both the carer and the vulnerable individual, with it being acknowledged that each case needed a tailored approach.

In response to an enquiry, the Board received details of the approaches being taken to ensure that elderly and vulnerable individuals continued to have channels of communication that they felt comfortable using when engaging the Local Authority and others, in order to avoid this area becoming a source of isolation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19, together with the Board's Strategic Plan, as appended to the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to make Leeds a safe place for everyone, be supported.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

120 Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2018/19: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements in Leeds

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the annual report of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) for 2018/19 which highlighted the areas of strength and progress as well as areas for development across the safeguarding structures.

The Board welcomed Dr. Mark Peel, the outgoing Independent Chair of the LSCP and Jasvinder Sanghera CBE, current Independent Chair as of October 2019 to the meeting, who were in attendance in order to introduce the key points of the annual report and to highlight key priorities.

Members discussed the emerging national issue of unregulated and unregistered provision for looked after children and care leavers. Members were informed that in Leeds all placements were quality assured and that there were robust arrangements in place to monitor and support looked after children. Also, it was reported that it was intended to request that a report be submitted to the LSCP on this matter.

Further to this, and in response to a specific enquiry, it was confirmed that the LSCP had not recently considered the issue of unregistered educational provision in Leeds, however, Members received further information on the actions being taken in this area, with reference being made to the work of the Area Inclusion Partnerships, and it was requested that further to this discussion, this wide ranging matter be taken away by the directorate with further information being reported to the Executive, as appropriate and in due course.

Also, in response to a specific enquiry regarding the practice of marriage between first cousins and the associated increased health risks, the Board was provided with information on the actions which were being taken to raise the awareness of such health risks across the relevant communities.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report for 2018/19, as appended to the submitted report, be noted and endorsed;
- (b) That the safeguarding priorities for the city, as identified in the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2018/19, be noted and endorsed.

121 Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Leeds

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which detailed the outcome and response to the inspection of the Leeds Youth Justice Service by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and which sought endorsement to working with the Inspectorate in a forthcoming review of the methodology applied to Out of Court Disposals.

As part of the introduction to the submitted report, the Executive Member for Children and Families invited the Board to request that this matter be referred to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) in order to enable the outcomes and implications arising from this inspection to be considered in greater detail.

As part of a broad discussion on this matter, Members discussed:

- the inspection outcomes for Leeds;
- the new inspection framework;
- the approach being taken by Leeds in this area - with specific reference made to restorative work in discouraging young people from reoffending;

- how the Authority was responding to the judgement of the inspection – with reference being made to the action plan which had been established; and
- the involvement of Leeds in the national review which was being undertaken.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the results of the Youth Justice Service inspection, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the submitted report, together with the work that is underway to address areas for further development, be noted;
- (b) That the intention for the Youth Justice Service in Leeds to work with Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation to support the review of the methodology applied to inspecting Out-of-Court Disposal, be endorsed;
- (c) That the improvement and action plan, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be endorsed;
- (d) That the inspection report of Youth Justice Services in Leeds together with the outcomes arising from the inspection be referred to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) in order to enable the outcomes and implications arising from this inspection to be considered in greater detail.

LEARNING, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

122 Outcome of statutory notice on the expansion of East SILC – John Jamieson onto two additional sites

Further to Minute No. 75, 18th September 2019, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report detailing a proposal brought forward to meet the Local Authority’s duty to ensure a sufficiency of learning places including provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Specifically, the submitted report presented the outcome of a Statutory Notice regarding a proposal to expand generic specialist school provision at East Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) – John Jamieson to 400 places by expanding onto two new additional sites, creating an additional 150 places: 50 primary places at the Oakwood building and 100 secondary places at the former Shakespeare site.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the proposal to permanently expand specialist provision at East SILC – John Jamieson to 400 places, expanding onto two new additional sites: the former Shakespeare primary school and the Oakwood building, with effect from January 2020, be approved;
- (b) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposals is subject to funding being agreed based upon the outcome of further detailed design work, as indicated at section 4.4.1 of the submitted report;

- (c) That the recommendation to exempt the resolutions (a) – (d) from Call In for the reasons as set out at paragraph 4.5.2 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (d) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions above were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (c) above, and for the reasons as detailed within section 4.5.2 of the submitted report)

COMMUNITIES

123 Investing in our Neighbourhoods - A Review of the Investment in Holbeck

Further to Minute No. 108, 16th November 2016, the Director of Resources and Housing submitted a report providing an update on the investment approved in July and November 2016 for the LNA (Leeds Neighbourhood Approach) in Holbeck and the investment in group repair, specifically in the Recreations. The report also provided details of other activities which have complemented the investment as part of the Council's and partners' activity in this area to address issues of deprivation.

The progress which had been made as a result of this initiative was welcomed, and the importance of continuing the positive work in that part of the city to complement ongoing major developments, was highlighted.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, it was noted that the submitted report contained details of how the actions taken had made tangible differences for those living and working in the area. Also, further to this, it was acknowledged that the submitted report focussed upon the housing led investment undertaken in the Holbeck area, however, with regard to the ongoing work in priority neighbourhoods it was intended that further reports would be submitted to the Board regarding the impact of that work, which would include reference to the latest Indices of Multiple Deprivation statistics.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the submitted report, be noted.

124 Community Asset Transfer of St. Matthew's Community Centre to 'Holbeck Together' (Previously known as 'Holbeck Elderly Aid')

The Director of City Development and the Director of Communities and Environment submitted a joint report which sought approval for the Community Asset Transfer of St Matthew's Community Centre to 'Holbeck Together' by way of a 6 year lease alongside an agreement to lease for a longer term period, subject to the future submission and approval of a business plan.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the principle of a Community Asset Transfer of St. Matthew's Community Centre in Holbeck to 'Holbeck Together', be agreed, subject to the conditions precedent, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the submitted report being satisfied;
- (b) That following the approval of resolution (a) above, a 6 year lease to 'Holbeck Together' as an interim proposal, be agreed;
- (c) That the necessary authority be delegated to the Director of City Development to enable the Director to finalise the terms of the lease arrangements to 'Holbeck Together' for both the 6 year and longer term lease, as well as the agreement to lease;
- (d) That it be noted that the Chief Officer, Asset Management and Regeneration will be responsible for ensuring that the resolutions arising from the submitted report are implemented;
- (e) That revenue funding to 'Holbeck Together' (formerly known as 'Holbeck Elderly Aid') of up to £143,747 over a five year period, to be implemented by the Director of Communities and Environment, be approved.

125 Promoting Affordable Warmth

The Director of Resources and Housing and the Director of Communities and Environment submitted a joint report providing an update on the Council's approach towards tackling fuel poverty in the city.

In considering the submitted report, a Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that as part of this initiative, service users, specifically the elderly and vulnerable, had channels of communication that they were comfortable using when engaging the Local Authority on this issue.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That agreement be given for the Director of Resources and Housing to invite the Leeds Poverty Truth Commission to become a member of the Affordable Warmth Partnership and act as consultee for Leeds Affordable Warmth Plan;
- (b) That the Board endorse the approach being taken to continue to listen to people's lived experience of cold and damp housing conditions, better understand the barriers which people are facing, and wherever possible take action locally through co-production, such as improve service provision, or use the Council's influencing powers to change national policy and regulation;
- (c) That the Board's endorsement be provided to ensuring that digital solutions to assess and alleviate fuel poverty do not lead to further marginalisation and exclusion of those most in need.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND CULTURE

126 Update on Leeds City Council's preparations for the UK's exit from the European Union

Further to Minute No. 103, 25th November 2019, the Chief Executive submitted a report providing a further update on the preparations that Leeds City Council has been making for the UK's exit from the European Union.

The Chief Executive provided an update regarding the dialogue which continued to be undertaken with representatives of different sectors and partners on the preparations being made in this area.

In considering this matter, the Board agreed to continue the cross-party Member working group, with a suggestion that a meeting be scheduled as appropriate, in order for the working group to further consider how best to progress such preparations.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the current national position, together with the Council's next steps to prepare the Council and the city for the UK's exit from the EU, be noted;
- (b) That agreement be given for the cross-party Member working group to continue, with a suggestion that a meeting be scheduled as appropriate, in order for the working group to further consider how best to progress such preparations.

127 Northern School of Contemporary Dance

The Director of City Development submitted a report which set out the important role of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance as a cultural anchor institution in the city and detailed the collaborative work underway with the Council to secure its sustainability and growth as a key stakeholder based in Chapeltown.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, it was confirmed to the Board that the properties at 133-135 Chapeltown Road were in private ownership and that constructive talks with the owners of those properties and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance were ongoing.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Board's support for the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) as a key anchor cultural institution in the city and in its plans for expansion, be confirmed;
- (b) That the Board's support in relation to assisting the NSCD to remain and meet its ambitions within the Chapeltown area, be confirmed, with the Board also recognising the NSCD's important role within the local community;

- (c) That agreement be given for the Council to continue to work collaboratively with the NSCD in securing a site for expansion, and if appropriate, for the Board to receive a further report at the earliest opportunity setting out whether there is a case for the Council to use its statutory powers in land assembly.

128 Initial Budget Proposals for 2020/21

The Chief Officer (Financial Services) submitted a report which presented the Council's initial budget proposals for 2020/21, and which sought agreement for them to be submitted to Scrutiny for consideration, and also used as a basis for wider consultation with stakeholders.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information regarding the 'New Towns Fund', an initiative which had been announced by the Government.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the initial budget proposals for 2020/21, as detailed within the submitted report, be agreed, with the Board's agreement also being provided for them to be submitted to Scrutiny and also for the proposals to be used as a basis for wider consultation with stakeholders;
- (b) That the initial budget position for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be noted, with it also being noted that savings proposals to address the updated estimated budget gaps of £47.4m and £29.9m for 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively will be reported to a future meeting of the Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that the proposal to approve the implementation of an additional Council Tax premium on any dwelling where the empty period is at least five years, from 100% to 200% premium, will be determined by Full Council in January 2020;
- (d) That the Board's agreement be given for Leeds City Council to become a member of the new North and West Yorkshire Business Rates Pool for 2020/21 and act as lead authority for it, with it being noted that the establishment of this new Pool will be dependent upon none of the other proposed member authorities choosing to withdraw within the statutory period after designation;
- (e) That with regard to the final year of Government funding to offer discretionary relief to businesses most impacted by the 2017 Business Rates Revaluation, the Board's agreement be provided for this to be distributed to childcare businesses in the city.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter and S Golton both required it to be recorded that they respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

(The resolutions referred to within Minute No. 128 (a), (b) and (c) (above) given that these were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In, as Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

However, the resolutions referred to in Minute No. 128 (d) and (e) were eligible for Call In, given that these were decisions not being taken as part of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)

ENVIRONMENT AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

129 Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to Facilitate the Unobstructed Passage of Waste Collection Vehicles

The Director of City Development and the Director of Communities and Environment submitted a joint report which set out key considerations for the principle of introducing an experimental citywide Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to facilitate the safe passage of vehicles, primarily refuse wagons, at locations where access was currently a regular problem.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board was assured that TRO restrictions would only be put in place on highways where Ward Members were supportive of such action, and due to the experimental nature of the TRO, it would allow the restrictions to be amended if appropriate, for example, in response to feedback received from Ward Members.

Members also received further information regarding the use and provision of experimental TROs.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That the principle to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to address obstructive and indiscriminate parking at numerous locations across the Leeds district, be approved, with a view to introducing various waiting restrictions to aid and facilitate the Council's safe and timely collection of household kerbside waste;
- (c) That the following be noted:-
 - (i) The design and implementation of the scheme is programmed to commence in January 2020, with completion by May 2020; and
 - (ii) That the Chief Officer of Highways and Transportation will be responsible for the implementation of such matters.

130 Proposal for Woodland Creation

The Director of Communities and Environment submitted a report which set out proposals on how the Council could lead an ambitious initiative to combat climate change with a programme of education and community engagement focussed around tree planting and woodland creation.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the potential and capacity to grow and plant more mature trees in future and the most effective ways to establish mature tree canopies. Members also discussed the use of the planning process in promoting this agenda and the cross-directorate partnership working required to progress this.

The Board received further information on the longer term work being undertaken in this area including the potential to use land other than that owned by the Council for woodland creation and developing the scale of the initiative to include the wider region. Members also considered the raising of community awareness regarding woodland management, the development of the 'woodland economy' and the promotion of skills in this area.

The intention to submit a report to the June 2020 Executive Board regarding the proposed White Rose Forest strategy was noted.

Also, the Board highlighted the links between woodland creation and ongoing work regarding flood alleviation scheme provision, with a suggestion being made that further information be submitted to the Board in due course around the potential use of appropriate land located on the flood plain for tree planting and woodland creation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the approach to education, conservation and tree planting, as detailed within the submitted report, be approved, and that support be provided for the initial allocation of a minimum of 25 hectares of Council land for woodland planting each year;
- (b) That approval be given to inject £0.35m per year annually into the Capital Programme over the next 5 years, with it being noted that this will include external funding of £50k in the first year, with a target to increase this by a further £50k in each subsequent year;
- (c) That the necessary authority be delegated to the Director of Communities and Environment, to enable the Director to agree the required 'authority to spend' approvals for the full scheme, subject to consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles;
- (d) That it be noted that the Chief Officer, Parks and Countryside will be responsible for the implementation of this project, with an anticipated review each year to 2024/25.

RESOURCES

131 Best Council Plan Refresh 2020/21 to 2024/25

The Director of Resources and Housing submitted a report setting out proposals to update the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 –

2024/25, and which sought approval to undertake engagement with Scrutiny Boards on the proposals in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED – That the following be approved:-

- (a) That engagement be undertaken with Scrutiny on the emerging Best Council Plan in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules;
- (b) The approach set out within the submitted report to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25;
- (c) That the Director of Resources and Housing will be responsible for developing the Best Council Plan for its consideration by this Board and Full Council in February 2020 alongside the supporting 2020/21 Budget proposals.

(The matters referred to within this minute, given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In, as Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)

132 Financial Health Monitoring 2019/20 – Month 7

The Chief Officer, Financial Services submitted a report which set out the Council's projected financial health position for 2019/20 as at Month 7 of the financial year.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the current position regarding Business Rates appeals and the impact of this upon the Collection Fund.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the projected financial position of the Authority as at Month 7 of the financial year, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That with regard to the risk that the budgeted level of capital receipts may not be receivable in 2019/20, the progress made to date and the work which is ongoing to identify budget savings proposals that will contribute towards the delivery of a balanced budget position in 2019/20, be noted.

133 Capital Receipts Programme Update and Approval of Future Disposals

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update in relation to the Capital Receipts Programme, which sought support for the continued disposal of surplus property assets, and which recommended the disposal of a number of key sites.

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

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, which provides an update on the Capital Receipts Programme, be noted;
- (b) That the continued disposal of surplus property assets through the Capital Receipts Programme, be supported, and that the list of properties detailed in Appendix A to the submitted report which are currently scheduled for disposal in the next three years, be noted;
- (c) That the schedule of sites, as detailed in Appendix A to the submitted report, be approved as the Council's Capital Receipts Programme of surplus land and property for disposal;
- (d) That approval be given to the Director of City Development to enter into formal one-to-one discussions with the Taylor Wimpey and Redrow consortium on the sale of the Council's land in the Southern Quadrant of the East Leeds Extension, and that subject to the outcome of those negotiations, the Director of City Development be requested to bring back a report to Executive Board to either agree the terms of the sale negotiated, or alternatively agree proposals for the sale of the land on the open market;
- (e) That separately, but in parallel with resolution (d) above, approval be given for the Director of City Development to negotiate and enter into a collaboration agreement with the Taylor Wimpey and Redrow consortium on the development of a single planning application for the Southern Quadrant of the East Leeds Extension and associated land equalisation issues, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter and S Golton both required it to be recorded that they respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

CLIMATE CHANGE, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

134 Climate Emergency Update

Further to Minute No. 202, 17th April 2019, the Director of Resources and Housing submitted a report presenting an update on the progress which had been made since the Climate Emergency declaration by the Council in March 2019. The report also detailed and sought approval of the proposed targets and related actions aimed at achieving the Council's and the city's ambitions in this area.

Members welcomed the submitted report and whilst the progress made in addressing the Climate Emergency by Leeds was acknowledged, the need to continue this ambitious programme of work was highlighted.

The scale of the public consultation undertaken to date, together with the ongoing engagement with a range of sectors and partners was also acknowledged, with emphasis being placed upon the need to continue such an inclusive approach. Members also highlighted the need to continue to make representations to Government about the establishment of further local powers and freedoms to help address this emergency.

Emphasis was also placed upon the importance of meeting the challenge of progressing the climate emergency agenda, whilst at the same time further promoting inclusive growth across the city, in order to continue to support the most vulnerable.

Members reiterated the need to ensure that in addition to working cohesively with partners and the various sectors across Leeds, the Council needed to ensure that the cross-directorate relationships within the Authority worked together to effectively progress this agenda.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that further detailed discussions would be undertaken on the Climate Emergency during the forthcoming 'State of the City' event.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That an £800,000 injection of Capital to retrofit 7 Council buildings, be approved;
- (b) That the target to move to 100% electricity provided by green sources immediately through entering into a power purchase agreement with the ambition to continually move to more locally produced renewables over the next ten years, be approved;
- (c) That the aim to remove payment for the use of staff petrol and diesel cars by 2025, be approved;
- (d) That the target to buy only low emission fleet vehicles by 2025, be approved;
- (e) That the vision, principles, targets and investment plan for the emerging 'Connecting Leeds' Transport Strategy, be endorsed;
- (f) That the 'asks' to national government to support the action required by the government, as summarised in Annex 1 to the submitted report, to achieve 'net zero', be endorsed;
- (g) That a report be submitted to the Board in June 2020 regarding the proposed White Rose Forest Strategy for Leeds.

135 Connecting Leeds: A58 Beckett Street Bus Priority Corridor

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update on the progress of significant schemes which have made up the 'Connecting Leeds' programme during 2019/20 and which provided details regarding the proposal to establish a bus priority corridor on the A58, Beckett Street.

It was noted that local Ward Councillors were supportive of the proposals detailed within the submitted report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the progress which has been made since April 2016 in developing proposals for the relevant projects benefiting from 'Connecting Leeds' funding, together with the subsequent public consultation responses, be noted;
- (b) That the injection of £14.3m Department for Transport (DfT) funding into the Bus Infrastructure programme transferred from the Rail and Bus packages delivered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, be approved, with the potential for future transfers of DfT funding from the Rail and Bus packages being noted, which would be subject to their deliverability within the timescales set by the DfT;
- (c) That the expenditure of £14.54m from the 'Connecting Leeds' Capital Programme to carry out detail design and construction of the A58 Beckett Street including York Street, be authorised;
- (d) That the injections of S106 Developer contributions of £431,375 for the A58 Beckett Street scheme including York Street, be approved;
- (e) That subject to ongoing consultation with the Executive Member as appropriate, it be noted that the Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation will approve the final version of the designs for construction.

136 Surface Access to Leeds Bradford Airport, the North West Leeds Employment Hub and Proposed Airport Parkway Station

The Director of City Development submitted a report, which following the conclusion of a comprehensive public consultation exercise and subsequent review, presented the associated conclusions and made recommendations on the preferred approach to progressing a connectivity and surface access package for Leeds Bradford Airport and the North West Leeds Employment Hub.

Members discussed various factors relating to the revised connectivity strategy, with comments relating to the following:

- The need for the proposals to be ambitious;
- Maximising the use of any potential funding which may become available;
- Prioritising the reduction of congestion and the promotion of the Climate Emergency agenda;

- The provision of parking;
- The aim of any proposals, including the provision of a Parkway Station, to facilitate as seamless access as possible to and from the airport and the North West Leeds Employment Hub;
- The need for public consultation to be undertaken on any such proposals.

Responding to an enquiry regarding current and future rail provision in that area of the city and any proposals relating to the potential development of a Parkway Station, the Board received an update regarding the ongoing dialogue which was taking place with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Northern and Network Rail.

In conclusion, in addition to public sector involvement in this process, Members highlighted the key role and contribution of the airport, and emphasised how continued dialogue with the airport, the Government and other partner organisations was key to progressing this matter without delay.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report together with the headline consultation responses regarding surface access improvements as detailed at paragraph 3.7 onwards of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That a revised connectivity package for the airport and employment hub sites be adopted, which is developed to embrace the continued development of the proposed Parkway Station and associated highway linkages between these sites;
- (c) That highway connectivity Options A, B and C as previously consulted upon, and as referenced within the submitted report, be discontinued;
- (d) That agreement be given to a review of the local highway network being undertaken, including technical feasibility work, in order to understand future connectivity and traffic options and investments that may be required due to the new strategy, with such work to take into account any relevant findings from the connectivity studies undertaken to date;
- (e) That agreement be given to further work taking place with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in order to develop a funding strategy for the revised connectivity proposals, including a business case and delivery mechanisms that ensure the continued forward progress of the parkway station proposals;
- (f) That agreement be given for further public engagement to take place during 2020 on the updated proposals, pending the outcome of the development of the feasibility work;
- (g) That agreement be given for the Director of City Development to work with the Airport and other significant employers in this part of the city to

create an exemplary travel plan which has enhanced sustainability, carbon reduction and improved public transport connections at its core;

- (h) That the Director of City Development be requested to report back on the progress being made on these matters in 2020 upon the completion of further technical due diligence, feasibility work and public engagement.

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

DATE OF PUBLICATION: THURSDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2020

LAST DATE FOR CALL IN OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS: 5.00PM, THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2020