

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Leeds City Council held  
Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 11th September, 2013

**PRESENT:** The Lord Mayor Councillor Thomas Murray in the Chair

**WARD**

**ADEL & WHARFEDALE**

Barry John Anderson

Clive Fox

**ALWOODLEY**

Neil Alan Buckley  
Dan Cohen  
Peter Mervyn Harrand

**ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD**

Karen Renshaw  
Jack Dunn  
Lisa Mulherin

**ARMLEY**

Alison Natalie Kay Lowe  
James McKenna  
Janet Harper

**BEESTON & HOLBECK**

Angela Gabriel  
Adam Ogilvie  
David Congreve

**BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY**

Caroline Gruen  
Ted Hanley

**BURMANTOFTS & RICHMOND HILL**

Maureen Ingham  
Asghar Khan  
Ron Grahame

**WARD**

**CALVERLEY & FARSLEY**

Rod Wood

**CHAPEL ALLERTON**

Eileen Taylor  
Mohammed Rafique  
Jane Dowson

**CITY & HUNSLET**

Elizabeth Nash  
Patrick Davey  
Mohammed Iqbal

**CROSS GATES & WHINMOOR**

Debra Coupar  
Pauleen Grahame  
Peter John Gruen

**FARNLEY & WORTLEY**

David Blackburn  
Ann Blackburn  
John Hamilton Hardy

**GARFORTH & SWILLINGTON**

Andrea McKenna  
Mark Dobson  
Thomas Murray

**GIPTON & HAREHILLS**

Roger Harington  
Arif Hussain  
Kamila Maqsood

**GUISELEY & RAWDON**

Graham Latty  
Paul John Spencer Wadsworth  
Pat Latty

**HAREWOOD**

Ann Castle  
Rachael Procter  
Matthew James Robinson

**HEADINGLEY**

Janette Walker  
Neil Walshaw  
Martin Hamilton

**HORSFORTH**

Christopher Townsley  
Dawn Collins  
Brian Cleasby

**HYDE PARK & WOODHOUSE**

Christine Denise Towler  
Gerry Harper  
Javaid Akhtar

**KILLINGBECK & SEACROFT**

Graham Hyde  
Veronica Morgan  
Brian Michael Selby

**KIPPAX & METHLEY**

Mary Elizabeth Harland  
James Lewis  
Keith Ivor Wakefield

**KIRKSTALL**

Lucinda Joy Yeadon  
John Anthony Illingworth  
Bernard Peter Atha

**MIDDLETON PARK**

Paul Anthony Truswell  
Judith Blake  
Kim Groves

**MOORTOWN**

Alex Sobel  
Rebecca Charlwood  
Sharon Hamilton

**MORLEY NORTH**

Robert Finnigan  
Robert William Gettings  
Thomas Leadley

**MORLEY SOUTH**

Judith Elliott  
Neil Dawson  
Shirley Varley

**OTLEY & YEADON**

Sandy Edward Charles Lay  
Colin Campbell  
Ryk Downes

**PUDSEY**

Josephine Patricia Jarosz  
Richard Alwyn Lewis  
Mick Coulson

**ROTHWELL**

David Nagle  
Karen Bruce  
Barry Stewart Golton

**ROUNDHAY**

Bill Urry  
Christine Macniven  
Ghulam Hussain

**TEMPLE NEWSAM**

Judith Cummins  
Katherine Mitchell  
Michael Lyons

**WEETWOOD**

Jonathan Bentley  
Susan Bentley  
Judith Mara Chapman

**WETHERBY**

Gerald Wilkinson  
Alan James Lamb  
John Michael Procter

## **23 Announcements**

- a) The Lord Mayor reminded those present that the meeting was to be webcast.
- b) The Lord Mayor reported the recent death of Honorary Alderman Meade.
- c) The Lord Mayor reminded those present that it was the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9/11 disaster in New York.

Council stood in silent tribute.

## **24 Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor G Harper, seconded by Councillor G Latty and

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 be approved.

## **25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interests.

## **26 Communications**

- a) The Chief Executive informed Council that a response had been received from Mark Hoban MP Minister for Employment in response to the resolution of Council at its May meeting regarding Skills. The response had previously been circulated to all Members of Council.
- b) The Chief Executive also informed Council that confirmation had been received from DCLG that Local and European Elections would take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.
- c) The Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services) informed Council of a ministerial response in respect of Temporary Event Notices as a result of a recent Community Concern.

## **27 Deputations**

Three deputations were admitted to the meeting and addressed Council, as follows:-

- 1) Swillington, Oulton, Woodlesford HS2 Action Together.
- 2) Residents regarding public transport in the Leeds 11 area.
- 3) Residents of Angel Row, Rothwell opposing a planned housing site on green belt in Robin Hood.

**RESOLVED** - That the subject matter in respect of deputations 1 and 3 be referred to the Executive Board for consideration and the subject matter in respect of deputation 2 be referred to the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority for consideration.

## **28 Report on Appointments**

It was moved by Councillor G Harper, seconded by Councillor Nash and

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the City Solicitor on appointments be approved, namely that Councillor Marjoram be appointed to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture).

## **29 Report on Leeds Award**

It was moved by Councillor Wakefield, seconded by Councillor G Harper and

**RESOLVED** – That the recommendations of the Leeds Award Panel to nominate Victor Watson to receive the Leeds Award, as presented by the report of the City Solicitor, be approved.

### **30 Report on Council Meeting Dates 2013/2014**

It was moved by Councillor G Harper, seconded by Councillor Nash and

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the City Solicitor on Council meeting Dates 2013/14 be approved as follows,

- The date of the Annual Meeting 2014 be set as Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
- That the State of the City Meeting, diarised for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be removed from the schedule of formal council meetings.

### **31 Area Committee Annual Report**

It was moved by Councillor P Gruen, seconded by Councillor G Harper and

**RESOLVED** – That the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) presenting to Council the Area Committees' Annual Report for 2012/13 be received and the ongoing work to further improve the workings, profile and community engagement role of Area Committees and local councillors be agreed.

### **32 Questions**

Q2 Councillor M Hamilton to the Leader of Council :-

How many staff employed in providing services for the council are employed on zero hours contracts?

The Leader of Council replied.

Q3 Councillor J Hardy to the Executive Member (Health & Wellbeing):-

Would the Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing comment on the impact that the proposed government changes to NHS Allocations funding will have on narrowing the health gap in the city?

The Executive Member (Health & Wellbeing) replied.

Q4 Councillor A Blackburn to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services):-

Does the Executive Member agree that when Council Tenants move out of properties that have had adaptations, that those adaptations should not be removed by that tenant when they leave the property?

The Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services) replied.

Q5 Councillor Harland to the Executive Member (Children's Services):-

Would the Executive Member for Children's Services please update Council on this year's GCSE and A Level results?

The Executive Member (Children's Services) replied.

Q6 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy):-

Will the Executive Member for Development and Economy please advise on the current backlog of road maintenance both in terms of monetary value and in terms of the anticipated number of years he feels it will take to eradicate this backlog?

The Executive Member (Development and the Economy) replied.

Q7 Councillor S Bentley to the Executive Member (Children's Services):-

Will the Executive Member for Education join me in welcoming the number of university applications from students from deprived areas which in 2013 reached its highest ever level?

The Executive Member (Children's Services) replied.

Q8 Councillor T Hanley to the Executive Member (Adult Social Care):-

Will the Executive Member for Adult Social Care please comment on the Care Bill, including its proposal to cap care costs for individuals at £72,000?

The Executive Member (Adult Social Care) replied.

Q9 Councillor Iqbal to the Executive Member(Development and the Economy):-

Can the Executive Member for Development and the Economy provide an update on progress with the Superconnected Cities project?

The Executive Member(Development and the Economy) replied.

Q10 Councillor Wadsworth to the Executive Member (Environment):-

Why has the Executive Member for Environmental Services introduced a waste permits policy that unfairly discriminates against residents who use larger vehicles to dispose of their domestic garden waste, and was an equality impact assessment carried out before this policy was launched?

The Executive Member (Environment) replied.

At the conclusion of question time, the following questions remained unanswered and it was noted that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.6, written answers would be sent to each Member of Council:-

Q1 Councillor A Carter to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)

Q11 Councillor Cleasby to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)

Q12 Councillor Mitchell to the Executive Member (Leisure and Skills)

Q13 Councillor Harington to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)

Q14 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Environment)

- Q15 Councillor Townsley to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q16 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Environment)
- Q17 Councillor S Bentley to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services)
- Q18 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Environment)
- Q19 Councillor Anderson to the Leader of Council
- Q20 Councillor Anderson to the Leader of Council
- Q21 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Environment)
- Q22 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q23 Councillor Cohen to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q24 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services)
- Q25 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q26 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q27 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services)
- Q28 Councillor Anderson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)
- Q29 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Development and the Economy)

### **33 Motion to Suspend Council Procedure Rules**

Prior to the debate under minute 34 below, it was moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Townsley that under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13.2(c) that the order of business be changed so that the references back falling within the Adult Social Care (Cllr Downes) and Environment (Cllr Golton) Portfolios of the Executive Board minutes be heard immediately after the reference back in the name of Councillor Lamb within the Children's Services portfolio.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost.

### **34 Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Wakefield, seconded by Councillor G Harper that the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

An amendment (Reference Back) was moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor G Latty, to add the following at the end of item 10:-

'In respect of minute 56, page 48 of the meeting of the Executive Board on 17th July 2013, to ask that this decision is referred back for reconsideration by Executive Board.'

A second amendment (Reference Back) was moved by Councillor Downes, seconded by Councillor Campbell, to add the following at the end of item 10:-

'To ask the Executive Board to reconsider the decision in relation to Residential Care for Older People, as contained in minute 61, of the Executive Board minutes of 4th September 2013.'

A third amendment (Reference Back) was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Campbell, to add the following at the end of item 10:-

'To ask the Executive Board to reconsider the decision in relation to Allotment Charges, as contained in minute 63, of the Executive Board minutes of 4th September 2013.'

The three amendments (References Back) were declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

Council Procedure Rule 4, providing for the winding up of business, was applied prior to all notified comments on the minutes having been debated.

### **35 Motion to Suspend Council Procedure Rules**

During the debate under minute 34 above, it was moved by Councillor G Latty, seconded by Councillor Campbell that under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 22.1 that Council Procedure Rule 3.3 be suspended to allow the reference back (amendment) in the name of Councillor A Lamb to be heard.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost.

### **36 Back Bench Community Concerns**

During discussion on this item, it was moved by Councillor G Latty, seconded by Councillor Campbell, and Leave of Council was given to allow the introduction of 2 further Community Concerns in the name of Councillor Cleasby and Robinson.

Council heard the following Community Concerns:-

- 1) Councillor Buckley - Proposal for a Village Green in Alwoodley Ward.
- 2) Councillor Campbell - To raise concerns about commercial waste collection procedures in Otley.
- 3) Councillor Hardy – Concerns about parking outside schools in Farnley and Wortley

- 4) Councillor Illingworth – The loss of safe community-based drinking establishments in Kirkstall.
- 5) Councillor Cleasby – To raise concerns about the notification process for, and involvement in, of local ward councillors in pre-planning applications and discussions for potential developments in their wards.
- 6) Councillor Robinson – The need for an HGV ban on the A659, owing to the negative impact that large lorries are having on the villages of Collingham and Harewood.

During the consideration of Community Concerns, the meeting was suspended at 5.00 pm and resumed at 5.25 pm.

### **37 Motion to Suspend Council Procedure Rules**

It was moved by Councillor G Latty, seconded by Councillor Lamb and leave of Council was given to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14.1(c) to allow Councillor Anderson to second the White Paper in the name of Councillor Lamb and speak for 3 minutes.

### **38 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lamb) - Faith School Transport**

It was moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor Anderson that this Council notes the disappointing Home to School Transport policy approved by the Executive Board in July 2013. Council is particularly concerned that this policy could give rise to the serious accusation that it is unfairly penalising parents and young people who wish to choose a faith based education.

This Council recognises the need to make savings to the Council's budgets to ensure the continuation of essential services to the residents of Leeds. However, the scale of annual Leeds City Council expenditure on transport is such that the decision to focus savings on Home to School transport shows a lack of imagination and a failure to come up with flexible solutions that will save money while maintaining highly valued frontline services.

This Council instructs the Deputy Chief Executive to implement a full review of transport spending across the Council, to be informed by the Scrutiny Inquiry into Home to School Transport, and implemented before any changes to transport policy are introduced by the Children's Services Department.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Blake, seconded by Councillor S Bentley, that this Council recognises that its revised Home to School Transport policy is part of an on-going review of all the Council's discretionary spend, including all spend on transport.

Council welcomes the input of Scrutiny into the implementation phase of the policy.

Council further notes the increasing demands on Children's Services due to the challenging financial climate and recognises the extremely difficult budgetary decisions facing the Administration.

Council welcomes the positive statements of intent from all interested parties to continue to work with us to deliver an improved and fairer service to all young people in Leeds.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Blake was carried, and upon being put as the substantive motion, it was



**RESOLVED** - That this Council recognises that its revised Home to School Transport policy is part of an on-going review of all the Council's discretionary spend, including all spend on transport.

Council welcomes the input of Scrutiny into the implementation phase of the policy.

Council further notes the increasing demands on Children's Services due to the challenging financial climate and recognises the extremely difficult budgetary decisions facing the Administration.

Council welcomes the positive statements of intent from all interested parties to continue to work with us to deliver an improved and fairer service to all young people in Leeds.

On the requisition of Councillors G Latty and J Procter, the voting on the amendment was recorded as follows:-

#### YES

Akhtar, Atha, J Bentley, S Bentley, A Blackburn, D Blackburn, Blake, Bruce, Campbell, Chapman, Charlwood, Cleasby, Congreve, Coupar, Cummins, Davey, Dawson, Dobson, Downes, Dowson, Dunn, Gabriel, Golton, P Grahame, R Grahame, Groves, C Gruen, P Gruen, M Hamilton, S Hamilton, Hardy, Harington, Harland, G Harper, J Harper, A Hussain, G Hussain, G Hyde, Illingworth, Ingham, Iqbal, Jarosz, Khan, Lay, J Lewis, R Lewis, Lowe, Lyons, Macniven, Maqsood, A McKenna, J McKenna, Mitchell, Morgan, Mulherin, Nagle, Nash, Ogilvie, Rafique, Renshaw, Selby, Sobel, E Taylor, Towler, Townsley, Truswell, Urry, Walker, Walshaw, Wakefield, Yeadon.

71

#### NO

Anderson, Buckley, Castle, Cohen, Collins, Fox, Harrand, Lamb, G Latty, P Latty, J Procter, Robinson, Wilkinson.

13

#### ABSTAIN

Elliott, Finnigan, Gettings, Varley

4

### **39 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor J Bentley) - Non-Eviction Policy**

It was moved by Councillor J Bentley, seconded by Councillor Townsley that this council recognises the need to help overcrowded families in council housing but believes the current government policy of reducing benefit for under-occupying tenants is ineffective, unfair and penalises the most vulnerable.

Council notes the efforts of other councils to offer greater certainty to affected tenants by guaranteeing they won't be evicted for arrears accrued as a result of under-occupying their home.

Council resolves to adopt a non-eviction policy for tenants in Leeds who have had their benefits cuts due to under-occupation, provided they have

- applied for rehousing

- applied for a discretionary housing payment
- maintained their tenancy effectively in terms of overall property condition and standards of behaviour
- not refused reasonable offers to downsize

Council requests officers to produce a report to Executive Board detailing how such a policy will be implemented in Leeds and to investigate the possibility of setting up a hardship fund to support tenants adversely affected by welfare reforms.

An amendment was moved by Councillor P Gruen that this Council notes the authority's response to the bedroom tax. This includes preparing tenants and staff for the changes and ensuring properties are correctly designated. Council welcomes the amendments made to the rent recovery arrears procedures, ensuring that all tenants are supported if they come into rent arrears.

Council recognises that to treat people fairly it is reasonable to have a single rent arrears policy, where individual cases are considered on their own merits. Council further recognises that it is essential to have a consistent and fair housing needs assessment for all tenants who are unable to pay their rent. Council therefore requests that officers continue to update Executive Board on the outcomes of central government's welfare changes.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and all local MPs, updating them on the impact of the bedroom tax on Council tenants in Leeds.

This Council commits itself to the abolition of the bedroom tax and agrees to undertake a campaign with the present Government and any future Government for its abolition to come about.

The amendment in the name of Councillor P Gruen was carried, and upon being put as the substantive motion, it was

**RESOLVED** - That this Council notes the authority's response to the bedroom tax. This includes preparing tenants and staff for the changes and ensuring properties are correctly designated. Council welcomes the amendments made to the rent recovery arrears procedures, ensuring that all tenants are supported if they come into rent arrears.

Council recognises that to treat people fairly it is reasonable to have a single rent arrears policy, where individual cases are considered on their own merits. Council further recognises that it is essential to have a consistent and fair housing needs assessment for all tenants who are unable to pay their rent. Council therefore requests that officers continue to update Executive Board on the outcomes of central government's welfare changes.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and all local MPs, updating them on the impact of the bedroom tax on Council tenants in Leeds.

This Council commits itself to the abolition of the bedroom tax and agrees to undertake a campaign with the present Government and any future Government for its abolition to come about.

On the requisitions of Councillor Campbell and G Latty , the voting on the amendment was recorded as follows;

YES

Akhtar, Atha, Blake, Bruce, Charlwood, Congreve, Coupar, Cummins, Davey, Dawson, Dobson, Dowson, Dunn, Elliott, Finnigan, Gabriel, Gettings, P Grahame, R Grahame, Groves, C Gruen, P Gruen, S Hamilton, Hardy, Harington, Harland, G Harper, J Harper, A Hussain, G Hussain, G Hyde, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jarosz, J Lewis, R Lewis, Lowe, Macniven, Maqsood, A McKenna, J McKenna, Mitchell, Morgan, Mulherin, Nagle, Nash, Ogilvie, Rafique, Renshaw, Selby, Sobel, E Taylor, Towler, Truswell, Urry, Varley, Walker, Walshaw, Wakefield ,Yeadon.

60

NO

J Bentley, S Bentley, Campbell, Chapman, M Hamilton, Townsley

6

ABSTAIN

A Blackburn, D Blackburn, Downes, Golton

4

**40 Withdrawal of Amendments/Suspension of Council Procedure Rules**

During the debate of item 39 above the following procedural matters occurred;

- (a) Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 13.2(d) and 14.10, and with the consent of the seconders and of Council, Councillor Finnigan and Councillor P Gruen withdrew the amendments in their name.
- (b) It was further moved by Councillor P Gruen and seconded by Councillor G Harper that Council Procedure Rule 13.1(b) (Motions and Amendments Requiring Notice) be suspended to allow the introduction of an amendment in the name of Councillor P Gruen at short notice.

Upon being put to the vote the motion set out at (b) was carried

- (c) During consideration of these procedural matters Council adjourned for a period of approximately 5 minutes.

**41 Withdrawal of Motion**

During the debate of item 39 above it was moved by Councillor G Latty and seconded by Councillor Campbell that the motion on a Non Eviction Policy in the name of Councillor J Bentley be withdrawn from the agenda and brought to a future meeting of Council.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost.

On the requisitions of Councillor Campbell and G Latty , the voting on the motion to remove the motion from the agenda was recorded as follows;

#### YES

Anderson, J Bentley, S Bentley, Buckley, Campbell, Castle, Chapman, Downes, Fox, Golton, M Hamilton, Harrand , Lamb, G Latty, P Latty, Lay, J Procter, R Procter, Robinson, Townsley, Wilkinson.

21

#### NO

Akhtar, Atha, Blake, Bruce, Charlwood, Congreve, Coupar, Cummins, Davey, Dawson, Dobson, Dowson, Dunn, Elliott, Finnigan, Gabriel, Gettings, P Grahame, R Grahame, Groves, C Gruen, P Gruen, S Hamilton, Hardy, Harington, Harland, G Harper, J Harper, A Hussain, G Hussain, G Hyde, Illingworth, Ingham, Iqbal, Jarosz, Khan, J Lewis, R Lewis, Lowe, Lyons, Macniven, Maqsood, A McKenna, J McKenna, Mitchell, Morgan, Mulherin, Nagle, Nash, Ogilvie, Rafique, Renshaw, Selby, Sobel, E Taylor, Towler, Truswell, Urry, Varley, Walker, Walshaw, Wakefield, Yeadon.

63

#### ABSTAIN

A Blackburn, D Blackburn,

2

#### **42 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Wakefield) - Short Term Lenders**

It was moved by Councillor Wakefield, seconded by Councillor J Procter that this Council expresses deep concern about both the proliferation of high cost, short-term lenders on our high streets and the increasing number of people becoming trapped in a cycle of long-term debt due to extortionate interest rates charged by these companies.

Members reiterate their commitment to work to tackle this problem in Leeds and welcome the recent move to block access to the websites of payday and high interest lenders via the Council network.

However, with an estimated 1 million families a month taking out payday loans, including many families in Leeds, Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs to lobby Government to:

- § Look again at introducing a cap on interest rates charged by high cost, short-term lenders.
- § Introduce restrictions around the practice of 'rolling over' loans given the OFT's recent findings regarding the proportion of revenue generated through charges associated with this practice.
- § Re-designate such lenders within the Town and Country Planning Act so as to require planning permission to be granted before certain establishments can be converted into pay day or high interest loan shops.

Council further requests that Leeds City Council officers produce a report for consideration by the Executive Board which explores the possibility of working with city partners to restrict the advertising of high interest or payday lenders in public spaces – for example, on billboards and in bus stops.

This Council commits to extending its current activity in order to increase awareness of the potential impact of borrowing through high cost lenders. Council also reiterates its commitment to work with partner organisations to increase the accessibility and visibility of alternative mainstream financial institutions such as the Credit Union.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Downes,

To add at the end of the motion (after Credit Union) the words :-

“and Community Development Finance Institutions”

The amendment was carried and, upon being put to the vote as the substantive motion, it was

#### **RESOLVED -**

That this Council expresses deep concern about both the proliferation of high cost, short-term lenders on our high streets and the increasing number of people becoming trapped in a cycle of long-term debt due to extortionate interest rates charged by these companies.

Members reiterate their commitment to work to tackle this problem in Leeds and welcome the recent move to block access to the websites of payday and high interest lenders via the Council network.

However, with an estimated 1 million families a month taking out payday loans, including many families in Leeds, Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs to lobby Government to:

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- § Introduce restrictions around the practice of 'rolling over' loans given the OFT's recent findings regarding the proportion of revenue generated through charges associated with this practice.

- § Re-designate such lenders within the Town and Country Planning Act so as to require planning permission to be granted before certain establishments can be converted into pay day or high interest loan shops.

Council further requests that Leeds City Council officers produce a report for consideration by the Executive Board which explores the possibility of working with city partners to restrict the advertising of high interest or payday lenders in public spaces – for example, on billboards and in bus stops.

This Council commits to extending its current activity in order to increase awareness of the potential impact of borrowing through high cost lenders. Council also reiterates its commitment to work with partner organisations to increase the accessibility and visibility of alternative mainstream financial institutions such as the Credit Union and Community Development Finance Institutions.

Council rose at 19.40