

DEPUTATION THREE – MENCAP

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the folk in your Deputation.

SUSAN: Thank you for letting us speak to you today. We are here to tell you about a fantastic event that happened in this Chamber.

JOHNATHAN: We are asking you to help us. We have a great idea.

MAGGIE: On 26th July, we welcomed the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Honourable John Bercow MP. Over 100 people with a learning disability, support staff and organisations came from Leeds and all across the North of England to this prestigious event.

ANNE-LOUISE: Some of you took part.

MAGGIE: Thank you, Councillor Wakefield, for supporting the event and for your welcome speech on the day. Also, many thanks to Councillor Ogilvie for helping us organise the event and for speaking on the day. We would also like to thank Councillors Urry, Yeadon, Sue and Jonathan Bentley, and Councillor Graham and any others who came to our event and a big thank you to Tom Riordan, Ian Kirk and Andrea Holgate and the Civic Hall catering team, for all their help.

SUSAN: Mr Speaker came to tell us about Parliament and to find out how people with a learning disability can be more involved with their MPs. I was his co-chair, I was Mrs Speaker for the day. *(Applause)*

JOHNATHAN: And we wanted to find out more about the Council.

ANNE-LOUISE: Lots of people came from Leeds. It was very good.

JOHNATHAN: I asked Mr Speaker how much longer David Cameron will be in power and how long it will be before Ed Miliband gets in! *(Applause)*

THOMAS: I am here to help another person who spoke at the Council Takeover event with Mr Speaker. She speaks on behalf of people with more severe or complex disabilities. We have agreed beforehand what it is you want to say, because obviously it takes a bit of time, haven't we? Are you all right for me to say what you want to say? Yes.

[ANNABEL:] I care about Leeds. MPs and Councillors need to talk to us. You need to listen to us and include everybody. *(Applause)*

ANNE-LOUISE: We have done three big meetings here, one every year and we went to London to meet our MPs.

MAGGIE: The Council Chamber Takeover events set new standards in the engagement of people with a learning disability in local and national democracy. We hope Mr Speaker will follow our lead at Westminster.

SUSAN: We found out about the Sheffield People's Parliament, which is for people with a learning disability to have their say in their Council. There is also one in Durham.

JOHNATHAN: Will you help us set up a People's Parliament in Leeds for people with a learning disability?

COUNCILLORS: Yes, we will. (*Applause*)

SUSAN: Our next Takeover in the Council Chamber is on 18th June. It would be great to make it into a People's Parliament.

THOMAS: Annabel would just like to finish this Deputation by saying thank you very much to everyone for listening and also thank you to Michael, the Warden, and this very kind gentleman behind me for helping us adjust the room so it is easier for people who use wheelchairs to come in and talk to you all today.

Thank you all very much. (*standing ovation*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that this matter be referred to the Executive Board for their further consideration.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) Unanimous.
CARRIED. (*Applause*)

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You care about Leeds; we care about Leeds. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive. Good afternoon. Have a good day. Thank you.