

Report of the Director of City Development

Report to Executive Board

Date: 19 September 2018

Subject: City Centre Vision and Our Spaces Strategy

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Little London and Woodhouse, Hunslet and Riverside		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 of main issues

1. The 2010 City Centre Vision Conference set an ambition for Leeds to be the "**Best City Centre by 2030**", detailing aspirations and prioritising a number of projects to underpin that ambition.
2. The "Best City Centre" ambition has not changed, but it is now timely to update the aspirations within the Vision following a range of conversations and consultations to tackle the current challenges facing the city and to recognise the importance of Leeds City Centre in a local, regional, national and international context.
3. Members will be aware that in early 2018 that the Council formally adopted the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy. Of the 12 BIG ideas set out within the Inclusive Growth Strategy, the updated aspirations, opportunities and proposals for the City Centre detailed in this report will contribute to: Best City for Health and Wellbeing; Doubling the Size of the City Centre; 21st Century Infrastructure; Promoting Leeds and Yorkshire and Maximising the Economic Benefits of Culture.
4. Leeds is halfway through a £10bn investment pipeline to regenerate the South Bank around a revamped HS2 train station and develop an innovation district to the North with universities, colleges and the teaching hospital. The shopping and leisure offer have already been transformed with Trinity, Victoria Gate, the First Direct Arena and countless new restaurants adding to the museums, galleries and events. The

City Centre is expected to double in size, with up to 16,500 new homes to be built by 2028 and 25 million day visitors to Leeds worth £31.2bn to the local economy. With the plans and strategies in place, the importance of place-making and people's experience, cannot be understated, alongside the development and delivery of high quality, resilient 21st century infrastructure.

5. Leeds being a diverse and vibrant city is looking to the future as an economic centre and capital of the Northern Powerhouse and Leeds City Region. Central to this city positioning is the drive to create world class public realm and spaces across Leeds, which respond to the city's diverse population, cultural significance and the effects of climate change.
6. Our spaces are often people's first encounter with the city, as our 'front door' to visitors, businesses and residents. Ensuring we design, deliver improvements and then maintain our spaces to the highest standards possible is essential for our city's profile locally, nationally and internationally and so the development of the Our Spaces Strategy, as set out in this report, is one key aspect of the Best City Centre Vision.
7. In October 2015, as early recognition that the City Centre is growing and to ensure that the quality of place was embedded through the transition, the Council developed its 'Design Ideas and Opportunities Document,' which captured public realm works that were either in delivery, in development or potential options to consider further. The outcome of this was that Executive Board endorsed the principle of the Council developing a strategic plan for public realm improvements in the City Centre.
8. Subsequent to this, the 'Our Spaces Strategy' has been developed as the Council's strategic document setting out the ambition for the development of public realm within the City Centre to be vibrant, inclusive, world class and to be our greatest cultural asset. This is an integral part of this Best City Centre Vision report and we are seeking Executive Board approval to commence stakeholder engagement to this draft document prior to its formalisation in early 2019.
9. The Best City Centre Vision and Our Spaces Strategy report has strong synergies with the Street Support, Executive Board report that is also being considered as part of this Board agenda. Taken together, the Street Support Team and the Our Spaces Strategy show a combined consideration for both people and place and are both central to the delivery of the Best City Centre Vision. With new opportunities and proposals to create a place-based architecture for the City Centre and a new operating model for community safety, putting people at the centre regardless of the issue; the introduction of the Safer Leeds Street Support Team, will seek to significantly improve the daily focus, planning and service delivery or intervention requirements to respond to the range of challenges faced on the streets of the City Centre. The benefits and opportunities that the people and place two work-streams, present will continue to be explored and achieved in partnership moving forward.

10 Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to:-

- a) Reaffirm the Vision to be the "Best City Centre by 2030" and endorse the aspirations for the City Centre contained in this report;

- b) Note the content, vision and ambition for the draft Our Spaces Strategy and approve the request to commence stakeholder engagement with a view to seeking its formal adoption early 2019, once consultation is complete.
- c) Note that the Chief Asset Management & Regeneration Officer will be responsible for progressing the consultation on the Our Spaces Strategy.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a headline review of the Best City Centre Vision to date and introduce to Executive Board the draft Our Spaces Strategy with a view to obtaining approval to commence stakeholder engagement, prior to seeking formal adoption of the strategy in early 2019.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 To meet the ambition to become the “**Best City Centre by 2030**” a number of aspirations were defined in 2010. Over the last eight years there has been significant progress on the aspirations set in 2010 and the projects that were defined at that time:
- Supporting the physical development of Leeds train station internally and externally, working closely with Network rail as major partner.
 - A focus on developing Leeds City Centre as a family friendly city through events and planned activities that promotes the City Centres’ location as a welcoming city to families and children.
 - To support the private sector in developing a Business Improvement District that will help fund improvements in distinct areas within the City Centre.
 - A continued focus on high quality public realm and improvements, which have so far delivered the redevelopment of Bond Court, Albion Street and Victoria Gardens and a new business destination at Sovereign Street with new high quality public realm.
 - To capitalise on the opportunities for a transformative South Bank redevelopment, which has included support for the delivery of a new 3.5ha City Park
- 2.2 In early 2018, the Council formally adopted the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2018-2023. This Strategy sets out our ambition for Leeds and a route map of how best to deliver growth that is inclusive, draws on the talents of, and benefits all our citizens and communities. The 12 BIG ideas identified within the Strategy have been developed to shape our city by boosting our long term productivity, competitiveness and social inclusion. It aligns seamlessly with our Best Council Vision for the ‘Best City Centre by 2030’ and the 7 principles developed as part of the Our Spaces Strategy support the 12 BID ideas, specifically Best City for Health and Wellbeing; Doubling the Size of the City Centre; 21st Century Infrastructure; Promoting Leeds and Yorkshire and Maximising the Economic Benefits of Culture.
- 2.3 The recognition that communities on the rim of the City Centre feel disconnected from it socially, economically, and technologically, also sets a background context for the refreshed aspirations of the Best City Centre Vision and the strategy centred on inclusive growth for everyone to benefit from the economy to their full potential.
- 2.4 In acknowledging the continued expansion of the City Centre and to ensure that quality of place is embedded in all developments being brought forward, the Council developed its ‘Design Ideas and Opportunities’ document, which was presented to Executive Board in October 2015 for consideration. The document identified public realm schemes that had recently been delivered and the positive impact that these had on the look and feel of the City Centre; schemes that were currently in design or delivery and potential schemes that could be brought forward for consideration in



the future. It also set the benefits of developing a strategic plan for the development and delivery of public realm moving forward. Executive Board endorsed the principle of developing a strategic plan for public realm improvements in the City Centre, and agreed to the Council consulting and engaging with stakeholders on potential schemes to be brought forward based on the design ideas and opportunities document.



2.5 From these recommendations, the draft Our Spaces Strategy has been developed to embed our ambition and provide a framework for the development and delivery of future high quality public realm in the City Centre.

3 Main issues

3.1 One of the City Centre’s key virtues is that it is compact and offers an existing variety of activities that contribute to its vibrancy and vitality. There is a well-established understanding of the importance of the City Centre as a location for commercial investment, housing growth, economic development and a growing national and international focus across key sectors. We are also seeing the City Centre expand with an increasing concentration of services and facilities serving the city’s and wider city region’s resident population.

3.2 As the City Centre grows in size and success, refreshing the aspirations in our “Best City Centre Vision”, as summarised below, will aid even more agile and joined up working as we look to further integrate, manage and co-ordinate the varied and wide ranging programme of activities across partners. ‘Our Principles’ detailed in para 3.28 will deliver the direct outcomes to meet the Best City Centre Vision aspirations.

Vision: " Best City Centre by 2030 "		
Where we are renown as Being world class, Being a City Centre for all, Being a City Centre that feels as good as it looks		
2010 Aspirations	2018 Aspirations (<i>refresh and update</i>)	Our Principles
A welcoming City Centre , with strong arrival gateways that are clean and uncluttered, making everyone feel safe and welcome.	A welcoming City Centre , to be <i>distinctive</i> , with strong arrival gateways that are clean and uncluttered, making everyone feel safe and welcome.	 EVERYONE WELCOME
A cultural City Centre , with national and international reputation for	A cultural City Centre , <i>building</i> a national and international reputation <i>for culture. To celebrate the exceptional and diverse</i>	 MAKE IT HAPPEN

<p>theatre, dance and music with performance facilities putting Leeds on the international stage.</p>	<p><u>cultural landscape of the city and its communities, where culture is an integral part of plans building community cohesion, creating vibrant communities, increasing tourism and creating opportunities for inward investment.</u></p>	
<p>A quality environment, where the public realm is of a high quality design, well maintained and aspirational</p>	<p>A quality environment <u>that has a positive effect on people's health and wellbeing, raising health and environmental standards across the city through the promotion of walking, cycling and the reduction of air pollution, noise and carbon emissions</u></p>	 <small>GREENER FUTURE</small>
<p>A well connected City Centre, accessible nationally and internationally, with visitors knowing that they can arrive at our City Centre easily from the region, the country and internationally.</p>	<p>A well connected City Centre, <u>To aid inclusive growth, promote equality and connect communities</u>, with visitors knowing that they can access our City Centre easily from the region, the country and internationally</p>	 <small>BETTER CONNECTED</small>
<p>A City Centre that is legible and walkable. A city that makes it easy to find your way around on foot, bike, by car or public transport.</p>	<p>A City Centre that is legible, accessible and walkable, easy to find your way around <u>with the use of smart technology to capture data and help inform people what's on and how to get there.</u></p>	 <small>BETTER CONNECTED</small>
<p>A liveable City Centre. A City Centre for the whole of your life. One you can live in for a day, a weekend, a month, a year or permanently.</p>	<p>A liveable and compassionate City Centre <u>that provides good quality residential opportunities for all. A safe, appealing and well-managed City Centre for all of your life.</u></p>	 <small>PEOPLE FIRST</small>
<p>A business friendly City Centre. A great place to do business, attracting new companies and retaining existing ones.</p>	<p>A business friendly City Centre, a <u>thriving</u> place to do business, attracting new companies and <u>nurturing</u> existing ones</p>	 <small>ECONOMIC SENSE</small>

A Welcoming City Centre

3.3 Leeds City Centre being recognised as distinctive from other city centres and a destination of choice, will attract additional visitors, who then stay longer. Data

summarised in Appendix A, shows how the Leeds' visitor economy sector is growing at an impressive rate. The strength of the overall visitor economy in Leeds is supported by the Lonely Planet accolade in 2017 naming Leeds as a top 10 European city-break destination and VisitBritain's recent analytics highlighting Leeds as one of the top destinations used in search criteria for destinations and attractions to visit in Britain. In Leeds, 2016 and 2017 saw the highest total footfall figures since 2009, totalling over 66,000,000 each year. From January 2016 to date, the city has been awarded Purple Flag status for excellence in managing its evening and night time economy.

A Cultural City Centre

- 3.4 The new Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030 sets an ambition for our public realm in the City Centre to become its greatest cultural asset. The City Centre events programme has grown significantly in scale and impact including the Tour de France, Tour de Yorkshire, World Triathlon Series, Olympic Homecoming Parades, growth of Pride and the increased use of Millennium Square through events such as Light Night, which based on its success was extended to a two day event in 2017.
- 3.5 Leeds is distinctive through its diversity with the 170 different languages spoken. The City Centre that serves those communities, provides opportunities to celebrate the exceptional and diverse cultural landscape of the city and so help to build community cohesion, as well as increasing tourism and creating opportunities for inward investment

A Quality Environment

- 3.6 Our Best City Centre Vision embodies the provision of a safe and welcoming environment in the City Centre, for all to enjoy. In recognising that Leeds City Centre is experiencing significant growth, with increasing footfall in the pedestrianised retail core, night time economy and vibrant street café areas, the installation of a city centre vehicle access scheme by early 2019, provides reassurance to the public and a measure of protection from hostile vehicles that are a modern phenomenon of key cities.
- 3.7 To animate and enliven the City Centre a range of temporary, "tactical" and public art schemes, have been developed. These include the pop-up parks at Cookridge Street, Briggate and the Town Hall; the City Less Grey project in partnership with the BID and the park here and play initiative with DLA, PlayBox and other partners that has run for the last 2 years and seen c5000 visitors each year.
- 3.8 The challenge to improve air quality has stimulated a range of activities through the @cleanairleeds conversations to reduce traffic passing through the City Centre by improving the walking, cycling and public transport offer and so encourage a shift to healthier and more sustainable travel and also implementing measures to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles.
- 3.9 Through the Our Spaces Strategy (paras 3.23 - 3.36) we will set out a visual first impression of how the City Centre could look as a whole, taking account of the rapid transformation and growth taking place. It will be an instrumental strategy for demonstrating to residents, visitors and businesses that by re-thinking the approach to the design of our spaces and exploring opportunities to reduce highway infrastructure at key gateways and connections, we will be able to transform our City Centre and generate opportunities for new and exciting spaces to develop.

Whilst the strategy does not provide specific scheme details, it clearly sets out our thinking and ambition.

- 3.10 Education and behavioural change are other important aspects for both residents and visitors as well as businesses and retailers operating from within the City Centre. There is the need to further develop actions and initiatives that support and encourage real behavioural change that will have a positive impact on the City Centre such as; increased walking and cycling, responsible parking, people not abusing blue badge use, increased recycling on the go, as well as people disposing of their litter and gum responsibly and alternative avenues of support to dissuade begging.

A Well Connected City Centre

- 3.11 Inclusive growth means that everyone can benefit from economic growth to their full potential. The Inclusive Growth Strategy sets out 12 BIG ideas to create the underlying conditions for inclusive growth that includes 21st Century infrastructure, transport and connecting people to jobs by improving links between the City Centre and surrounding communities. Through the "Transport Conversation" people also recognised the need to improve journeys to the City Centre, the importance of more local journeys made between communities and there was strong support to take traffic out of the City Centre.

A City Centre that is Legible and Walkable

- 3.12 Since 2010, the 'Legible Leeds' system has been continually updated and extended to coincide with significant new developments and the ongoing expansion of the City Centre into the South Bank. The network of over 80 on-street signs helps visitors to find their way around on foot, and the aim is to increase visitor numbers at key destinations with the morning peak weekday travel mode assessment showing a 1.2% increase (c2,000 people) walking on radial routes approaching the City Centre. The A3 printed map is especially popular with visitors, with over 100,000 copies distributed free of charge every year. Leeds City Council is currently working with WYCA to use the Legible Leeds style mapping as the standard map for transport nodes across West Yorkshire. As part of the implementation of the Our Spaces Strategy, the Principles (section 3.28) and the proposed schemes being developed will ensure that accessibility is considered at all stages and that accessibility groups are approached directly as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement.

A liveable and compassionate City Centre (including the introduction of the Safer Leeds Street Support Team)

- 3.13 The Council's ambition is to develop the City Centre as a mixed and vibrant residential community with a broad mix and range of housing types, tenure and price. The Council is also working with a range of landowners and investors on the Leeds Living programme, to identify and seek funding for a range of infrastructure projects that will help accelerate residential development on a range of identified sites across the City Centre and its fringes. The Council submitted an initial Expression of Interest for funding to the government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) in September 2017 and is now working on a full business case for submission in December 2018, which has the potential to draw in up to £113m to stimulate delivery of up to 16,500 new homes in the City Centre through improvements to highways, public spaces, new bridges, site enabling and delivering elements of the Our Spaces strategy.

- 3.14 Alongside this, the City Centre's resident population is increasingly a community in its own right with all the features of a community anywhere in the city including a mix of long term residents and those of a more transitory nature. In addition, there are some of our poorest communities on the rim of the City Centre who feel disconnected from it socially, economically, and technologically. A successful HIF bid would help address issues of physical severance around the City Centre rim and reconnect these communities to ensure that residents are not cut off from the services and economic and social opportunities available there.
- 3.15 Leeds has witnessed an increase in street begging and rough sleeping, and although the position in Leeds is less than seen in other comparable cities, it is significant and one person without a home is one too many. A joint approach has been implemented between Council and partner services to address these complex issues and support people in challenging circumstances.
- 3.16 The Council and partners continue to offer emergency and longer-term supported accommodation to people who need it and there is always sufficient availability for any rough sleeper, who wishes to take up the offer. Leeds puts on extra bed spaces during periods of cold weather (activated on the first night of sub-zero temperatures) and people who have slept rough are awarded high priority for council re-housing. The "housing first" approach and the fact that temporary bed and breakfast accommodation is not used to house people who find themselves on the streets of Leeds, exemplifies our approach as a compassionate city. When help is offered to bring some structure and organisation into the lives of street users, it can take many attempts to succeed and the biggest obstacle is not always about providing a home.
- 3.17 The visibility, activity and behaviour of some street users can directly influence the public's perceptions and concerns. We want all people who come in to the city and in neighbouring communities to be safe and feel safe on the streets and the places they go. Everyone has the right to live, work and socialise in a safe, clean and tolerant city and everyone has a responsibility to behave in a way that respects this right.
- 3.18 As detailed in a further report to this September Executive Board, there are new opportunities and proposals to create a place-based architecture for the City Centre and a new operating model for community safety, putting people at the centre regardless of the issue. This includes the introduction of the Safer Leeds Street Support Team, which will seek to significantly improve the daily focus, planning and service delivery/ intervention requirements to respond to the challenges.

A business friendly City Centre

- 3.19 The Business Improvement District (BID) reinforces the city's ambitions in terms of place shaping standards to maintain and enhance the quality of provision and service across the city. LeedsBID has the ability through co-ordination of effort and investment to increase performance and achieve cost efficiencies whilst ensuring it doesn't just duplicate or replace existing provision.
- 3.20 With c1810 businesses in the City Centre, as of 2017, Leeds has now risen above Birmingham to 3rd place in the national retail rankings (outside London) and at the 2017 MIPIM event, Victoria Gate was named as the World's best new shopping centre. In March 2018, Leeds saw 386 new businesses start up, which accounts for 17.4% of all start-ups in Yorkshire and the Humber, with the City and Hunslet Ward

seeing over 40 individual start-ups. The number of business visitors to the city is integral to the success of the visitor economy as a whole. Business tourism is worth £409.5m to the economy with 2.9m delegates visiting in 2016.

- 3.21 The continued growth of the city centre retail and hospitality offer within the wider visitor economy now supports over 69,900 jobs in Leeds, many in the City Centre. However, there are significant challenges for the sector from Poundstretcher to House of Fraser for employers seeking to attract and retain employees at a range of levels, and for residents seeking to access relevant skills and training and to compete for jobs in the industry. Over 25% of customer service employers in the Leeds City Region report they are facing skills gaps when it comes to their workforce. Placemaking alongside our vibrant city centre ambitions will assist in supporting both the business and retail city centre offer.
- 3.22 The Council working with LeedsBID and the business community will launch Ambition Leeds, the centre of excellence for retail and hospitality skills, in October 2018. Supported by Leeds Beckett University, Leeds City College and the Source Retail Academy it will support both residents and employers through the provision of high quality, employer-led training and skills programmes and a recruitment brokerage service. It will seek to improve productivity, share best practice on workforce development and enable local residents to access opportunities and existing employees to upskill and progress. In addition, significant progress has been made in Leeds with regards to living wage and the Council's agreement to increase the living wage hourly rate from January 2017 and Leeds BID becoming an accredited Living Wage employer.

Our Spaces Strategy

- 3.23 Our spaces are the streets and places between buildings. They are continually interconnected spaces including streets, squares, parks, cycleways and the waterfront. Our spaces positively support commerce, reflect our culture and heritage, provide opportunities for relaxation, events and social interaction. They speak of place and community and are our visual first impression to businesses and visitors. The development and delivery of the Our Spaces Strategy will be a mechanism through which the Best City Centre Vision will be achieved.
- 3.24 In the City Centre, our spaces are a unique mix of old and new, where no two spaces are the same. They include formal Georgian Squares, such as Park Square, Queen Square and Hanover Square, informal parks such as St John's churchyard, Penny Pocket Park and Lovell Park, Woodhouse Moor, a historic parkland on the fringe of the City Centre, to event spaces such as Millennium Square and Victoria Gardens. There are also new and improved spaces such as Sovereign Square, the first new piece of green space within the City Centre for decades which is over half a hectare in size, alongside the recently improved Bond Court and Victoria Gardens. In addition, as part of South Bank, the Council in partnership with Vastint are bringing forward proposals for the delivery of a new City Park using land holdings at Meadow Lane and the former Carlsberg Tetley site, to create a new piece of green infrastructure in the City Centre of over 3.5 hectares.
- 3.25 Through the development, engagement and formalisation of Our Spaces Strategy we will:-
- Set out our vision and ambition for the development of public realm within the City Centre;
 - Provide a baseline for the development of future public realm interventions;

- Provide a tool to test the robustness of site specific projects and how these integrate with wider public realm aspirations;
- Reflect upon the current public realm offer in the City Centre and identify opportunities to improve it.

3.26 Using Our Spaces Strategy consultation as the starting point, we will engage with the people of Leeds, key stakeholders, visitors, residents and businesses to seek their views. The feedback will help to shape the content and the look of the final strategy to ensure it is suitable robust to inform the planning and design of Our Spaces over the next 5-10 years.

3.27 The Our Spaces Strategy also recognises that there are key challenges to be overcome, including:-

- a. The Identity of Leeds – How does Leeds promote itself through its spaces?
- b. The Experience of Leeds – How does it feel to be in the city?
- c. Leeds in green and blue – Is Leeds a Green City and does it have the River at its heart?
- d. Crossing Leeds – What is it like to cross roads and rivers as a pedestrian or cyclist?
- e. Growing a Compact City – How is Leeds expanding and how will the type and quantity of our public realm meet the needs of a growing city?
- f. The Quality of Leeds's Public Realm – What are Our Spaces currently like and what could be done to improve them?

3.28 To assist the Council and others in the design of public realm to ensure that the key challenges are overcome and the Best City Centre Vision and ambition for Our Spaces is achieved, we have redefined the design principles used for the development of public realm. These are:-

1. PEOPLE FIRST - Our spaces will be designed for people. They will be comfortable, stimulating, relaxing and safe.
2. THIS IS LEEDS - Our spaces will celebrate Leeds' built and natural assets, from the edges of the River Aire to the magnificent architecture of the city centre.
3. EVERYONE WELCOME - Our spaces will be inclusive, designed for all ages, abilities and reflect Leeds' diverse communities.
4. BETTER CONNECTED - Our spaces will be highly connected, considering pedestrians first, clearly legible and easily navigable.
5. GREENER FUTURE - Our spaces will be resilient to climate change, with green environments cooling the air, sustainably managing surface water and absorbing carbon.
6. MAKE IT HAPPEN - Our spaces will be places for cultural activity, from small interactions to major events.
7. ECONOMIC SENSE - Our spaces will be valuable economic infrastructure, that supports businesses and provide a canvas for new investment.



PEOPLE FIRST



THIS IS LEEDS



EVERYONE WELCOME



BETTER CONNECTED



GREENER FUTURE



MAKE IT HAPPEN



ECONOMIC SENSE

- 3.29 Our Principles aim to address the key public realm challenges that the city faces at present and are the physical interventions through which the Best City Centre Vision can be delivered. Our Principles were developed in consultation with Leeds City Council and the Quality Spaces and Places Forum of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. The principles are ambitious, but present a realistic picture of what Leeds will look like as a world class city. Leeds will be a substantially greener and better connected city that is more accessible to more people and recognisable as a unique place to be.
- 3.30 A number of key intervention areas have been identified which provide opportunities to introduce Our Principles to specific streets, public spaces and highway infrastructure across Leeds. The intervention areas are separated into distinct parts of the city with their own unique characteristics, use and function, these are: Train Station Arrival, Western Business District, Civic Heart, Arena Quarter, Mabgate, Cultural Quarter, Kirkgate and the Calls, South Bank – central, South Bank – west and City Riverside.
- 3.31 Within Our Spaces each key intervention area is assessed against the challenges identified in 3.27, the seven Our Principles and any known developments/proposals being brought forward either by the Council or private developers so it can be reshaped by integrating measures to overcome the challenges faced. The outcome of these assessments identifies around 45 Transformational Schemes in the City Centre that we will be looking to bring forward over the next 5 plus years. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, it is important we begin to communicate the level of change happening in the City Centre and how we proposed to respond to it.
- 3.32 The transformational schemes consist of sites that are already under construction, Quarry Hill's Gateway Court (due for completion September 2019) and Clay Pit Lane (to be completed in Autumn 2018) and sites already in design development such as Sovereign Square footbridge, New Briggate, the Corn Exchange, Meadow Lane, as part of the Council's contribution to City Park and City Square. In addition the transformational schemes also include proposals for wider developments and programmes that will have outputs that directly benefit the quality and quantity of public realm in the City Centre and therefore will form an integral part of the Our Spaces Strategy, such as the Leeds Public Transport Improvement Programme (LPTIP) and the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid.
- 3.33 There are significant funds, including LPTIP, in place to deliver the City Centre package of highway improvements. An element of this will see major changes to the Armley Gyratory and the M621 and so provide the city with a unique opportunity to divert general traffic around the city core, allowing the complete redevelopment of City Square in 2023 which will see it increase in size to 1.4ha (larger than Trafalgar Square).

- 3.34 In addition there are several other major development proposals and regeneration programmes being brought forward for delivery, such as South Bank Leeds which has developments including CEG, Monkbridge, Tower Works and the former Carlsberg Tetley sites within it, CITU, MEPC, Wellington Place and Hunslet Riverside.
- 3.35 All together the investment into Leeds's City Centre infrastructure and so public realm over the next 5 years, which will be brought forward either by the Council or by developers, will be hugely transformational. It is a defining moment for Leeds and one that together as a city, we need to be ready for and work together to deliver. By setting out the ambitions in both the Best City Centre Vision and the draft Our Spaces Strategy and seeking to engage with stakeholders to understand their views, we will embed the approach for the delivery of high quality design in Leeds City Centre that can be benchmarked against Our Principles. It is the intention to update the Our Spaces Strategy, following the outcome of the engagement, prior to its formal adoption early in 2019.
- 3.36 Appendix B is the Principles, Challenges and Proposals Summary Consultation Draft of the Our Spaces Strategy. This gives a flavour of the look and feel of the Our Spaces Strategy alongside the 7 Our Spaces Principles and the ambition for the delivery of public realm moving forward. The full Our Spaces Strategy will be formally launched for the commencement of stakeholder engagement in the autumn, should Executive Board be minded to support the recommendations in this report.

Measuring Success

- 3.37 To know that we have successfully delivered on the "**Best City Centre by 2030**" vision and aspirations, Leeds City Centre will be renown as world class, measured through international rankings; as a City Centre for all, measured through such as footfall, visitor data and surveys; and as a City Centre that feels as good as it looks through a range of environmental measures. More detailed information on these measures can be found in Appendix A.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Conversations and consultations to tackle challenges facing the city, where feedback has been used to inform the refreshed aspirations in this report include; cultural strategy and 2023, transport conversation, Leeds public transport investment programme, child friendly Leeds, BID business plan, South Bank regeneration framework, the Leeds Living Housing Infrastructure Fund proposals, HS2 LCR Growth Strategy, purple flag status, Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy and Leeds waterfront ambitions.
- 4.1.2 Taking this Best City Centre Vision forwards and achieving our ambitions will need increasing collaboration with city centre businesses, leaders, the third sector and asset owners in the city joining up with the Council, be that on the Waterfront, in the emerging Southbank, or in our neighbouring communities of Little London, Woodhouse and Hunslet and Riverside.

- 4.1.3 For the draft Our Spaces Strategy, this report is seeking Executive Board approval to commence a period of stakeholder engagement. It is proposed that starting in autumn 2018 for around 8-12 weeks; comments received will be considered and where appropriate, the Our Spaces Strategy be updated to reflect the feedback received.
- 4.1.4 Members for Little London and Woodhouse and Hunslet and Riverside have been consulted with regards to the City Centre Vision update and have also received a copy of the Principles, Challenges and Proposals Summary Consultation Draft of the Our Spaces Strategy for comment.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A screening report has been completed and submitted to the Equalities Team. Equality and Diversity implications being addressed through specific projects or programmes of work and is attached in Appendix C.

4.3 Council Policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The proposals within this report are consistent with the Best Council Plan.
- 4.3.2 The proposals also have synergies with and support a number of other Council priorities and strategies, including:-

- Child Friendly Leeds – our ambition to make Leeds a Child Friendly City;
- Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy – our strategy to create a place where people and business grow through the 12 BIG ideas;
- Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021;
- Leeds Culture Strategy 2017-2030
- HS2 Growth Strategy
- Leeds – A Waterfront City – West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
- South Bank Leeds Regeneration Framework 2017
- Leeds Integrated Station Masterplan 2017 – WS Atkins

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications arising from this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report is eligible for call-in. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no specific risk issues arising from this report.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The ambition to be the "**Best City Centre by 2030**" remains but it is now timely to update the aspirations within the Vision, such that by 2030, Leeds City Centre will be renown as being world class, as being a City Centre for all; and as being a City Centre that feels as good as it looks.
- 5.2 Clarity of Vision and the refreshed aspirations contained in the report will aid even more agile and joined up working as we look to further integrate, manage and co-ordinate the varied and wide ranging programme of activities across a wide range of partners.
- 5.3 The proposal to seek Executive Board approval to engage with stakeholders about the draft Our Spaces Strategy couldn't be timelier. Never before has the Council set out such a bold ambition for the delivery of high quality City Centre public realm, with the development of the 7 Principles to benchmark the delivery of schemes against.
- 5.4 By engaging with stakeholders and seeking to adopt the draft Our Spaces Strategy early in the New Year, we will confirm our commitment to the creation of a world class, vibrant and inclusive City Centre, where our public realm is our greatest cultural asset.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is recommended to:-
 - a) Reaffirm the Vision to be the "Best City Centre by 2030" and endorse the aspirations for the City Centre contained in this report.
 - b) Note the content, vision and ambition for the draft Our Spaces Strategy and approve the request to commence stakeholder engagement with a view to seeking its formal adoption early 2019, once consultation is complete.
 - c) Note that the Chief Asset Management & Regeneration Officer will be responsible for progressing the consultation on the Our Spaces Strategy.

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.

Appendix A : **Performance Measures.**

Best Council Plan: Strong Economy and Compassionate City	
“Best City Centre by 2030”	
Aspirations	Welcoming; Cultural; Quality Environment; Well Connected; Legible & Walkable; Liveable & Compassionate; Business friendly
Success Measures	<p><u>Journey to date:</u></p> <p>A City Centre that is World Class</p> <p>2018: Tour de Yorkshire 2018: World Triathlon Series 2017: Top 10 European city break destination (Lonely planet) 2017: Tour de Yorkshire 2017: Voted No1 cultural place to live in Britain (Times) 2017: Olympic Homecoming Parade 2017: Top 2 conferencing destination North of England (BMEIS)</p> <p>2017: City Centre 6th in retail rankings 2017 MIPIM event, Victoria Gate: World’s best new shopping centre 2016: Tour de Yorkshire 2016: Best UK city for Quality of Life (Sustainable cities 2016) 2015: Tour de Yorkshire 2015: Rugby Union World Cup 2014: Tour de France</p>
	<p>A City Centre for all</p> <p><u>Population:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12,183 (55% male, 45% female) • 37.5% 20-24 years old • 1.7% < 15years old • 0.8% > 65 years old • 16.5% households English is not the main language • 4% has day to day activities limited a little or a lot • 35 Homeless <p><u>Properties:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5390 • 53.8% 1 person households • 93.3% rental <p><u>Businesses:</u> 2550 total (2017) Large - 30: Medium – 90: Small – 360: Micro -2070: Footfall totalling > 66,000,000 (2017) Purple Flag status (2016 to date)</p> <p><u>Wider range of Events:</u> 2018: 12th year of Leeds Pride 2018: 51st year of West Indian Carnival 2018: Child friendly events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 days pop up and play • 25 days pop up parks • 6 Child friendly Sundays (82 activities) <p>2018: 18 registered “Come and Rest” businesses</p>
	<p>A City Centre that feels as good as it looks</p> <p>Welcomed 27.29 million <u>tourists</u> (STEAM 2016) a 4.2% increase from 2015 and overnight stays increasing by 5.4%.</p> <p>25.9 ha of Green space 37.9 ha primary shopping area 117.7 ha conservation area 51.65 km cycleways. 6.6 km towpath Leeds Waterfront</p> <p><u>Crime:</u> (12 months to July 2018)</p> <p>“Your View” feedback 85% “ Feel safe”</p> <p>11,472 total crime cases 2,082 reported Shop lifting 1, 529 reported ASB</p> <p><u>Clean air:</u> 16 electric vehicle charging points</p>
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