

## **Appendix 2: Overview of City Ambition engagement and consultation**

Between September and early December 2021, the following groups have been, or will be, engaged with around the Best City Ambition. The purpose of the engagement was to explain the function of the Best City Ambition and to ask stakeholders for their initial views on the content of the plan and how it should be delivered.

The consultation was delivered through a combination of planned engagements (particularly with the Community Committees and Equality Hub groups), as well as opportunities and invitations that arose during the consultation process.

### City Ambition engagements, September – December 2021

- Inner South Community Committee
- Inner West Community Committee
- Inner East Community Committee
- Inner North West Community Committee
- Inner North East Community Committee
- Outer North East Community Committee
- Outer West Community Committee
- Outer East Community Committee
- Outer South Community Committee
- Outer North West Community Committee
- Outer North East Town & Parish Council
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- LCC Policy Network
- Corporate Leadership Team
- Leeds Anchors Executives Group
- Extended Inclusive growth Delivery Partnership
- WNW Leeds Youth Service
- Age Proud Festival
- BME Hub
- Women and Girls Hub
- Women and Girls Hub culturally diverse subgroup
- Religion or Belief Hub
- Third Sector Leeds Goes Local- WNW
- Third Sector Leeds Goes Local- ENE
- Third Sector Leeds Goes Local- SE
- VAL Role of the Third Sector event
- Leeds Youth Council
- Age and Dementia Friendly workshop
- Holbeck community groups workshop
- Armley Forum
- Bramley Forum
- Reginald Centre community workshop
- Leeds Climate Commission
- Partner Roundtable- private, public and third sector partners

### Consultation Questions

Most consultation events followed the structure of a 10-15 minute presentation on the purpose and function of the City Ambition and headline findings from the Joint Strategic Assessment, followed by discussion loosely arranged around the following discussion points:

- Priorities for Leeds and the city's communities up to 2030

- Reflections on how we work across our city partnerships to drive towards these priorities
- Reflections on how communities can play their part

### Summary of consultation feedback

At this stage the below is only a very high-level summary of the consultation and engagement to date. A fuller account will be included with the February 2022 Executive Board report, following the conclusion of the formal public consultation and alongside the recommended final proposals.

Across the consultation events there was a strong level of agreement with the Three Pillars and the cross-cutting focus of tackling inequalities. Consultees agreed with the approach of strengthening the voice of wider city stakeholders and particularly communities in the Best City Ambition, recognising the significant role that communities and third sector organisations have played in supporting the city through the pandemic. A strong theme was an intent for the Best City Ambition to deliver measurable outcomes.

There was extensive discussion about the need to make the Best City Ambition meaningful to communities across the city, recognising that people's sense of place is often most closely aligned to their local area, rather than solely at the city level. The consultation process, particularly Community Committee meetings, demonstrated the specificity of priorities for local areas, based on factors such as geography, demography, level of deprivation, connectivity, and many other factors. However, several overarching themes emerged throughout the process, as priorities that stakeholders should focus on delivering. These included:

- Accessible and efficient mobility around the city, and access to services in localities without car dependency
- Better quality, better paid and secure employment
- Improved mental health, wellbeing, and reduced loneliness
- Fostering a sense of pride in place through creating strong and well-resourced neighbourhoods, positively impacting people's sense of self-esteem
- Affordable, safe and stable housing options, so that people can create a home
- An education system that equips people with the skills needed for life, including tackling inequalities in education.
- Access to green space and facilities to live a healthy lifestyle, across all communities
- Tackling poverty, particularly recognising the lifelong impacts of child poverty and its role in deepening inequalities
- Safety in the city, particularly for women

Consultees recognised the significant contribution that can be made by private, public and third sector partners and communities across the city in addressing the key challenges facing Leeds up to 2030, but expressed that more could be done to bring together pockets of excellent work taking place across the city, in order to best

pool our collective resources. Similarly, it was felt by some consultees that communication of the council's activities could be strengthened, particularly in terms of reporting back on strategies and projects. People's everyday experiences of engaging with council services was also seen as an important factor in building relationships, which shapes people's sense of engagement with, and ownership of, strategies for the city.

Overall, this first round of consultation demonstrated a high level of ambition for Leeds up to 2030 and a desire to find tangible solutions to the challenges the city faces coming out of the pandemic and for the decade ahead. Stronger and deeper partnership was seen as the right way to achieve this, by bringing together the knowledge, skills and resources that exist across the city, including broadening our reach far beyond existing networks.