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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Subject: Young People's Scrutiny Forum – Protecting our Environment

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Young People's Scrutiny Forum brings together young people from Leeds Youth Council and ROAR (Reach out and Reconnect) to carry out scrutiny inquiries on topics chosen by young people.
- 1.2 In December 2007, Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) asked the Youth Council to suggest a topic of importance to young people which could be the subject of a scrutiny review undertaken by the Young People's Scrutiny Forum on behalf of the board.
- 1.3 The Youth Council discussed a range of possible topics, and ultimately decided upon 'Protecting our Environment'. This is the third inquiry that the young people have undertaken and has focused on waste management, sustainable building and education.
- 1.4 The Young People's Scrutiny Forum concluded its deliberations on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and presented their final report to the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. In acknowledging that many of the issues raised during their inquiry relate to the Environment and Neighbourhoods portfolio, it was considered appropriate for this Board to also consider the Forum's findings. A copy of the Forum's final report is therefore attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 Formal responses to the Forum's recommendations will now be produced in line with normal procedures for scrutiny inquiry reports and reported back to the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) within the next three months. However, it is proposed that the future monitoring of the recommendations relevant to the Environment and Neighbourhoods portfolio be carried out by this Board in conjunction with the Leeds Youth Council Scrutiny Panel.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Board is requested to:-

- (i) Note the Forum's final report and recommendations;
- (ii) Agree to monitor progress in implementing those recommendations which fall with the Environment and Neighbourhoods portfolio, in conjunction with the Leeds Youth Council Scrutiny Panel.

Background papers

None