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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 17 September 2009

### Subject: Formal Response to Scrutiny Recommendations – 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 'Protecting our Environment' is the third inquiry that the young people have undertaken, and focused on waste management, sustainable building and education.
- 1.3 The Young People's Scrutiny Forum concluded its deliberations on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The Forum's report was endorsed by the Children's Services and Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Boards in April 2009.
- 1.3 It is the normal practice to request a formal response to scrutiny recommendations, once an inquiry report has been issued. A formal response to the recommendations has now been received and is attached.
- 1.3 Due to recent changes in procedure, the proposed responses to the recommendations were submitted to the Executive Board for approval, on 26 August, before being forwarded to the Scrutiny Board.

## **2.0 Next Steps**

- 2.1 The Youth Council has established a standing Scrutiny Panel as part of its structure. This group next meets on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, and will be considering and commenting on the response to the Forum's recommendations. The Executive Member for Environmental Services has also offered to meet with the young people.
- 2.2 Members may recall that the Board set up a working group<sup>1</sup> last year with the aim of establishing an ongoing relationship with the Youth Council, through regular meetings with the Scrutiny Panel. It was proposed that monitoring of the Forum's recommendations would be an appropriate area of work for this joint group.
- 2.3 It is therefore suggested that the working group is reconvened, with a view to discussing the young people's views on the responses to the recommendations, and that a further report is brought back to this Board in order to decide which recommendations may require ongoing tracking.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree that a joint working group of Board Members and Youth Council Scrutiny Panel members consider the responses to the recommendations in the 'Protecting our Environment' report.

## **Background papers**

None

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<sup>1</sup> Membership of this working group was Councillors Hyde, Cleasby, Lancaster and Renshaw and Mrs Knights and Mr Britten.