

Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030

Development plan and 'Where are we now?' report

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to:

- set out the work which the Leeds Initiative partnership will undertake to develop the new Vision for Leeds; and
- invite members to comment on the first stage of work, 'Where are we now?', attached at appendix I.

Objectives

The objective is to seek partner agreement and the formal, democratic endorsement of Leeds City Council by April 2011 so that the Vision can be launched in July 2011. This process will dovetail with the work of the partners to develop a second Leeds Strategic Plan (and Local Area Agreement) for the period 2011 to 2014. Our aim, therefore, is to concentrate the minds of partners, stakeholders and agencies on both the long-term vision for the city and the immediate delivery objectives.

The process so far

During autumn 2008 and spring 2009 there was extensive discussion, in particular at the Leeds Initiative Executive, to determine the extent of the review required.

The paper prepared by Rachael Unsworth of the University of Leeds entitled "Setting the Vision for Leeds in the post-boom context" provided an evidence base and a challenge for the partners to consider.

At its meeting on 25 March the executive agreed that a new vision should be commissioned, given that we are now living in a climate that has radically changed during that period environmentally, economically and demographically.

It also indicated that the consultation work to develop it should not be a 'clean sheet of paper' exercise, but we should build on the evidence base which we have developed, and consultations which have already taken place and are planned in the Vision preparation period.

It was agreed that the first steps in developing the Vision should be taken with as wide a group of stakeholders as possible – for that reason we held the Leeds Initiative Assembly on the 24 June at the Leeds City Museum. The event was addressed by Councillor Richard Brett and Terry Hodgkinson, chair of Yorkshire Forward. It provided an opportunity for table discussions from the 120 people present, followed by interactive voting on 12 of the issues which emerged from the discussions.

As this event was primarily attended by the public and third sectors, an answer time event, sponsored by Yorkshire Forward, is planned for 13 October to reach out specifically to the business community and

seek their early response to the challenge of a new vision. The event will seek views along the lines of: will the recovery in Leeds be business as usual? Hosted by Radio Leeds' Andrew Edwards, the panellists are Tom Riordan, Yorkshire Forward, Nigel Foster, Arup, Irena Bauman, Bauman Lyons, and Gary Lumby, Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Andrew Carter will respond on behalf of the council.

'Where are we now?' report

In addition to desk research during over the summer, the Leeds Initiative team interviewed 23 thematic experts from our partner organisations to prepare a paper which sets out 'Where are we now'. This aims to be the starting point to encourage thinking about what should or should not change in the future. The headings reflect what we believe are essential issues for us to consider in relation to the new Vision, but will not necessarily be the final themes that emerge. The expert interviewees are listed in appendix II and the questions which we discussed were:

- the key issues that we need to consider between now and 2030
- the positive news
- the negative news
- future trends
- the big choices we need to make
- key numbers/statistics/facts

Project management and governance

A Vision Steering Group is being formed to direct the work and ensure that all partners are able to contribute. Kathy Kudelnitzky, chief officer, Leeds Initiative and Partnerships, has agreed to chair the group and has written to partners to seek nominations. Meetings of this group will begin in early 2010.

In line with good practice and guided by the council's project management system, we have identified the following key roles and responsibilities:

- project sponsor – Kathy Kudelnitzky
- project director – Martin Dean; and
- project manager – Sally Corcoran.

It should be noted that in the current financial environment we believe it will be unlikely that we will be able to identify significant new resources to develop the Vision. We are therefore:

- reprioritising the work of the Leeds Initiative office so the Vision is the most significant delivery priority;
- receiving support from colleagues across the wider Leeds Initiative and Partnership team, and the council as a whole; and

- receiving support from the partners, such as the helpful contributions already made by the University of Leeds, and Yorkshire Forward.

Stakeholders' stage - autumn 2009

It is envisaged that the autumn cycle of Leeds Initiative partnership meetings be used to test the thesis set out in the 'Where are we now' paper, and partnerships will be able to express views on the Vision overall and the direction of individual themes.

Planning stage - spring 2010

During this period there is certain to be a General Election in the country. From the announcement of the election to the closing of the polls publicity and communication activity is restricted. While this pre-election period set out for the public sector is usually quite short, it does not seem appropriate to have too much activity for the general public to engage with during an election period. It is therefore proposed that this period be used to:

- prepare a consultative draft Vision document based on the comments and evidence to date - the Vision steering group to be the reference group which will support this element; and
- plan and practically prepare for consultation activity in the post election period.

Consultation stage summer/winter 2010

As described above this is when consultation activity will happen in earnest. Further work will be undertaken to plan the approach making sure that we reach all groups in the community.

We hope to take advantage of web 2.0 technology – and have already created an online forum at www.leedsinitiative.org/visionforleeds for views to be expressed and are using twitter (www.twitter.com/leedsinitiative) to push messages from the partnership to those who wish to hear them.

Writing and approval stage winter 2010 to spring 2011

As the consultation proceeds it will provide evidence to support the drafting, which will be an ongoing and substantial task. This will go hand in hand with design, photography and web options.

As described above we will seek approval at the Leeds Initiative Executive, and at full council in April 2011 – with publication and launch to be scheduled after elections due in May 2011.

Conclusion

This plan is a first attempt at setting out the steps required to deliver the Vision work. It will need to remain flexible, and, in particular, it will need to dovetail with the planning for the second Leeds Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

Members are invited to:

- comment on the approach to develop the Vision for Leeds; and
- comment on the ideas expressed in the 'where are we now paper'.

Appendix I – Review of Vision for Leeds - ‘Where are we now?’ report

Towards a Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030

Where are we now - an initial stakeholder discussion paper

1 September 2009

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Introduction

This report is the first stage in the development of the third Vision for Leeds developed by the Leeds Initiative on behalf of the city. This plan, which will be published in 2011, will look at the medium-term challenges and opportunities for our city, and set down our ambitions and goals, over the next twenty years.

It is five years since the current Vision for Leeds was published. The strengthening of partnership working as 'the way we do things in Leeds' has been consolidated and built upon in that time, creating a strong city-wide partnership. The council's decision to embed its own corporate plan, creating the Leeds Strategic Plan, is an important milestone which helps to make sure that partnership working makes a difference at the level of local services.

But like many other cities in the UK, Leeds is now facing unprecedented change and uncertainty. The Office of National Statistics predicts that by 2030 the total number of people living in Leeds will have risen by 30%, giving a total projected population of one million. This will include higher numbers of younger people and as well as an increase in people aged 75 and over, and larger numbers from ethnic minorities.

Issues of climate change and the economic recession have fundamentally changed our future. And whilst many issues affecting the city over this period are global, over which we have no control, we can make decisions about the way in which we respond.

Will Leeds be a leader or a follower? What are the key issues we need to consider between now and 2030? What are the future trends and big choices we need to make?

This report is a first attempt to set out the story of 'where we are now' and is intended to act as a catalyst for debating these and other issues we need to consider for the next Vision for Leeds.

It is not a statement of policy, but a synthesis of ideas, issues and concerns. At the end of the document there is a set of high-level questions which partners and partnerships are invited to consider – please do respond to leeds.initiative@leeds.gov.uk or through our discussion board at www.leedsinitiative.org/visionforleeds.

Councillor Richard Brett

Chair, Leeds Initiative

Children and young people

Leeds has 178,000 children and young people, representing 23% of the population. Of these, over one third live in areas which are in the 20% most deprived in the country. And one in five children in Leeds lives with families where no one is in work.

Improved partnership working both city-wide and locally has helped Leeds to deliver real improvements since the first Children's Plan was published in 2004 and this is against an agenda for children which is very far reaching with a great number of aspects and covering an age range of 0 to 19 years.

Strong and effective city-wide children's trust arrangements were praised by OfSTED in the 2007 inspection, and new commissioning groups have been set up to deliver priorities.

Improvements can be identified on a number of fronts, including healthcare and our ability to help children stay safe. Results are improving in secondary schools and the city has won awards for its new buildings, design and IT facilities following multi-million pound investment in schools and children's centres.

The city has also exceeded targets for reducing the number of young people offending and has enhanced programmes of activities for young people. Leeds was one of only ten local authorities in the country which were successful in bidding for the 'Find Your Talent' programme to give young people access to regular, high-quality cultural opportunities.

But ...

Leeds still has significant challenges to overcome and recognises the need to increase the pace and level of improvement in some key areas. The 2009 to 2014 Children's Plan places safeguarding at the heart of work with children's and young people recognising that better integration of services should deliver more choice and opportunity for young people.

Many of the challenges that remain relate to children and young people living in poverty and deprivation and require further partnership work to achieve improvements.

Challenges still to be addressed include infant mortality rates in Leeds' deprived communities, and teenage pregnancy rates, which remain considerably higher than the national average. Further improvements are needed for looked after children and residential care and fostering.

There is a need to raise attendance levels in schools where persistent absence is high, and to improve results in early learning and primary schools. The number of 16 to 19 year olds not in education, employment or training is still too high, as are those who live in poverty.

City centre

The city centre has a special role to play in the life of the Leeds as a whole as a key centre of commerce and culture. Our city centre partnership is well established and maintains excellent relations with existing, new and potential partners, demonstrated by the recent city centre visioning exercise.

We are still perceived as a welcoming, friendly city centre and the ability to walk to most attractions is a positive feature. Leeds' cultural offer is now strong and progress with the long-awaited arena, plans for a city centre park, new public art and the city's keen embrace of a café culture have reinforced its standing as a European city.

Leeds is exceptional in having a diverse and well-segmented retail offering, with seven distinct shopping centres, all with different audiences. Our shopping is consistently ranked in the top five in the UK, with major new developments planned, including the Trinity and Eastgate, and refurbishments, including the Corn Exchange, Merrion Centre, and the Core (former Headrow Shopping Centre), demonstrating developers' continued confidence in the city centre.

The legibility work, including the new map, have been positively received and, together with the introduction of the free, city bus, have helped to make the city centre more accessible.

But...

If we aspire to be a cosmopolitan city, we will have to find ways to tackle a number of issues that continue to prevent the city centre from reaching its full potential.

Public-sector funding to improve the city centre will not be sustained at recent levels and investment from the private sector will be needed to fund future improvements to the public realm, which is underdeveloped in some areas. Many of the new developments on the city fringes are perceived to be of poor quality design and build.

The night-time economy and associated anti-social behaviour continue to be an issue. Although crime rates have fallen, a perception remains that Leeds at night is only for young people or not a safe place to be. Attempts to create a more family-friendly atmosphere by getting shops to open longer have not yet taken root in Leeds or in the UK outside London.

We have a dwindling supply of independent and specialist retailing and the delayed retail developments could impact on the city's image if they are not completed after the recession. An inflexible approach to planning consent has segregated shopping from bars and restaurants, leaving some areas empty in the evenings, in stark contrast to cities like Manchester or Barcelona.

The marketing and promotion of the city centre remains fragmented, despite some good examples of joint working between different groups on individual projects, such as Light Night, Leeds Shopping Week and Festive Leeds.

Climate change

When the current Vision for Leeds was published in 2004, climate change issues were dismissed by many at worst, as half-baked ideas proposed by the 'green' lobby, and, at best, scaremongering by a minority of environmentalists.

Scientists and governments the world over now agree that climate change is a reality, not a probability, and legal frameworks are now in place to help organisations, businesses and individuals to think about the way we use resources and the impact on our local environment.

Leeds is one of the first cities nationally to develop a climate change strategy through a city-wide partnership. We have improved our recycling rates from 7% in 2002 to well over 35%, largely due to improved collection services. We have a good understanding of the impacts of climate change on the city and well-established monitoring processes.

Recent local consultation on attitudes to climate change shows that people in Leeds are taking measures to make small but practical changes to their day-to-day lives, such as cycling or walking instead of driving, buying local and seasonal food, and turning off lights and appliances. Together these measures can make a big impact on the city.

A significant amount of work is going on to develop small, district combined heat and power plants so that we can become more energy efficient, use less carbon, and reduce our growing landfill tax bill. The new plants should be operational by 2014.

But ...

As early as 2012 our ability to extract oil may no longer be able to meet our demand. Inevitable price rises and supply shortages will affect transport, and the economy, as carbon reduction measures bite. Businesses that are reliant on high levels of energy, and fail to adapt, will be badly affected. Rising numbers of people will experience fuel poverty and we need to be certain that we have a secure supply of food. Crucially, the city currently has no strategic view on alternative energy supplies.

Although no dramatic changes in the weather are expected during the period covered by the next Vision, flash flooding has already seen disruption to the city's public transport system, and there is every likelihood that this will reoccur at increasingly frequent rates, impacting on people's ability to move around the city, and having a knock-on effect on business. Adapting to more frequent and higher water levels is therefore vital.

The approved expansion of the airport is interpreted by some that the city is still in denial about the real implications of carbon emission and climate change.

Community safety

Public confidence in policing and the numbers of people feeling safe in their neighbourhoods have dramatically increased since the current Vision for Leeds was published, largely due to the investment in almost 400 police community support officers, who provide very visible policing in local areas. Leeds also has a very effective CCTV system, which is the largest in the country.

Over the last four years almost 4000 drug users have entered the city's successful Drug Intervention Programme, which aims to get adult offenders who misuse drugs out of crime and into treatment. An arrest referral service has also been set up for offenders who misuse alcohol.

The city centre has seen a 19% reduction in violent crime, following the success of schemes such as Best Bar None, which 60 new licensed premises have joined.

One of Leeds' biggest successes is reducing burglary rates, down from 16,000 a year in 2002 to 9,500 in 2009, better than Manchester and Liverpool.

Leeds Youth Offending Service has the lowest rates of first-time offenders since the service began in 1999.

But ...

Burglary is still a major issue for Leeds. Despite a huge reduction in the number of burglaries since the current Vision was produced, numbers are now increasing. And more than half of these crimes are committed by young people under 19 years old.

Despite the large numbers of drug users entering treatment, we do not know enough about success rates. And alcohol is involved in one out of four people treated in accident and emergency. West Yorkshire Police also cite alcohol as a contributory factor in more than 70% of domestic violence incidents.

Entering into criminal behaviour is also heavily linked with geographical area and deprivation and more work needs to be done to prevent vulnerable young people from entering the cycle of anti-social behaviour and crime.

Whilst actual reported numbers of hate crime have not risen, there are significant concerns in some areas of Leeds, especially given the estimated rise in the number of migrant workers in Leeds.

Culture and sport

In 2003 Leeds had fallen well behind other core cities in its provision of first-class cultural experiences and facilities. The city had hotspots of cultural excellence, but development was sporadic at best and there was a general lack of recognition of the benefits that culture could bring to such a major city.

By 2006, a step change was taking place and many of the culture priorities in the Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020 have already been achieved. The city has made huge steps forward in developing a large-scale entertainment arena and other flagship facilities have been completed including the new City Museum, the Carriageworks Theatre, the refurbished Grand Theatre and Howard Assembly Rooms, the John Charles Centre for Sport, a world-class Olympic-standard facility, the new Carnegie rugby stand and cricket pavilion at Headingley Stadium, and the new BBC Studios at Quarry Hill. These have fundamentally revitalised the city's cultural landscape in a relatively short space of time.

There is a lot to be proud of in terms of community sport and support for elite athletes. Work to ensure that Leeds benefits from the 2012 Olympics is progressing well.

The area in which we have made the greatest progress is in securing wide recognition of the value of culture to the city. The quality of our cultural life commands cross-party support at the highest political levels. Equally importantly, the business sector clearly understands the importance of culture to the economic success of the city. We have been moving apace to close the gap between ourselves and other UK cities.

But...

The new cultural infrastructure has only placed Leeds on a level playing field with other cities of a similar size and we cannot rest on our laurels. Elland Road has not kept pace with other, world-renowned football stadia and further development is needed at Headingley.

But operating in a changed environment, both economically and environmentally, the development of new flagship facilities will not continue at a similar rate. There is also a need to shift from building-based culture to licensed 'street culture' such as the increasingly popular 'Light Night', and to build on the public art programme which is now developing.

Cultural and sports facilities outside the city centre remain patchy. Whilst there is a lot going on in some areas and new leisure centres are being built, other communities – both prosperous and deprived – are poorly provisioned.

The city does not have a strategic or coordinated approach to its events programme or marketing its major cultural attractions and we still lack recognition of Leeds as the region's creative industries hub and as being one of the national creative industries success stories in the UK.

Economy

Over the past decade Leeds has gained a national reputation as a city of economic growth, creating more jobs than any other city. It is the largest centre for employment in the region and long-term projections suggest a continued growth in the economy.

As the regional capital the city is home to large public sector bodies and is a major centre for private business and with over 300 organisations based in the city employing more than 200 people. The strength of the city's economy lies in its diversity, with a range of sectors, including financial and business services, creative and digital industries, public services, healthcare, retail, and manufacturing. Leeds' first appearance in Cushman and Wakefield's list of top 30 European business cities in 2006 demonstrates the city's progress. The emergence of the Leeds City Region¹ creates a 'Greater Leeds' area home to nearly two-thirds of the Yorkshire economy.

The city is the largest centre outside London for financial and business services, printing and construction, and the second largest for manufacturing, wholesale and retail distribution. The performance of the financial and business services sector since the early 1990s until recently has been exceptional, with both employment and businesses increasing.

But ...

The recession asks a number of serious questions about the future of the Leeds' economy. There has been a real threat to the banking sector and to other financial services due to the credit crunch and the resulting restructuring and the outlook remains uncertain.

Although Leeds' economic history is founded on its entrepreneurial success, we have low levels of enterprise compared to other cities of the same size, with business start-ups and self-employment rates lower than national averages. These issues are exacerbated in the most deprived areas of the city.

The city is developing expertise in emerging sectors such as environmental goods and services and the knowledge economy – but numbers remain low. Leeds is also more reliant than some other cities on public-sector jobs, which could affect employment as public sector funding cuts take effect.

The challenge of sustainability and scarce energy and natural resources means that the city must innovate to be competitive in the future. Leeds will need to be highly skilled, to have entrepreneur-led green enterprises, and needs new business models that create prosperity without further harm to the environment.

¹Leeds City Region is the area covered by the following local authorities :-Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield, York, and North Yorkshire County Council

Harmonious communities

The terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005 and their links to Leeds demonstrated the need to build resilience in all parts of our communities when our shared vision for good community relations was threatened. Connections in communities that had been formed through regeneration activities and other initiatives, however, proved to be strong; an open-city event brought together faith and community leaders with over a thousand people from across Leeds. The ongoing impact of these events has increased stress on relations in and between some communities, but they have also inspired some innovative projects – such as ‘Walk Talk in 2008 - to ensure communities keep talking to each other.

There has been progress in developing knowledge of the major faith identities that make up the Leeds population, and this is reflected in the many ways the city celebrates its cultural heritage. There has also been significant progress in extending civic celebrations of different communities to areas outside the city centre.

Local community festivals have continued to thrive and develop across the city, many increasingly attracting audiences from across and outside the city, as well as significant numbers of local residents. These initiatives have improved people’s perceptions of their areas, and have acted as a catalyst for more local volunteering and community groups, including a series of successful exchanges between schools in different parts of the city.

Significant progress has been made in tackling the health, housing and educational achievement gaps between black and ethnic-minority communities and the wider population, and the process of Equality Impact Assessments have helped reduce or remove barriers experienced by people.

The newly formed Harmonious Leeds Partnership will look at developments to be undertaken with all partners to create the conditions for good community relations.

But...

There are persistent and even widening inequalities in some ethnic groups and we must ensure that these inequalities do not fuel community tensions.

Some neighbourhoods in Leeds are self-segregated along faith, ethnicity and class boundaries, with fewer opportunities and neutral spaces to bring people together.

In line with national trends, despite improved opportunities for participation, people are expressing less confidence in their ability to influence local decision making, and are more vocal about their dissatisfaction with local services.

The downturn in the economy has threatened to increase deprivation in marginalised communities and this has fuelled tension and extremist rhetoric. Leeds is set to be an increasingly diverse city with a significant increase in the resident black and ethnic-minority population, increased internal and international migration. This increased diversity must be matched by our ability to deal with and promote the benefits of difference in our local communities.

Health and wellbeing

There have been significant improvements to life expectancy in Leeds between 1997 and 2007, which has increased by two years for both men and women to 76.7 and 81.6 years respectively. Over the same period, the mortality rate fell by over 18%. Underlying this overall trend there have been important improvements for particular health conditions, and better services resulting in better outcomes for people. We have impressive new hospital facilities, such as the Institute of Oncology at St. James's Hospital. And there have been significant changes in primary and social care facilities to improve quality, enable better access and emphasise prevention.

More people in Leeds are giving up smoking, and mortality from strokes has continued to fall in most parts of the city. There have been encouraging improvements in the number of adults who regard taking part in sport as important, rising from 50% of people in 2000 to 65% in 2005.²

Our partnership arrangements for health and wellbeing are strong. There is strategic commitment to improve health jointly between the council, NHS Leeds and the voluntary, community and faith sectors. The new local area partnerships will start to tackle health inequalities within neighbourhoods.

But...

We have not succeeded in narrowing the gap in life expectancy between the most disadvantaged parts of Leeds and the rest of the city, which remains at around ten years, and existing inequalities between neighbourhoods will widen without specific measures to counteract them. Mortality rates from cancer and coronary heart disease are decreasing in Leeds as a whole, but in the most deprived areas they are actually on the rise.

Alcohol consumption in Leeds is of particular concern with an estimated 155,000 adults drinking above the 'safe drinking' guidelines and an estimated 25,000 thought to be dependent. Hazardous and harmful drinking in Leeds and alcohol-related admissions to hospital are significantly higher than the national average and increasing.

Like the rest of the region, one in five men and one in four women in Leeds are obese, and almost two thirds of adults are overweight, representing a major threat to public health. Although fewer people are smoking, the take-up of smoking among young people, and particularly young women, remains a concern.

Mental ill health remains an issue for both Leeds and the rest of the country. Almost half of individuals claiming benefits do so because they suffer from a mental health condition.

Leeds continues to struggle to fund primary care and public health activities which work to prevent ill health. The high cost of secondary care often means that not enough resources can be dedicated to public health prevention initiatives.

² Citizens' Panel Sports Provision Survey

Older people

In general people are living longer and Leeds has as many people over 60 as under 16. It is predicted that the number of people in Leeds aged 65 and over will rise by almost 40% from 110,700 to 153,600 by 2031. There will also be more older people from ethnic minorities.

The gradual extension in life expectancy is a result of a broadly healthier population. The new generations of older people will be more easily able to make positive contributions in all areas of life, from staying longer in work to wider participation in society and culture both through increased mobility and through new technology accessed from home.

Much work has been developed since the Older Better Strategy was published in 2006 aiming at promoting a healthy and active life in old age. A variety of initiatives support this aim, including schemes to help older people live independently and reduce social isolation, involving older people in planning and decisions which affect them, and initiatives which bring together younger and older people to improve understanding between generations.

Leeds has won a national award for the Dignity in Care campaign, which aims to reduce age-related discrimination. And older people's contribution as active citizens of local communities is beginning to be recognised.

But...

There are big inequality issues facing older people. Life expectancy is increasing faster than healthy life expectancy so there is an increase in years spent in poor health. Whilst older people make a large contribution to the economic and social life of Leeds, they also figure amongst the most deprived and excluded groups, with one in five older people living in poverty and suffering from social isolation. Nearly half the population of older people are living in accommodation that is not decent and is difficult to heat.

People will expect the quality and availability of services to increase in line with demand. We will therefore need to invest in services which help people keep fitter for longer, together with those which support independent living.

Increased longevity will also lead to a growing number of the very old who will need support. Continuing pressure on pension schemes and extension of retirement age is set to continue, further increasing inequalities. In addition, older people are more vulnerable to chronic health problems and the impacts of climate change, which presents a significant challenge to health and social care services. Life-limiting conditions such as stroke, diabetes and dementia will rise, particularly in areas of disadvantage and will be exacerbated by the difficulty in recruiting people into personal care roles as the proportionately of younger adults in the population falls.

Skills and employment

Leeds acts as an employment magnet with approximately 457,000 in its employed workforce and increasingly attracts more people to work from outside the district.

The city has a solid and improving skills infrastructure and is a strong centre of higher education, with approximately 66,000 degree students across the five higher education institutions. Leeds City College has brought together the major further education organisations in the city with 60,000 learners and a turnover of £72 million. The school infrastructure has been substantially renewed through the Building Schools for the Future programme, leaving Leeds well placed to tackle the challenges set by the government's Leitch review.

Companies within Leeds can draw on high levels of resident and workforce skills and knowledge from the city and the wider region.

The city currently has relatively high adult skill levels, and GCSE results now match the national average. Leeds has embraced diplomas and apprenticeships as new ways to make sure that vocational opportunities are available.

But ...

In 2007, 13.2% of the working age population in Leeds did not hold any qualifications, compared to 14.5% regionally and 13.1% nationally. This has had an economic impact - 13% of Leeds employers' considered they had skills gaps in their workforce, representing 3% of Leeds' employees.

While the infrastructure has improved there is still a long way to go to embed a culture of learning across all communities. Skills achievement is uneven across different communities, with underachievement and those 'Not in Education Employment or Training' are concentrated in our most deprived communities.

Unemployment has grown over the last year as a direct result of the recession and deprived communities continue to have greater concentrations of people without jobs - whether because of illness, unemployment, or other reasons.

Thriving places

The Renaissance Leeds Partnership was set up in 2005 between Leeds City Council, Leeds Initiative, Yorkshire Forward and English Partnerships to take forward the physical and spatial development of the city, playing the lead role in place making. It has developed the Renaissance Framework to guide physical developments and decisions by investors, and agreed eight principles for Leeds – Reconnected, Skyline, Connected, Covered, Green, Viaduct, Waterfront, and Cultural - to get the most out of development of the public realm.

Leeds' regeneration plans are ambitious and seek to make the most of private as well as public money. Much of the city centre regeneration is private-sector led, and proposals for large-scale shopping centres (currently delayed by the credit crunch) which will reshape and enhance the retail area. Holbeck Urban Village regeneration continues to make progress, although the aim to create a sustainable community will continue to require substantial public sector intervention to both directly deliver projects, develop strategies and develop confidence in the area.

The opening of the East Leeds Link Road in the Aire Valley in February 2009 has improved access for businesses to the M1, creating the potential to brownfield land and create job opportunities from for deprived communities. The comprehensive regeneration of the valley will create jobs and homes for the future.

The EASEL (East and South-East Leeds Regeneration) initiative is a far-sighted approach to providing for future housing need while creating mixed communities, developing housing choice in tenure, type and affordability.

Other projects such as the West Leeds Gateway and Leeds Bradford Corridor, Beeston Hill and Holbeck, and Little London PFI seek to reinvent these areas and provide mixed communities with affordable and social housing development. More generally, land has been made available to develop social housing. The development of the Local Development Framework is fully linked to the aspirations of the current vision. At each stage it has referenced the big overall aims and the spatial priorities as well as reflecting planning policy. Its development is iterative and will be reviewed to make certain it remains the spatial plan for the Vision for Leeds.

Neighbourhood partnership working has played a key role in addressing deprivation in some of the most deprived areas in the city, tackling crime and grime and other local issues. This concentrated effort has led to some real improvements.

A recent residents' survey on perceptions of public services and neighbourhoods shows that there are significant increases in the number of people who feel that they are able to influence decisions, have a sense of belonging and that services were responsive.

But ...

The recession and the credit crunch are stalling progress with key schemes. As with most of the UK, key schemes are on hold, with prospects of progress uncertain. Funding at the levels and for the time

required is not available – and it will remain a difficulty. Although public investment is continuing, the ability to use funding to create mixed communities becomes more challenging without public money.

Much is still to be done in the areas of greatest need to drive up housing decency standards, to attract private investment into neighbourhoods, to reduce the amount of unpopular housing and replace it with housing that is suited to people's needs, and to involve local people in planning the future of their areas.

150,000 people are living in the most deprived neighbourhoods where residents perceive the key issues affecting life as:

- high levels of crime
- unacceptable levels of antisocial behaviour; and
- lacking in activities for teenagers.

Transport

In the last few years the city has completed the delivery of all the schemes set out in the 1990 transport strategy, with the exception of Supertram. This includes completion of the Inner Ring Road, a project started in the 1970s, and the East Leeds Link Road. These are key strategic highways which will improve connectivity and open the Aire Valley for regeneration. Improvements have been made to bus services through the quality bus arrangements and segregated bus lanes on the A64 and A65, and Burley Road. The free city centre bus has been a great success.

Rail services have continued to develop and their use has increased dramatically. Leeds city station is the busiest outside London. Automatic ticket inspection is in place and its modernisation continues with work to provide southern access. The national train link to London is of key importance providing effective business links.

There has been good progress on the development of New Generation Transport, as the replacement to the Supertram scheme, and the wider 25-year Vision for Transport across the Leeds City Region. This incorporates new thinking on how Vision for Leeds' aspirations such as a fixed link to Leeds' airport can be achieved through tram-train development.

The acceptance by stakeholders of city-region methodology has been a step change in thinking which will influence the new Integrated Transport Authority. The airport has been sold to the private sector and expansion plans have recently been approved. A great deal has been done to encourage sustainable travel including travel planning (including with schools), the implementation of the 'Whizz Go' car club, investment in cycling and walking routes, and accessibility planning.

But ...

The cancellation of the Supertram project was a major setback for the city as a whole – and a successful delivery of the replacement New Generation Transport scheme is vital to improve public transport. The delivery of the main elements of the transport strategy of 1990 by 2008 shows that making progress takes too long even though the city does clearly develop the right plans for the future. The current uncertainty over the future of the East Coast Main Line's operations and without high-speed links the future remains a concern.

The city-region vision is the new forward plan – but securing or committing funding remains an issue. The challenge ahead lies in tackling the increasing demand of car users, with rising congestion, against the need to move to a low-carbon transport system. 'More of the same' will not meet the challenge of either sustainability or connectivity and we must make public transport more attractive, easy to use, with better provision of information.

Annex 1

Demographics – key facts and figures

The latest available data (2006) estimates the population of Leeds to be 750,200, an increase of 4.9% since 2001. Approximately 80% of the population are under 60 years of age with 24% below 20 years of age. Nearly 15% of people are over the age of retirement, which is slightly below both the national and regional averages.

Leeds has a significantly higher proportion of 15 to 29 year olds (26% compared to the national average approaching 20%), including a significant student population of over 60,000 studying in the two universities in the city. This contributes to Leeds having a particularly transient student population with students.

Predicted changes to the population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) predicts that the total number of people in Leeds will have risen by 30% between 2006 and 2031 giving a total projected population of 974,300. On current rates of fertility and the increase in life expectancy, this growth will include significant increases at both ends of the population spectrum with a 24.4% increase in people aged 0 to 19 years and a 49.4% increase in people aged 75 years and over.

Yorkshire Futures states that the prevalence of an ageing population varies for different ethnic communities and is more pronounced where there is less diversity and a high proportion of the population is 'white British'. As Leeds has a more diverse population than some of the more rural parts of Yorkshire, this means that the increase in the old age dependency ratio is less pronounced as we will have an increase in young people and working age population which will help balance the extra pressure on revenue raising and service provision. Also cities such as Leeds are more likely to retain more young people due to the employment, entertainment and educational opportunities. The ethnic-minority ethnic communities in Leeds are expected to grow faster than the 'white British' population.

Black and ethnic-minority ethnic communities

Leeds is clearly becoming a more diverse place and is now home to over 130 different nationalities. In 2006 ONS estimated that 15.1% of the total resident population comprised people from black and minority ethnic communities (including Irish and other white populations), a 5% rise from the 2001 Census. Leeds' black and ethnic-minority communities are largely concentrated in just three wards: Gipton & Harehills, Chapel Allerton, and Hyde Park & Woodhouse.

There will be significant changes in the size and profile of ethnic-minority communities in the coming years. By 2030 the black and ethnic-minority population in Leeds is estimated to increase by 55%.

Increased migration

Recently there has been a net increase of people moving into Yorkshire and this includes those moving in from other parts of Britain as well as asylum seekers and economic migrants from other countries. Projections suggest that migration will continue to play a role in the overall rise of the population. The combination of new migration and higher birth rates amongst minority ethnic communities will mean a much more diverse city and region. There will be social impacts resulting from the younger age structures of migrants and also implications for community cohesion.

Faith communities

For the first time the 2001 Census included a voluntary question on religion. The Leeds' population is made up as follows:

69.9% Christian

24.9% no religion or not stated

3% Muslim

1.2% Jewish

1.1% Sikh

0.6% Hindu

0.2% Buddhist

Ageing population

In general, people are living longer and there are as many people over 60 as under 16. Although the rate of increase in the proportion of older citizens in Leeds is not likely to be as great as in some neighbouring authorities, it is predicted that the number of people in Leeds aged 65 and over will rise by almost 40% to 153,600 in 2031, around 20% of the population.

There is a life expectancy gap of ten years between the ward with the highest life expectancy (Adel and Wharfedale) and the lowest (City and Hunslet).

Children and young people

One fifth of all children in the city live in families where no one works. And in our deprived areas, this rises to over 40% – double the city average.

Although there have been improvements in infant mortality rates over the last year for Leeds as a whole, it is higher than the national average and there are some communities of Leeds with a higher level of risk.

Leeds will still have a growing children and young people population. Average overall rates of fertility for Leeds showed a significant increase between 2003/05 and 2005/07 with markedly higher fertility rates in deprived areas of Leeds Deprived population.

The numbers of looked after children in Leeds are significantly higher than its neighbours and increasing, including a disproportionate number of black and ethnic-minority children. Given the current trajectory the numbers of looked after children is forecast to grow to around 1800 by 2010.

Widening inequalities between neighbourhoods

95 out of the 476 SOAs in Leeds are ranked in the most deprived 10% in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The majority of these are located in the inner city and just under 150,000 people (20% of the resident population) live in these areas. A quarter of all children in the city live in these most deprived areas together with 18% of the city's older people.

Research has shown that people in these areas:

- live significantly shorter lives
- are more likely to be the victims of crime
- have lower qualification levels, and
- live in the poorest housing and environments.

Annex II

Questions:

1. What are the key issues that we need to consider between now and 2030?
2. What is the positive news?
3. What is the negative news?
4. Future trends?
5. What are the big choices we need to make?
6. Are there any key numbers/statistics/facts?

Appendix II

Expert interviewees

Beverley Bryant, Performance Improvement and Delivery, NHS Leeds

Christine Farrar, Partnerships and Development, NHS Leeds

Sandie Keene, Adult Social Care, Leeds City Council

Brenda Fullard, Public Health, NHS Leeds

Paul Stephens, Economic Development, Leeds City Council

Marianna Pexton, Leeds Children's Services

George Munson, Climate Change, Leeds City Council,

Rachael Unsworth, School of Geography, University of Leeds

Steve Williamson, Narrowing the Gap Board, Re'new

Mike Love, Together for Peace

Richard Jackson, West Yorkshire Police

Simon Whitehead, West Yorkshire Police

Neil Evans, Neighbourhood and Environment, Leeds City Council

James Hopkinson, Youth Offending Service

David Heddon, Leeds Sport Partnership

Barbara Woroncow, Leeds Cultural Partnership

Dave Gilson, Transport, Leeds City Council

David Hogarth, Metro

Phil Crabtree, Planning, Leeds City Council

Catherine Blanshard, Arts, Libraries and Heritage, Leeds City Council

Cath Follin, City Centre Leeds Partnership

John Ebo, City Centre Leeds Partnership

Nigel Foster, Arup