

State of the City 2012 Executive Summary

The Story of Leeds in 2012

The 2012 State of the City Report shows a city that is holding up pretty well against current economic and social pressures. Leeds is a resilient city and positive progress is being made towards achieving our Best City aspirations. We remain acutely aware that there is still much more to do to achieve our ambitions, as well as a need to raise our game internationally and put Leeds firmly on the map as being the most successful UK city outside of London.

2013 provides a fantastic springboard for Leeds to achieve its ambitions: We will see the opening of the Leeds Arena which we expect to be one of the best performance venues in Europe; as well as the opening of Trinity Leeds, a £350m investment and the only major retail development opening in the UK in 2013; in addition, we can also look forward to hosting the Rugby League World Cup in 2013. Beyond that, implementing our City Deal is a fantastic economic opportunity which will see over £1.4 billion being invested in the city-region's infrastructure and we are playing a key role in Yorkshire's bid to host the opening stage of the Tour de France in the future.

The most recent census (2011) indicates that Leeds has a population of 751,500 people living in 320,600 households, representing a 5% growth since the last census of 2001. Leeds is a truly diverse city with over 140 ethnic groups including black, Asian and other minority ethnic populations representing just under 17.4% (ONS 2009) of the total population. Analysis of the Government's Index of Deprivation shows an overall improving position for Leeds between 2004 and 2010 when compared to the rest of the country, with fewer areas in the city ranked in the most deprived 10% nationally on the Index of Multiple Deprivation¹. However, the current economic situation is providing significant challenges for residents in Leeds, just as it is in many other urban areas across the country as well as further afield. We are working hard to tackle the issues arising and our focus on jobs and skills, supporting children and young people and prioritising services for the elderly are contributing positively to the significant social impact being caused by the current economic and social policy challenges.

This year, the diversity of the city came alive when Leeds hosted a series of celebrations as part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As well as delivering a successful events programme providing opportunities for people to get involved, the city played host to several international teams as they prepared for the Games using the John Charles Centre for Sport, the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University as training bases. Leeds also continued to attract large and diverse audiences to the festivals that celebrate the rich heritage of Leeds communities, including the annual St. Patrick's day parade, Leeds Pride, Leeds Carnival, Refugee Week, Vaisakhi and Holocaust Day. These initiatives continue to improve people's perceptions of their areas and neighbourhoods, and have continued to attract more volunteers and stimulated the development of new community groups.

To tackle climate change and improve energy efficiency, a number of initiatives are taking place across the city in working towards the city's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. Some of these initiatives include; the Wrap Up Leeds initiative, renewable energy generation, Aire Valley Environmental Projects and the Eastgate Energy Centre.

This year has also seen a number of shared early intervention and prevention programmes being implemented which have had a major impact in a number of areas such as a significant reduction in crime levels, particularly burglary; improved attendance at school and a reduction in the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

However, there is still much more to do, not least because of the extremely difficult economic, financial, policy and social context with continuing significant public sector budget reductions, ongoing structural changes (notably the major changes taking place across the health sector, including the transfer of public health functions to local authorities from 2013 onwards) and rising demand in terms of increased expectations, an ageing population and complex social and deprivation issues. Despite these difficult conditions, this year's State of the City Report highlights that Leeds remains positive in its outlook for the future.

¹ The Government's Indices of Deprivation are produced on a three yearly cycle (the latest iteration was published in 2010) and provide a nationally comparable assessment of deprivation at the small area level.

Despite the wider economic environment, the economy in Leeds remains resilient. Stimulating good growth in the right sectors is key to ensuring that local people are ready for work, particularly young people. A wide range of choices for young people continue to be developed across the city to support them in making positive choices about their future whether this is further education, training, apprenticeships, careers advice or work experience. Linking people who are out of work, particularly young people and those who are long term unemployed, to new jobs being created in the city is a key priority.

In terms of future development, Aire Valley Leeds, which is a nationally significant development and regeneration area situated to the south east of the city centre is a key focus for growth in the city and the city region in both the short and longer term. The Aire Valley already has an extensive employment base with the capacity to accommodate a further 35,000 new jobs. Many of the neighbourhoods within Aire Valley are within the country's 10% most deprived, and the key is to link residents to the current and future economic opportunities within the area.

We have strong foundations to work from and looking further to the future the outlook for Leeds and its people remains bright and optimistic. As a reminder, our Best city ambition is framed through the following five outcomes in the City Priority Plan 2011 – 2015, upon which this State of the City Report is structured:

- Best city...for business
- Best city...to live
- Best city...for communities
- Best city...for children and young people
- Best city...for health and wellbeing

As we work towards these best city ambitions, we have developed some new thinking through Leeds' leadership of the Commission about the future of local government developing the idea of Civic Enterprise and five propositions to help places like Leeds become more enterprising, helping businesses and other partners to become more civic and citizens becoming more engaged in their city. The Commission was a way of taking a look at the current context and challenges and taking a proactive and positive view about working differently with everyone to achieve more. This work has emphasised the need for strong democratic leadership and public service provision, albeit on a different basis to the past, and the commission outcomes now form the basis of how this city will respond to the challenges ahead.

Taking some of the Commission's thinking locally we will bring about new opportunities and the third sector will play a significant role in delivering our civic enterprise ambitions. With a city the size of Leeds, the magnitude and scale of these issues cannot be tackled by one organisation alone. We need to continue to find new ways to work in partnership across the city and at a local level and better engage citizens about the decisions which affect their lives. All of these challenges mean we need to work even better so that we are confident about becoming the Best City in the UK.

The purpose of this State of the City Report is to stimulate debate and action from anyone and everyone in the city to play their part to help make the city the best it can be for everyone, from a parent or carer, the full range of professionals and volunteers, as leaders across all sectors in the city, and as elected members. We can be confident about working together because we are making progress, but this report also makes it clear that there is a lot more to do. We can take the thinking from the Commission for the Future of Local Government, which set out some propositions to take a proactive approach to improving outcomes in the current context, such as: becoming civic entrepreneurs, stimulating jobs, homes and good growth, establishing 21st century infrastructure and devising a new social contract.

The full State of the City Report can be found on the Leeds Observatory:
www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/leeds

The sections below outlines the key facts, issues and actions across each of the five outcomes drawn from the full State of the City Report.

Best city... for business

Creating a prosperous and sustainable economy is critical to the future success of our city. Despite the recession Leeds continues to attract new investments and create new jobs. Making sure that local people can access these opportunities is essential, as is ensuring that Leeds is a well connected and planned city with cultural facilities, activities and opportunities for local people and national and international visitors.

Key facts:

- The employment rate for Leeds is 67.5% which is broadly in line with the regional average but below the national rate of 70.2%. (Annual Population Survey, ONS, April 2011 to March 2012).
- There were 5,505 apprenticeships started between August 2011 and April 2012, an increase of 8% since last year.
- New research by [Visit England](#) reports that the day visitor market to Leeds attracts 24.8 million each year, worth £654 million to the local economy.

Since the recession investment opportunities have significantly declined and unemployment has risen from 6.2% in 2007 to 9.6% in 2012. Although over the past year unemployment has levelled out there remains areas of Leeds where economic inactivity is more than double the city rate. The increasing number of young people claiming unemployment benefits is also a concern. Therefore, linking workless young people and adults to jobs, and particularly those being created within the city's major retail and leisure developments and [the Aire Valley Leeds Enterprise Zone](#), is a key priority.

Leeds is well positioned in terms of its rail, road and airport connections. As the economy has grown, increased demand for travel has impacted upon the transport system, resulting in congestion on the roads, and over crowding on buses and trains. Addressing these issues and ensuring that the economy develops in a sustainable way, taking into account climate change, energy costs and the delivery of future developments, is a key challenge.

The 'City Deal' and the continued ability to attract major investments and developments, such as [Trinity Leeds](#), the [Aire Valley Enterprise Zone](#), and proposals for Sovereign Street and South Bank, highlight that despite the pessimistic national economic outlook, there is confidence in the resilience of Leeds economy. The challenge is to ensure that stimulating jobs and good growth with socially responsible approaches to employment and economic wellbeing are delivered and that projects maximise their potential to ensure the greatest benefits for the city and its people.

Culture and sport play a key role in attracting people and investment to Leeds. The [Leeds Arena](#), due to open in 2013, will be a cultural asset, and will create jobs and investment and is expected to attract a million visitors a year to see world class acts right in the heart of the city. Roundhay Park continues to be an important and popular visitor attraction with over 8 million visits each year, thus contributing to regional tourism.

In June 2010, Leeds City Council became one of only two local authorities in England to sign up to the 2012 Construction Commitment Halving Waste to Landfill initiative. The £60 million Leeds Arena is being used as the pilot project to develop the methodology required to assist in achieving the Council's objectives. Latest data from the project shows that 83% of its construction waste is being diverted from landfill with the figures set to improve as the construction stages evolve.

In 2010 an agreement was signed to reduce carbon emissions in the city by 40% by 2020. In the period from 2005-09 a promising reduction of 14.4% has been achieved. Examples of ongoing activities that are contributing towards this success include; the Wrap Up Leeds initiative, renewable energy generation, Aire Valley Environmental Projects and Eastgate Energy Centre.

The new economic, social, environmental and technological challenges of the 21st century and beyond demands new infrastructure and different utilities to create smarter towns and cities. To contribute to this, improving the city's broadband infrastructure is critical to the economic success and prosperity of the city. As a result Leeds City Council is developing proposals for a number of broadband initiatives such as the Super Connected Cities (SCC) proposal and the BDUK Broadband Plan.

Best city... to live

Housing and regeneration in the city is about ensuring that growth is sustainable and provides long term benefits for all the residents of Leeds. This involves making sure that regeneration creates the right physical environment for vibrant and sustainable communities, and that local people have access to the opportunities that regeneration investment brings. A key element of this is delivering substantial housing growth over the coming years and, providing a range of housing types which are capable of meeting the varying needs of the city's different neighbourhoods.

Key facts:

- Over the last year 1,931 new homes have been built in Leeds, of these 489 homes were affordable.
- 3,243 long term empty private sector properties were brought back into use in 2011/12.
- 1,063 private sector properties were made decent as a result of the direct action of the Council.

Some major pieces of legislation have been passed within the last year which will impact considerably on housing and regeneration, namely the Localism Act and the Welfare Reform Act. The council is already monitoring the changes in housing benefit regulations and how this will potentially impact on housing need across the city.

The national housing strategy sets out a package of reforms to get the housing market moving again; promote a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future; support choice and quality for tenants; and improve environmental standards and design quality.

Many households in Leeds earn less than £20,000 per year which, alongside tight mortgage lending and rising unemployment, has made many parts of the city unaffordable to a large number of its residents. The Core Strategy sets out a policy approach for future housing growth in the city, including the need for housing developments above a certain size incorporating affordable homes. It has been influenced by the significant changes being introduced through the Government's new localism agenda (e.g. New Homes Bonus, Community Infrastructure Levy, and Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build), as well as by the ongoing economic situation and its impact on house building and mortgage lending.

Leeds has a large amount of older housing, of which there are substantial concentrations in deprived neighbourhoods. The challenges identified in the [Private Sector House Condition Survey](#) (2007) regarding decency standards in some private rented properties remain. Decency in the city's public and social sector housing is much higher, currently standing at around 97%. There are investment challenges to maintain and achieve decency across all sectors and, in doing so, provide the city's growing population with decent, affordable housing. The proposed changes to council house tenancies and housing benefit will also present some serious challenges for how public and social housing across the city is accessed and managed.

Although Leeds is a growing city with a successful city centre and a strong local economy, some of its neighbourhoods face significant challenges relating to employment, housing, health, education and community safety. To achieve its wider regeneration objectives, the council works across the regeneration priority areas with numerous partners from the public, private and third sectors, as well as with local residents. To build on this in the future, citizens need to be more engaged and involved by devising a new social contract and also encourage and promote civic entrepreneurs. Existing regeneration programmes include:

- the East Leeds Regeneration Programme,
- the Little London, Beeston Hill and Holbeck Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Project, and
- the two Townscape Heritage Initiatives (THI) in Armley and Chapeltown

Best city... for communities

Leeds' vision is to be the best city for people to live. We want all communities in the city to be safe, clean and welcoming to all. We want a city where people can be active and involved in the life of their communities and able to take action for themselves to make those communities stronger through devising a new social contract. By working together in partnership with local people we can tackle crime and anti-social behaviour effectively, diffuse tensions, keep our neighbourhoods clean and attain the right conditions so our communities will become places where people want to live and thrive.

Key facts:

- Total recorded crime in Leeds has fallen from 128,920 (2002/03) to 70,445 (2011/12), a 45% reduction in the last 10 years.
- Deliberate primary fires have fallen consistently year on year from 2,783 in 2003/04 to 499 in 2011/12 which is an 82% reduction.
- 69.61% of people agreed their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities live together harmoniously (WY Police Authority Jan/March 2012).

Continued focus on the delivery of the burglary reduction plan has resulted in significant improvements, in 2011/12 there were 7,662 recorded burglary dwelling offences across the city, down 13.6% (1,207 fewer victims) on the previous year. Burglary has significant consequences directly impacting on a person's sense of safety, as well as the damage and loss incurred. Although levels are reducing, domestic burglary in Leeds remains higher than the national average.

Some offending has been linked to problematic and nuisance groups of youths who appear to view opportunistic burglary as an extension of anti-social behaviour. Complex needs have been identified such as "up and coming" offenders, who can rapidly become prolific. Organised groups have also been identified, often linked with drug supply, and long term prolific offenders who undertake burglaries on a regular basis. A number of approaches continue including:

- Locality partnership based sessions leading to partnership plans being formulated, including innovative approaches to identifying local areas at risk in a more proactive manner.
- A centralised task force tackling high level organised burglary and the Leeds POCA Team (Proceeds of Crime Act) actively target offenders across the city who are known or suspected of living above their legitimate means through criminal activity.
- To change offenders' behaviour, Leeds has adopted an Integrated Offender Management approach. This identifies and manages offenders in the community, with the emphasis on those who are most prolific or persistent in their criminal behaviour. In the last 12 months work with HM Prison Leeds, has resulted in additional focus on managing offenders on release into the community.
- Work between Anti-Social Behaviour Teams, Children's Services, Youth Offending Service, Probation and Police has delivered intensive family support for those in greatest need with acute, complex issues. This has resulted in significant reductions in offending and anti-social behaviour amongst those receiving this assistance.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can affect everyday life and devastate a neighbourhood. Common ASB issues across Leeds include youth related nuisance, alcohol misuse, vandalism and graffiti. In some areas, there are issues around specific families or groups highly involved in local ASB and crime. A new Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Teams (LASBT) was introduced comprising of staff from Leeds City Council, ALMOs, Victim Support, West Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Through the development of shared case management systems, community links, and improved information sharing, offenders can be identified and targeted through a range of disruption and enforcement tactics.

In order to develop more responsive, cost effective local environmental services, three new locality teams have been introduced across the city. These teams are focused on achieving a cleaner, greener and more attractive city through effective environmental management and changed behaviours. Local decision making can also ensure that available resources are deployed more appropriately and quickly to meet local challenges.

Parks are an important place for the community to meet, hold events and get involved as volunteers or as a member of a 'friends' group. Parks and green space have continued to show improvement against the national Green Flag standard with 26.6% achieving the standard for 143 parks assessed against a target of 26.2% in 2011/12.

Best city...for children and young people

Our vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city where children and young people are valued and supported to become successful citizens of the future, who make a positive contribution to our communities and our economic and social prosperity. As part of this vision we will minimise the effects of child poverty and deliver our children's plan priorities, including transforming achievement across the city through the Leeds Education Challenge.

Key facts:

- The percentage of young people leaving school with five GCSEs A* – C including English and maths has increased from 53.7% in 2010/11 (academic year) to 54.0% in 2011/12 (academic year). Results for 2012 are provisional and results in Leeds have been impacted by the GCSE English grading issue.
- The percentage of 16-18 year olds that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is 8.1% in 2011/12 (based on November to January averages).
- In March 2012 there were 1,473 children and young people looked after in Leeds.
- In the academic year 2010/11, 4,728 (51.3%) young people in Leeds achieved a level 3 qualification by age 19. This is an improvement of 4.6 percentage points compared to the 2010 result.

In terms of the reduction of the number of children and young people looked after, this period has seen major service change with the implementation of new locality working arrangements. Supporting the redesign of social care services is ongoing as is the investment in early intervention and family support. The costs of placing children and young people in care remains a focus whilst accepting keeping children safe is the absolute priority. In addition to reducing the need to enter care there is a continuing focus on those children and young people in care, including involvement in national adoption work.

Attendance improved in Leeds primary and secondary schools in 2011/12, and primary attendance is now above national. Attendance in secondary schools increased by 1.4 percentage points on the 2010/11 academic year and is now at its highest level since recording began. Secondary attendance remains lower in Leeds than nationally and in statistical neighbours, but the gap has narrowed because the improvements achieved in Leeds are greater than national and statistical neighbours improvements. Good work is ongoing at the locality level including within schools and at cluster level in terms of outcome based accountability (OBA) sessions and action plans. Examples of this in practice are efforts to improve consistency around authorising term-time holiday requests and targeted work with families.

There are still significant numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Improvements are ongoing in the clusters where there is a multi-agency focus and support for individuals who are NEET. The current economic climate presents particular challenges for young people looking to enter the workplace for the first time and there is a need to ensure young people are prepared for work and have the skills required by the local economy. There are a number of initiatives underway including the 'Leeds Guarantee,' and an entitlement to support that enables them to overcome any barriers to remain in learning. In addition to this, a post-16 project is being undertaken to review the current 16-19 provision in Leeds. The raising of the Participation Age which means that young people will remain in education or training for an additional academic year after Year 11 from September 2013 and until age 18 from September 2015 will also impact on the number of young people who are NEET.

Child poverty is at the root of many poor outcomes, with nearly a quarter of Leeds children recognised as being affected by child poverty (DfE 2009). Minimising the effects of child poverty is a cross-cutting theme that informs all our work. The Leeds Education Challenge sets out a vision for every child to be in learning, every school to be a great school and every young person to be succeeding.

Devising a new social contract through restorative practice is key in delivering against our priorities. The fundamental premise of restorative practice is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when agencies and services do things *with* them, rather than *to* them or *for* them. The child and family are at the centre of this approach. Outcomes based accountability (OBA) enables us to develop practical, locality based action plans across the city showing evidence of improvement in outcomes for children and young people.

Best city... for health and wellbeing

There are a range of social, economic and environmental factors that affect people's health and wellbeing in Leeds. We will focus upon identifying and addressing the factors which have the greatest impact upon health and wellbeing. In addition we will ensure that services are joined up and timely to help everyone have the best chance to be healthy and well. Health and social care services will work together better to help people stay active and independent for as long as possible and provide care when needed in local communities.

Key facts:

- In Leeds life expectancy at birth has increased from 77.7 to 77.9 for men and from 82.0 to 82.2 for women. On average men living in the less deprived areas of Leeds can expect to live 12.4 years longer than men living in the most deprived areas. For women the gap is 8.4 years.
- The number of older people in Leeds estimated to have mental health needs includes 8,607 people with dementia and 10,111 with depression.
- During 2011/12 Adult Social Care supported 24,200 people in Leeds through directly provided services, services commissioned from other providers and through providing personal budgets (RAP & FGS returns 2011). 12,344 of these people were assessed as having critical or substantial levels of needs.
- Leeds commissioned 138,996 bed weeks in care homes for older people in 2011/12. This is a reduction of 3.2% in 2011/12 over the previous year. This suggests that older people are retaining independence for longer periods and are requiring care home support at later stages in their lives.
- Adult smoking, healthy eating and obesity levels are significantly worse than the England average.

The health and wellbeing of the people of Leeds continues to improve but we are still faced with huge challenges of a changing population and significant inequalities in health across the city. There is a growing aging population which is creating more demand for services and support at a time when funding is reducing year on year. Leeds needs to ensure more people can get better health and social care services at a time when it has less money. There is also a changing picture of commissioning and provision of health and social care in the city, with a move to more integrated services and with individuals having a greater say in decisions about their care.

The demand for more health and social care is expected to continue and it is expected that there will be an increasing demand for higher quality services. The focus will be around people being supported to have better lives than they have now: Better lives through enterprise; Better lives through housing, care and support; and Better lives through integrated services.

This will be achieved through a powerful mixture of enterprise and integration to create a health and adult social care sector that is flexible, varied, accessible to all and fit for purpose. A growing range of integrated health and social care services are ensuring that needs are being identified at an early stage, this enables input to focus upon minimising loss of independence, for example, the use of short term support to help people regain daily living skills following a period of illness. Leeds is also supporting enterprise in the private and third sector, encouraging innovation and diversity in service provision which will enable people who need support to exercise greater choice and control.

Early deaths from the major long term conditions are decreasing overall in Leeds but the gap between deprived areas of Leeds and the rest of the city is not closing and in some cases widening. Early identification programmes are an important tool in helping ensure that everyone lives longer and healthier lives. The NHS Health Check is an example of a local initiative which aims to offer a systematic and integrated public health programme of vascular risk assessment and management to all those between 40 and 74 years old to assess their risk of vascular disease followed by appropriate management and interventions. Every GP practice in Leeds is offering NHS Health Checks to their eligible population and in the prison service and the homeless practice within the city.

Adult smoking, healthy eating and obesity levels in Leeds are significantly worse than the England average. A range of activities are ongoing to tackle these issues including; a smoking cessation service; a menu of interventions and opportunities that promote physical activity and healthier eating in localities; training and support programmes to increase the skills of the wider workforce who support obese adults and children such as the 'Leeds Lets Change', 'Every Contact Counts' and 'HENRY'.