

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 14th September 2011

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR REV A TAYLOR)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2011

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, everybody and welcome to today's Council meeting.

There is one announcement, which I am delighted to make, and that is to announce that Yvonne Crowther, who is a committed resident of the Cardinals estate in Beeston, has won the Yorkshire Region of the Pride of Britain awards and is now going to London on 3 October for the national awards. (*Applause*)

Perhaps Members are not aware that on a voluntary basis Yvonne has been running the Cardinal's Youth Club. She celebrated its tenth anniversary this year by organising a gala on the estate. She has also won her award for the work that she has done in developing a model of resident-led locality working within the community and that has been specifically commended by the Chief Constable, Sir Norman Bettison. Last year she won the Volunteer in Every Neighbourhood Award at the Leeds City Council's Year of Volunteering Awards, and so on behalf of the Council can I congratulate Yvonne for winning the regional award (*hear, hear*) and also wish her every success in the national awards. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Can I also welcome members of the public in the gallery to today's Council meeting and to say that, during the course of the proceedings there will be a break when we have a cup of tea and everyone is welcome to join everybody on that occasion.

ITEM 1 – LATE ITEMS

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13th July and 7th September 2011

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move to the Order Paper, please, and to the late items. These have been distributed so I call upon Councillor James Lewis to move the item.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour of receiving the Minutes? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to item 2 and to the Declaration of Interests. As usual, the list of the written declarations submitted has been on display in the ante-room. Are there any further individual declarations or corrections to those notified on the list?

COUNCILLOR TOWNSLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I declare a personal interest in that I am a member of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority – that is Item 11.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Any others? Right. Could Members then please show that they have read the list, they agree to its contents insofar as it relates to their own interests? Could we have a show of hands, please? (*Show of hands*) Thank you.

ITEM 3 - COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Could we now move to Item 3, Communications. Chief Executive.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. There is one item to bring to Members' attention. It is a revised and new Guidance Note for Deputations to Council which has been circulated to you all.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 4, the Deputations themselves, please.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There are now four Deputations, Lord Mayor. The first Deputation from Wharfedale has withdrawn, so the Deputations will be from Leeds Fairtrade Steering Group regarding the promotion of fair trade issues within the city; Leeds Own Trail, plans for 2011-2012; Friends of the Earth regarding Leeds Waste Incineration Project; and representatives and small business of Farnley and Wortley re proposals to build a supermarket at the Stonebridge Mill site.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Lord Mayor, I move that the Deputations be received.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

DEPUTATION ONE – LEEDS FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Could you make your speech, please, to Council? It should be not longer than five minutes and could you please begin by introducing your deputation?

MS H DALRYMPLE: Good afternoon. We are from the Leeds Fair Trade Steering Group. My name is Hannah Dalrymple – I had to write down the names in case I get them wrong. This is Cynthia Dixon, Joan Machin, Stella Wade and Paul Durkin.

Firstly, the Fair Trade Steering Group would like to thank you for this opportunity to address you with this delegation. Why do we think fair trade is important for Leeds? Fair trade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers in the developing world, or

global south, as it is also known. Leeds has a proud history of standing up for fairness and equality and our status as a fair trade city is a way to show that we are for people being able to invest in their communities and improve their lives.

What benefits does Fair Trade Status bring to the city of Leeds? The Fair Trade Campaign raises the profile of Leeds through association to an ethical campaign. It supports community cohesion by recognising contributions made by countries where Leeds' citizens have their origins. It promotes Leeds businesses as ethically aware through corporate policies offering fair trade products to personnel. Local businesses selling fair trade products can take advantage of this growing market.

Leeds City Council passed a Fair Trade City resolution in 2004 but now Leeds has to renew its status with the Fair Trade Foundation, who are the national body that oversee and promote fair trade. We would like your support in renewing our status and will explain how you can do this later in the presentation.

First, let us tell you about our achievements. Since Leeds became a Fair Trade City the following organisations have achieved Fair Trade Status: Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds; 73 places of worship, as well as the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds. The Steering Group has been working with Leeds Development Education Centre to promote fair trade in Leeds' schools. In January we held a very successful Yorkshire Gets Ready for Fair Trade fortnight event at the University of Leeds. Hilary Benn, MP, and Linda McAvan, MEP, addressed over 80 delegates present who included schools, fair trade retailers and supporters.

At least five schools in Leeds took part in the national record breaking attempt to make the longest length of fair trade cotton bunting to highlight the injustices faced by cotton farmers in the global south. We made a new world record.

A Fair Trade Conference for schools is being planned in the autumn term with Greg Mulholland, MP. A resource pack has been distributed to Leeds' schools to help them achieve fair trade status.

Recent events – in 2010, via Twitter, Leeds beat Manchester in the number of swaps to fair trade products with 5,000 Leeds people taking part. As part of Fair Trade Fortnight 2011, we hosted a Yorkshire-wide schools competition where we invited children to upload a one minute video explaining the importance of fair trade cotton using sock puppets. The winning entry was from a Leeds school and Councillor Harrand actually presented the award. The headteacher at Alwoodley Primary School said the competition meant so much to the children and they really enjoyed it.

In March 2011 a Fair Trade and Vintage Fashion Show was held at the University of Leeds, organised in conjunction with the students and Leeds Fair Trade businesses. Over 100 people attended.

How can the Council support the Fair Trade Steering Group to help us renew our status as a Fair Trade city? We would like the Council to help us raise the profile of our status by incorporating the "We are a Fair Trade City" logo in the following areas: on publications and leaflets; as an email signature; on Council stationery; on the Council website with a link to the Leeds Fair Trade City website; on Council vehicles; in the Tourist Information Centre; on Councillors business cards.

We would also request that Fair Trade City certificates are displayed in the Civic and in the Town Halls; a Council representative attends our bi-monthly Fair Trade Steering Group meetings; the Council reaffirms the Fair Trade City motion passed in 2004.

We would also like permission to have a banner outside the Town Hall during Fair Trade fortnight annually in March. The wording would be something like, "Leeds celebrates Fair Trade Fortnight", again with the Fair Trade City logo.

We know for some if not all of you the biggest question will be, how much will this cost?

THE LORD MAYOR: Hannah, could you move to your final sentence, please?

MS H DALRYMPLE: We believe all of the above can be achieved on a cost neutral basis for the Council. Finally, we warmly invite you to our Fair Trade Christmas event for Councillor and Council staff on Friday 2 December in the antechamber. There will be opportunities for you to find out more about the campaign and win some fair trade goodies. We thank you so much for listening to our delegation and we look forward so much to hearing your response. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis?

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you. I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for a vote on that, please? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

Hannah, thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive. Good afternoon, thank you.

MS H DALRYMPLE: Good afternoon, thank you. (*Applause*)

DEPUTATION TWO – LEEDS OWL TRAIL

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Could you please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and could you please begin by introducing yourself and the people in the delegation.

MS A STOWE: My Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors and beautiful owls on the coat of arms, I would like to introduce our own team here today – myself, Antonia Stowe, Clifford Stead, James Brown and Natalie Kyrkos.

Many of you will be familiar with the Leeds Owl Trail and what we do and, for some, this will be first time you have met us, so hello. The Leeds Owl Trail is a not for profit organisation set up in 2009 with the aim to inspire and encourage people to learn about Leeds' rich history and create new owls for future generations to enjoy.

We do this by taking Leeds' greatest icon, the owl from the coat of arms which appears on many buildings and structures around Leeds, and in particular the city centre. We then use the owl to connect people with the city and make a personal connection. This is where the magic takes place, as we make heritage accessible and fun.

We currently have a 25 owl location map with an annual distribution of 88,000 and the map is free; a website where we inform people of our activities and you can download the map; trails led by 'owl' actors from the Leeds theatre company the Blahs, and you may even have seen 'Owl' on your travels; an education project called Every Owl Matters, and we also take visitors around the city, including delegations and conferences.

How does Leeds benefit from what we do? We connect people of all ages, regardless of their income, background or ability, with the city centre. We raise the profile of Leeds on the local, regional, national and international stage by our promotional activities and our increasing and rising presence in the city. We welcome people to our city and show the city off. As one Belgian tourist emailed after a visit and said, "Leeds, it is the pretty city of owls."

We provide employment to many, including actors, artists and researchers. We help retain young talent by offering training and employment to young people who may leave the city to go elsewhere.

We believe the Leeds Owl Trail is the fourth cultural dimension to the city after eating, shopping and drinking. For visitors we just show the city off – an innovative way to find your way around by teaching something about the buildings and creating a sense of place.

Most of all, to date we are proud to say we believe the Leeds Owl Trail is about helping to make every citizen a stakeholder in our city and our partnerships are growing stronger each day.

Our deputation is not only about saying, "Hey, thank you, here we are and thank you for initially supporting us", but also some requests. We would like you to support our growth by working with us. We want you to help us secure our future in Leeds and help us to work in partnership with you.

We would like you to encourage the Council to act as an umbrella organisation for all the trails that exist in Leeds and promote them.

We would like you to encourage city centre Local Authority spaces to make free space for the Leeds Owl Trail maps that are easily accessible to the public. Recently there seems to have been a removal of these in favour of the paid distribution service racks which we simply cannot pay for, and why should we? There is clearly a larger issue here with other organisations that might want to reach out too.

We would also like you to address 'Welcome to Yorkshire' and ask them to include the Leeds Owl Trail as something special in the city for visitors, instead of only promoting organisations if they pay corporate membership. We are not alone in our concerns about this. After all, the city does part-fund them and actually we do their job pretty well.

Finally, our dream is to continue the legacy of commissioning new owls for future generations to enjoy and we are beginning to talk to developers who are keen to do this. It would be great if, within the planning authority, you could encourage this too as a section agreement.

Thank you for welcoming us today and we have left our Leeds Owl Trail maps in the antechamber for you to take home. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I am delighted to second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That seems to be CARRIED.

Antonia, before I say something about thank you, perhaps Members would like to see that we now have a new gavel. I am not going to use it but it does have an owl on it, so I think that is another one to your list.

MS A STOWE: Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you for coming along and for saying what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

DEPUTATION THREE – FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Will you please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and could you please begin by introducing yourself and the people of your delegation. Thank you.

MR D FANAROFF: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is David Fanaroff and I represent, and a group of my colleagues, organisations in Leeds who are under the banner of No Incineration Leeds. We are an organisation of environmental groups, local residents and social justice groups who oppose waste incineration as a form to process waste in Leeds.

Why Leeds should not be chained to waste incineration.

On 2nd November the Executive Board will be asked to make a decision on who should build a waste incinerator for Leeds. This decision will effectively lock and chain Leeds City Council into a contract for burning 50% of the domestic waste produced in the city for the next 25 years.

This is why the Council should not approve a waste incinerator for Leeds.

An incinerator will tie the Council down to a contract which will have to guarantee a minimum level of waste to be burnt each year. Councils such as Sheffield with similar contracts who have not produced enough waste have had to rely on imports from other areas or increased levels of commercial waste to feed the

incinerator. In Hampshire, Veolia (one of the bidders for the Leeds contract) applied to vary the plant's planning conditions to allow them to process more commercial waste and, potentially, import waste from outside the county. On-one can accurately predict the quantity or quality or make-up of waste for the city for the next 25 years. Waste levels have been falling steadily. Such a contract, even with safeguards, is foolhardy.

Incinerators suppress demand for local recycling as residents see less need to separate and recycle their waste. Leeds has set a recycling target of 50%. Other authorities are already exceeding this level and have set much higher and progressive targets. Leeds is now lagging behind most other UK cities, including Bradford and Hull, with their current recycling.

Incineration releases high levels of climate change-causing gases, including CO₂ – more than other processing technologies. To build an incinerator would be counter to the Council's own Climate Change Action Plan with commendable targets for reducing its carbon footprint by 40%.

Incineration does not eradicate landfill. We estimate that, in a region of 150,000 tonnes of toxic, concentrated, mixed domestic and industrial hazardous ash will be produced over the contract period. It will need to be loaded on to lorries and transported through Leeds to a special landfill site. The Council's own Waste Strategy is to achieve zero waste. This will be impossible for 25 years if the incinerator is built.

Waste incineration poses significant health risks. Although modern incinerators use expensive filter systems, they emit significant levels of ultra-fine particles. These can pass through lung lining, causing internal inflammation and penetrate into organs. There is no doubt that incinerators product toxins. The argument is whether the amounts are harmful and what they will mix with in the atmosphere. The Council should adopt a precautionary principle and not accept a new industrial development which releases hazardous chemicals into the atmosphere.

Incinerators are prone to breakdowns and the nature of an operation that burns mixed materials at high temperatures and produces steam at high pressures creates risk. In September 2006 the Kirklees incinerator suffered a serious incident that put it out of action for week. A local Councillor reported the incident was so serious that the Huddersfield water system could not handle the needs of the fire services, which is why they pumped water from the local canal.

Compared to reuse and recycling, incinerators create few jobs and little in the way of additional income or contracts for other companies in the local economy.

Incinerators are often justified on the basis of energy production. However, it is a very inefficient way to produce power. They often require gas to be burnt to create heat to dry out unsuitable materials to make them burn. The electricity produced will have no direct benefit to Leeds because it will go direct into the National Grid. If the point was to produce extra electricity, there are far better ways of doing it.

The two companies that Leeds has left to choose from to build the incinerator pose significant risks. Veolia recently announced they are in financial meltdown, pulling out of 37 different countries and falling into tens of millions of pounds of debt.

This is not the first time they have got into severe financial problems which resulted in selling off all their waste incinerators in the United States.

Covanta, the other bidder, who filed for bankruptcy protection in 2002, has no experience of operating an incinerator in the UK and has not completed the construction of an incinerator for over 15 years. Both companies have been sued for labour violations after treating their workers illegally and prosecution for major pollution leaks.

It is possible for Leeds Council to pull out of the current procurement of an incinerator process. Both Hull and East Riding Councils have pulled out of a contract with a company to build an incinerator at a stage in the process beyond where Leeds is now.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you move to your final sentence, please?

MR D FANAROFF: OK, fine. There are alternatives to waste incineration and we would like to discuss those with you further between now and 2nd November. We have a lot more information which can justify everything that we have said and we will be sending you reports so that you can analyse this in more detail.

Thank you for the time to speak. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you. I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour, please? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED, thank you.

David, thank you for coming along and for saying what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive. Thank you again. (*Applause*)

DEPUTATION FOUR – REPRESENTATIVES AND SMALL BUSINESS IN FARNLEY AND WORTLEY

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Could you please make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes. Could you start by introducing yourself and then Members of your delegation. Thank you.

MS J NANDRA: Thank you, my Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. I am Jessica Nandra of 8, Blackpool Terrace. This is Joanne St Lawrence and this is Terry Riley from Star Butchers. We are the local residents and shopkeepers of Farnley and Wortley that are opposing the supermarket development at Stonebridge Lane, Leeds 12.

At the planning meeting on August 18th 2011, members of the Planning Panel expressed concerns on the following points. Firstly, the half million pound inducement given by developers for Armley Ward in contravention of current

regulations. Secondly, the overwhelming amount of local opposition to development, which included the local Councillors. Thirdly, the levels of pollution, noise and disruption to residents in the heavily populated residential area. Fourthly, in the original outline plan the refurbishment of the mill buildings was prime consideration. In the current plan the supermarket area has been separated and the mill buildings are left derelict, with no plan for future development.

Even while the planning decision was being discussed, developers and Tesco were already in talks with the Planning Department regarding the building of a much larger store, using the development of the mill buildings as an inducement to facilitate acceptance of these new plans. This was confirmed by the representative of Tesco and the developers.

The residents do not feel these concerns were sufficiently addressed and the plans were passed with only three votes after the Chairman informed the Panel that they could not vote against the proposal. We feel that the decision should have been suspended until the concerns of the members of the Panel and the residents have been fully assessed on the points above and on the following grounds.

(a). The long walk through derelict buildings to reach the store entrance for Stonebridge Lane or Silver Royd Hill will preclude walking, making the store almost all car traffic. The local roads of Silver Royd Hill, Stonebridge Lane and Whincover Driver are very steep, narrow roads with dangerous bends and blind corners. They are already heavily used as short cuts and further increases in traffic will threaten the safety of residents. In the short distance of the ring road between the junction with the inner ring road at Bramley and the M621 turnoff at Gelderd Road, there are seven roundabouts, five sets of traffic lights and four pedestrian crossings, every one of them a bottleneck which causes increased difficulties for residents. We cannot find any Executive Board that the extra traffic of delivery lorries, service vehicles, customers to the site has properly been evaluated on the local roads.

(b). Although restricted hours have been placed on deliveries, the noise emissions from 24-hour refrigeration, air condition units, will have to be assessed. No mention has been made of the car park. Houses adjoining the car park are only 30 to 40 feet away, with gardens directly adjacent. We consider the continual banging of car doors, boots, rattling trolleys, revving engines, flashing headlights will be intolerable for these local residents. At the very least we consider that the store opening hours should be restricted and in line with delivery hours that are 8.00 am till 8.00 pm to give residents some time for a normal family life.

(c). If there is a new proposal from Tesco regarding a larger store, residents do not want any inducements or cash payments to be permitted. Any future developments should be considered only in regard to the requirements of the local community with their health and wellbeing considered.

There are also questions of the local shops which are so essential for the Bawn and Butterbowl estates. The very steep nature of the hills that surround the site means that no-one will be able to walk to the supermarket site and those without cars would be totally without facilities if local shops, which are more easily accessible, were to close. This would particularly affect the many elderly people in the area.

We are also undertaking a comparison in prices between local shops and supermarkets and, surprisingly, in the essential things like bread and milk we are finding local shops are much cheaper. In the interests of fair trade and customer

choice, we feel the Council should be making a concerted effort to promote local shops rather than another supermarket.

THE LORD MAYOR: Jessica, could you go to your final sentence, please?

MS J NANDRA: OK. This store will impact the local area, leading to the closure of local shops and resulting in more job losses. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move the matter be moved to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

Jessica, thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive and that will happen at a later date. Thank you again for coming and good afternoon.

MS J NANDRA: Good afternoon, thank you. (*Applause*)

ITEM 5 - REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move on, please, to Item 5. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 6 - QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Board Member for City Development tell me the total value of outstanding Section 106 moneys owed to the Council which should already have been paid and how much of that has been outstanding for more than twelve months, and what the value of the outstanding amounts of 106 moneys that should have been paid to the Council under £30,000 is?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The amount of outstanding Section 106 moneys where an invoice has been raised but where there are unpaid balances amounts to £1,323,489.44. Of these balances £125,916.18 is older than twelve months. The total figure of Section 106 moneys under £30,000 and relating to 16 individual schemes awaiting payment to the Council is £150,727.97.

The outstanding figures are a consequence of trigger points from specific payments not being reached, associated with the discharging of planning conditions. It should be emphasised that the Council officers closely monitor these payments, chasing up contributions when they are required.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. By way of supplementary - Councillor Lewis always looks at me as if he thinks it is a trick question and the second part is going to be something...

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Never, Andrew.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: ...that he has no chance whatever of being able to answer. I can assure him it is not the case. It is actually a simple request.

It seems to me that we would save – and I am sure Councillor Lewis would agree with me – a great deal of officer time, particularly in the Legal Department, if all planning applications where Section 106 contributions were £30,000 or less, there was a requirement built in that the applicant had to pay that money either on receipt of the planning application or on the immediate commencement of the development.

Councillor Lewis, I am sure, will appreciate that that would save the Council considerable amounts of money. As he knows and I know we are taking legal proceedings against a number of small developers. Our chances of success in getting the money is probably about nil. That money could have been well used by local Members of wards all round this Chamber for small schemes in their own areas.

He will, I think, know – and he might like to confirm this – that Planning Officers will give him a thousand and one reasons why this cannot be done. I would just ask him to tell them to get it done, otherwise we could have another vote without debate in Council on a White Paper where there will be unanimous agreement amongst all the Councillors present and inordinate time will be wasted by officers in preparing reports – as we had from the Highways Department not long ago – telling us why we cannot do it. It is time to say we can. I would appreciate Councillor Lewis's response to that. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Where was the question, Andrew? I got lost about five minutes ago. I am quite happy for us to consider what you have put forward. I realise that there is a case in Calverley that might perhaps have stirred your interest – no?

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: No, in your ward. Take some notice of it.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: So more than happy to give consideration to any practical proposal that helps us spend Section 106 and make sure that we get it.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Board Member for Adult Health and Social Care outline what alternative services

exist for those blind and visually impaired people in Leeds who previously used services including Training Kitchen, Low Vision Aids Room, Talking Book and Braille Library, Computer Room, News/Sports tapes, Annual Holidays and Café, which were located at Shire View in Headingley?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This is a timely question and this morning I actually visited the new service for blind and visually impaired people myself. It was launched in June and is run by the Leeds Vision Consortium from Fairfax House in the city centre.

LVC was awarded the contract following a lengthy consultation and procurement exercise beginning in 2009 which included input from blind and visually impaired people themselves in terms of drawing up the tender specification and to provide the selection process.

While the new service is working well for some people, more people are using the new service than used to go to Shire View and many are benefiting from the extra options provided by a city centre location. I know there are some concerns from people who previously used Shire View and we are working hard with LVC to ensure that these concerns are addressed and the new service can go on to successfully help the city's blind and visually impaired people to live better lives.

In terms of those specifics in your question, please bear with me because it may take some time to go through.

Regarding the Training Kitchen, we have a number of training kitchens across the city in our day centres and resource centres and the tutors from LVC have access to all of these. However, rehabilitation officers employed by the Council who work with visually impaired people these days prefer, wherever possible, to teach newly visually impaired people in their own homes and kitchens so that they can develop independent living skills in the very environment where they need them.

The Low Vision Aids room, LVC has some materials for demonstration purposes, as do the rehabilitation officers. However, the organisation intends to build on this to provide a regular day and place for resources and demonstrations so that people can know what is available and where. This element of the service is currently being developed in collaboration with the rehabilitation officers, who are co-located at Fairfax House.

Talking Book and Braille Library. Blind and partially sighted people have access to Calibre, RNIB resources and the Council's own libraries. Adult Social Care continues to pay the Talking Book subscriptions for over 300 adults per year. One blind service user who used to attend Shire View is supporting LVC by providing Braille reader lessons to six members of staff.

The computer room. LVC has an up-to-date IT suite at Fairfax House which is fully adapted to meet the needs of people with a visual impairment. A tutor provides support and training when required and some service users who used to attend Shire View are successfully using the IT suite on a daily basis, developing their existing IT skills and learning new ones.

The news and sport tapes service is based in York and it remains available to people in Leeds.

Annual Holidays. LVC has links with two hotels which are fully adapted for visually impaired people and owned by the RNIB, the organisation with which Action for Blind People has merged. These holidays can be taken in a setting that successfully accommodates the needs of visually impaired people and in a relaxed and enjoyable way, where staff have developed particular insights into their needs. LVC will offer to support individuals or groups who may wish to book a holiday.

Finally, the café. While Fairfax House does not have its own café, lunchtime dining is one of the big successes of the LVC service. Service users who attend on Monday, Wednesday or Friday have their individual choice of hot meal, sandwich and salad brought to them by staff. However, the new city centre location means that people have the opportunity to go out to have lunch in Leeds City Centre, accompanied by a staff member. This could not be achieved from Shire View and it is something that they might not have done for some time.

It also provides people with the opportunity to go shopping, pay their bills in the centre of Leeds and, in fact, this morning when I visited, several service users were out having a full English breakfast in the nearby café. Thank you. (Applause)

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: By way of supplementary, before I ask that question I would like to thank the Executive Board for a very complete and thorough answer, which I will report back to my resident who expressed the concerns that I put forward there and they do have genuine concerns, I think.

I was pleased to see that you visited that centre...

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: You are getting as bad as her!

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: ...but whilst you were there there were a couple of other things. LVC has provided only one toilet for men and women to use on the floor they are on and that has caused queues and it is also not possible for access buses to get near to the centre, meaning that users have to walk 50 metres, which is very difficult for them to do. Again, there is the hot meal issue but, as you say, you are looking into that and I am pleased that things are being looked into now that users have come up with these problems, but I feel that they should have been done beforehand. Perhaps you would like to comment on those other two points I have just raised there.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you. I am not sure if you have visited the centre so you have been able to see it but I know when I visited this morning they were keen for as many Members to go and visit as possible, so I am sure you would be made very welcome and they might take you to their local café as well.

I am aware that there have been concerns about the toilet facilities. However, there is one toilet on the ground floor but there are other toilets in the building which they are able to access through using the lift and which are available to them.

The distance from where the access bus drops them off is apparently, I am told this morning, a very similar distance to what they had to walk when they were at Shire View, so there is very little change there.

I do know there are concerns and LVC are committed to try and resolve these and we are taking it seriously and we are talking to service users as well as the new provider.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Councillor Khan, please.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Could the Executive Board Member for Development and Economy please update the Council on the draft National Planning Policy Framework recently published by the Government and the implications this has for Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The draft National Planning Policy Framework seeks to radically change national planning policy by introducing a presumption in favour of sustainable development, though I think you could leave out the word "sustainable". It is a presumption in favour of development.

The Government has clearly shown that they are determined to plough ahead with the framework, despite supposedly undertaking an open public consultation. I think in Leeds we are most concerned at the lack of recognition and support for the challenges and opportunities associated with urban regeneration. In a city with the size and complexity of Leeds, it is vital that we make effective use of brownfield land rather than allowing developers to cherry pick greenfield sites, and I think that is something all of us share that view.

The policy also seems to exclude windfall and student housing from housing land supply calculations. There is a lack of clarity about the proposed requirement to identify a five year rolling supply of deliverable sites, plus an additional 20%. This could lead us to the absurd position of having to allocate more housing land supply than the old RSS, when we know that the market is flat and construction will not happen. Instead, developers will be able to pick and choose their opportunities, making it even harder to make progress on our regeneration priorities.

Unsurprisingly, the proposals have raised a sharp response from across the public. I will just give you a few. National Trust has written to its nearly four million Members describing the plans as fundamentally wrong and has started a petition to oppose them. The Daily Telegraph – which I know Members opposite are very keen on – has launched a Hands off our Land campaign against the proposals. Twenty-three former Presidents of the Royal Town Planning Institute have written a letter criticising the potentially damaging haste with which the plans are being introduced. There is a real wide range of opposition to the plans.

A couple of things emerged at the weekend. The Conservative Party has received £3.3m from property firms in just the last three years. Heaven forefend! Developers can buy a seat at breakfast meetings with senior Ministers for an annual fee of £2,500 – cheap at the price, I would suggest.

John Howell, an aid to Greg Clark, the Minister with responsibility for planning, has said, "In the absence of a plan, a developer can come in and build what he likes, where he likes."

I will not go into any more about that but I think there is an emerging consensus that the framework in this draft proposal does not work for Leeds and a proposed response is currently being prepared for the 12th October Executive Board, and I hope that all Members will support this. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR KHAN: No, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Bruce.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: Does the Leader of Council agree that having Chinese athletes training in the city ahead of next year's Olympics is a coup for Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. You will be surprised there is no disagreement between us. I do think this gives me an opportunity to do something that we do not usually do, and that is to thank officers, Peter Smith in particular working with other officers from the University, pulling off one of the most significant sporting coups in the history of Leeds. We now have up to 300 Chinese athletes and trainers based in Leeds preparing for the Olympics next July.

That is good for tourism and that is obviously good for the hotel trade, but I think it is particularly inspiring for young people in Leeds. I think when you think that the young people in Leeds, at schools, will now be watching a sporting superpower of China that got 51 golds in the last Olympics train in our city, hopefully – and I am pretty sure it will – it will rub off on to young people and we will see extra participation in sport, which is clearly what we need. (*Applause*)

One of the things that we should all be proud of, the Chinese member of the Olympic Committee was asked why did you choose Leeds, and he said that he had looked all over Europe – in Paris in particular and other major cities, Amsterdam, London – and he thought Leeds offered the best facilities for his team. Not only that, the final deciding factor is that he also thought the people of Leeds would offer the best welcome out of all those European cities, and I think that is a tremendous coup for the people of Leeds. (*Applause*)

We now have in this city, we have Dutch, we have Australian, we have Serbian, we have Canadian and we have American athletes based, along with the Chinese, to do the Olympics and the Paralympics which, we should not forget, is a truly inspiring event, based in Leeds. I really think what it has done is demonstrate that Leeds can compete with other big European cities and win one of the prizes of athletics and sports occasions of the Olympics.

I think again, it is thanks to the officers and the Universities and the partnership and I think thanks for us keeping the partnership with Hangzhou going over many years and I think that puts Leeds in a very strong light in terms of the Chinese community. I know that Mark is also nodding in agreement – calm down, Mark.

I think it is a great occasion for this city and I am really looking forward to next year when they arrive here and start the buzz and excitement that I know many people will have about the Olympics in this country. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce, is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor John Procter, please.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive Board Member for Leisure please inform Council how many tickets were sold for Classical Fantasia and how much income his policy to charge for this event generated?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Lord Mayor, the Council sold 2,640 tickets for Classical Fantasia. The final accounts are not yet available but it is in the region of £26,000 gross.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Lord Mayor, by way of supplementary, and colleagues may recall this is similar to a question I asked about Opera in the Park as well, after the clear failure of his policy to charge for Opera in the Park and Classical Fantasia, is it not now high time that he promised the people of Leeds that the event that will be held in 2012 will once again be free of charge and we will return again to seeing, instead of a measly 10,000 people or thereabout attending the two events, we will return to see somewhere around about 55,000 people attending the two events, as they did when I was Executive Member, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: You cannot count, John.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I understand Councillor Procter and the Opposition playing politics with this in the press over the last few months – that is what you do when you are in Opposition – but the reality is that if you were the administration you would have had to consider doing this too and, indeed, there was nothing in your budget amendment to say that you were going to keep the events free.

We have been honest and said that spending on events would be reduced by increasing income and reducing spend, which is what we have done, and collectively from Opera, from Classical, from the Frankenstein's Wedding and the Kaiser Chief event at Kirkstall we have brought in over £267,000 of extra funding. (*Applause*)

What you need to do, John, is if you are going to keep them free, then you need to tell the people in Leeds how you are going to pay for them. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: It was in our budget speech, if you listened to it. Read the verbatim.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Matthews.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I will let them stop arguing.

Could the Executive Board Member for Children's Services outline what the Council's policy is on school uniforms?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Yes, quite straightforwardly, we do not have a direct policy for school uniforms. It is down to each individual school and their Board of Governors to determine the uniform code for their school.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. By way of supplementary, does Councillor Blake therefore think it is appropriate for the Co-op Academy at Primrose High, which has a majority Muslim intake, to ban the wearing of the salwar kameez or any type of Islamic clothing other than the headscarf on threat of being sent home, and will she use her powers to intervene to ensure that the Governors are not infringing on their pupil's human rights? Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I just repeat the policy. I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on individual circumstances like that. If it is brought to my attention through the appropriate channels, I will respond accordingly. (*hear, hear*) (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Armitage.

COUNCILLOR ARMITAGE: Could the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration advice Members of the expanded role PCSOs will play in keeping our communities safe and clean?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Can I thank Councillor Armitage for the question. I think she and all other ward Members will know the value of PCSOs and, in fact, I challenge any ward Member to volunteer now and say they do not want PCSOs in their ward. I did not think there would be any takers.

Leeds has benefited for a number of years, they have made a valuable contribution in making our city and keeping it safe and therefore we have kept the full allocation, the full budgetary allocation in the Labour budget in February.

Further work on top of that has been done recently to support more joined-up working in localities, with a particular focus on environmental priorities, and this was, of course, covered in the Executive Board Report last week.

One of the recommendations was for reports to be tailored for each Area Committee on PCSOs and areas of closer working on local environmental priorities. PCSOs are working very well with local partners through local tasking arrangements and, of course, this includes tackling burglary problems.

COUNCILLOR ARMITAGE: A supplementary, my Lord Mayor. In the current economic climate, how have other councils responded in respect of the PCSOs?

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Thank you very much. I am afraid to say that other Authorities have cut their contribution towards PCSOs quite considerably, both here in West Yorkshire in the region and nationally. I think we have said as an administration we will make community safety – PCSOs, burglary, crime reduction – one of the key priorities and I am sure that accords with the wishes of all Members of Council. It does mean that in other areas there are difficult decisions to make, and they have been made.

I think we commend the work of PCSOs and we will do our very best to continue to support them both financially and in other ways. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Could the Executive Board for Children's Services update Council on this year's exam results?

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you for the question, Councillor Charlwood. Yes, I would like to just update Council on the provisional results that we have, particularly regarding GCSE performance in the city. I would just like, on behalf of Council, I am sure, to ask that our congratulations are passed on to the students and the staff in the schools where we have seen some very, very encouraging results and improvement in performance.

As I say, the results are still provisional, there is some tidying up of the data to go through but the way it is looking at the moment, I can tell you that 54.2% of our young people have achieved the gold standard of five A* to C grades which includes English and Maths, which is an increased from 50.6% last year. (*Applause*) We now have four out of every five young people achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs overall. This represents 81.4% of the young people going through and is another dramatic improvement and, I think, very richly do those young people deserve our congratulations.

We have also four schools that have seen improvements of greater than ten per cent in their gold standard figures. These are Pudsey Grangefield, David Young Academy, Bruntcliffe and Corpus Christi.

We are always restless for more improvement and we know we have schools that we are working with to make sure that they have our full support to help them improve their results still further. I would just like to recommend that Members approach Councillor Dowson if they want more details about particular schools in their area as she has got the full detailed breakdown.

I just want to so that, in stressing our congratulations to these young people, young people in our city are facing a very, very challenging future and I am sure you have all heard today the figures with increased unemployment figures for young people. Of course, next year will see the increase in tuition fees and also we will understand the full effect of the reduction in EMA. We will continue as a Council to do everything we can to support schools and particularly young people in our city as we move forward. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood, is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: No, Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Can the Executive Board Member for City Development please update Council if, in the wake of the kiss and fly tax being introduced, the airport is honouring its obligations to fund public transport links that help combat---

COUNCILLOR J MCKENNA: Who sold it off? Who sold the airport? It wasn't us.

COUNCILLOR: This is not about selling the airport, is it?

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: You voted for it as well, though.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth, can you carry on with your question, please?

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: There was only you silly enough to oppose it.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: The airport is honour its links to fund public transport links that combat overspill parking that may adversely affect local residents.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The airport is contributing to the cost of airport bus routes and we would expect this to continue in line with their obligations. Unfortunately, other planning obligations, including Section 106 agreements to fund transport improvements, are linked to the start of development and trigger points for passenger numbers and traffic levels which have not yet been reached. The airport also has an obligation to produce a surface access strategy this year and we are closely monitoring this to make sure the airport make an adequate contribution.

Since the airport introduced their unfair £2 charge without any consultation, we have met and pressed them to reconsider their position, and this includes provisions for pick-up and drop-off for both the general public and the taxi trade.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth, is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Yes, there is. In the wake of the £2 charge which the airport introduced, would the Executive Board Member agree that his department should make funding available to Highways to implement any traffic management measures such as residents' parking schemes or yellow lines to mitigate the effect of overspill parking in all wards neighbouring the airport and, if necessary, reclaim the cost from the airport.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: I am not sure where the "reclaiming the cost from the airport" is going to come. I think the first thing – and we have talked about this before – is to try and get sense out of the airport and get them to see sense on all the issues. I think we have spent an inordinate amount of time as an administration dealing with the fall-out of various issues at the airport and you have to think what on earth are we doing that it does consume so much time.

I think it does come back very much to what some of my colleagues were saying. You sold the airport on the basis of getting maximum price and you retained no control over the regulation of any of the taxi trade or anything. You wanted a clean break and the cost of that clean break is all the shenanigans we are getting at the moment. We are picking up the tab for your short-sightedness. Thank you, (Applause)

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Rubbish, rubbish.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: He was on the Executive Board at the time.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke, please.

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: We have had a partial answer to this already, but could Councillor Ogilvie inform Council what the income was from ticket sales for Classical Fantasia and Opera in the Park and what the costs were in collecting this income?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: The final accounts from Opera and Classical Fantasia are not yet available but the income is in the region of 105 for those two events. There were very few costs involved in collecting the income as current systems were used but new costs such as postage were covered in the booking fee.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke, is there a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: Yes, thank you, Councillor Ogilvie. Now that your officers have admitted that they do not know how many people attended these events in the past ten years, and given the willingness of rock and popular music fans to pay very high prices for Leeds Festival and Kaiser Chiefs last weekend, would he explain why he discriminates against opera and classical music fans and is it that he is just ageist? *(laughter)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I do not think I have ever been called ageist before. I just remind Councillor Pryke, the only reason we brought in charges was to bring in extra income because of the massive cuts that his Government imposed. It is not something that we have done lightly and, obviously, we will be reviewing the situation as we look at all of our events for next year, but we are really keen to make sure that we have events that show that Leeds is open for business and that is what we will do. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We have now come to the end of questions and we move on to Item 7, which is on page 9 of your Order Sheet. Councillor Wakefield.

ITEM 7 - MINUTES

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: I second, reserving the right to speak, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I then call on Councillor Hamilton, please.

(a) North West (Inner) Area Committee

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Minute 4a on page 26 and also I would like to speak on Minute 14 on page 33, the Wellbeing Report.

First of all, Lord Mayor, there is a slight inaccuracy in the title there. It is City of Leeds High School, not the City of Leeds Girls' High School. I know that Councillor Akhtar reads his papers very assiduously and I am surprised that he has missed that particular mistake when signing these off, but that just needs changing.

First of all on that Minute, Lord Mayor, I would just like to underline what the Minutes report about the achievements of the pupils at City of Leeds High School. It seems to me, Lord Mayor, that when we have positive achievements such as art work being exhibited at school open days we should be singing the praises of these pupils, given the current bad light that some people are shed in at the moment, so I think it is just an opportunity in this Chamber to say well done to that pupils and we should be praising more where there are positive achievements.

Lord Mayor, in relation to the Wellbeing budget, I just wanted to highlight a couple of things that the Area Committee has spent money on in relation to one particular scheme, which is the long-running planning application which is now concluded in relation to the former Leeds Girls' High School site. Through Wellbeing we were able to do a couple of things. We were able to support the action group in getting some legal advice and planning advice to participate in the enquiry which, from their point of view and the Council's point of view, was successful, of course, but also we used the money to enable them to draw together a Community Planning Brief which set out the community's vision in terms of how the site should be developed in the future. Clearly that was at odds with what the school wanted to do but I think it is a document that stands the test of time and when a new scheme comes forward, which I am sure it will, that will be the benchmark, certainly as far as the community is concerned, upon which any future application will be judged.

Lord Mayor, I think Councillor Lewis touched on this in his answer. There is, it seems to me, a bit of a conflict between the very laudable aims within the Localism Bill to involve local people more in the planning process and for them actually to have a say how plans are being developed. This is precisely what we were able to do in that particular example by funding a design statement for the particular site, but also more generally some of the planning documents we have generated right across the area from far Headingley right down to Woodhouse, including conservation area appraisals and planning statements.

I think that is very much in line with the thrust of the Localism Bill, so I think that is something we need to continue to support and I am sure and I hope that Councillor Akhtar would agree with me that spending our money in that way would become even more important in the future.

Of course, I think there is a conflict between that and some of the statements within the proposed National Planning Framework which talks about the presumption in favour of sustainable development. I think at some point there is going to be a bit of a confrontation between the views of local residents who want very much to have more of a say in how their area is developed and this presumption coming from the national policy that actually, all things being equal, the site should be developed.

In the absence of any further explanation or further detail on that, I think the only people that are going to win on this are the planning boys who, no doubt, will have a field day in trying to argue the toss on either side of that particular equation.

In conclusion, Lord Mayor, I would just like to say that what we have been able to achieve in Headingley over the course of the last three or four years on that particular very large planning application and the way that the community has got

involved, the way that we have been able to use relatively small amounts of money to support them is, I think, the way forward and so I would urge Councillor Akhtar in his Chairmanship of the Area Committee to continue to support that type of activity. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Matthews.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It appears we are a double act today! I would like to speak on Minute 6b on page 28, please, Lord Mayor. I want to use this opportunity to raise the issue in the Chamber of student changeover. I firstly wanted to put on record my sincere thanks to the Streetscene staff, particularly, who did an incredible job during student changeover and a very difficult job. I would like to put that on record and I have written to the head of the department.

I also want to pay tribute to the volunteers from Leeds Students Union and their Green Streets project, which is a fantastic project. Those of you who are not aware of it, they collect a lot of stuff that would otherwise have gone to landfill or just been left on the streets and those things are then reused and given to charity. They do a fantastic job.

What I wanted to raise, actually, was the article in the Yorkshire Post on 2 September where Councillor Gruen had his fantastic picture in the paper. I hope you will all agree. (*Picture shown*) I know it was very difficult for the research staff in our office, actually, who had to have a massive picture of Councillor Gruen staring at them for a good half hour, but what I would say is, it is quite disappointing, actually, that he seems to be taking credit for all the effort in doing changeover and attributing them to the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Improvement Board, which he chairs.

All of the work and the preparation done for student changeover was done well in advance of the Hyde Park Improvement Board and the key thing is the funding for changeover comes from Area Committee funds which local Members have always tried very hard to allocate. In 2010/11 the sum of £27,787 came from the Inner North West Area Committee to fund Streetscene extra services and the student union project. In 2011/12 it is £23,000.

I think it is quite amazing to see Councillor Gruen taking credit for such services when actually the funding did not come from the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board, it came from the Area Committee.

I think something that we have always tried to raise from the beginning from the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board is that it needs to come with resources attached to it. It is no good having a board where we all sit around and discuss the problems of the day and all go home feeling satisfied. It needs to be not a talking shop, it needs to be a board with money attached to it and resources, if you are serious about making it work, rather than taking credit for funding that has come from other sources with a long, wonderful quote in the Yorkshire Post.

If we are serious about it I would like to say the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board is good in theory and it is very good that you are highlighting the issues in the area but it needs to come with the clout and the resources that you carry.

In conclusion, Lord Mayor, as I say, student changeover is a problem that is going to be with us for ever, as long as we have got two universities and we are going to need the resources going forward. I would ask for the resources to come

from Central Department going forward rather than draining the Area Committees' resources, and I think Councillor Gruen needs to put his money where his mouth is in regard to student changeover. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke.

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 10, page 30, the Environmental Services Delegation update on progress report.

I welcome this opportunity to talk about the Environmental Delegation's scheme because it is the first time we have been able to do so since things went live and the service level agreements were signed.

New Members to Council might be surprised to see that we are debating – not debating, we are commenting on – Minutes of Area Committees which we only manage to do once a year and only manage to do those five Committees that happen to have fallen into the time space between the last full Council meeting (not the extra one) and this one.

Even if Area Committees changed their attendance dates for next year to fit this timetable, there will be no guarantee that the minutes of the other five Area Committees will get discussed at Council because the way in which the Minutes are, frankly, manipulated by the administrations – plural there – means that, of course, we never get to discuss Scrutiny Minutes and we never get to discuss Area Committee Minutes. In fact, we rarely get to discuss most of the Executive Board Minutes or any of the other boards. I would like to ask the Whips to have a look at this and see about whether we can improve things in future.

On Environmental Delegation I want to make a couple of points which apply to, I think, all Area Committees' delegations. There is a comment that in many of the workshops for Members there was a very low attendance and I think we can ascribe that to the fact that Members were not consulted as to when the workshops would take place. They were given one option and one option alone and, surprise, surprise, you get low attendance at them. If you could not make that afternoon meeting – tough. Officers should not expect a high response rate when they do not exactly put themselves out to consult people about what Members actually see as necessary in their areas.

The principal problem with Environmental Delegation, as I see it, is that there was no additional funding. We know that Leeds is starting from a very low base – I believe we spent less on Environmental Services than any other core city – and as we are not allowing any extra resources, all the officers could offer Members was reallocation of existing resources, so you can only clean some streets a bit more if you clean other streets a bit less. If you wanted trade-offs around your Area Committee area, honestly, which Member would volunteer to have their areas cleaned less than we do at the moment in order to benefit other people from other wards? It is very, very unlikely to happen and certainly in my Area Committee – and I understand most other Area Committees – that has not happened.

That highlights the deficiencies of the current system which we are going to be stuck with unless performance improves fantastically. We know that an awful lot of litter bins do not get emptied frequently enough at the moment and we also know that there are an awful lot of litter bins that are listed on the maps that do not exist and have not been replaced, and it is amazing that in 2011 we are only just getting

around to going out and finding out exactly which bins are missing and trying to quantify how much it would cost to put them all back in place.

The consequence of that is that there is far more litter on our streets which gets collected by the litter pickers and put in white bags. They are deposited by the side of the street and then left, sometimes, for weeks, uncollected, so they are disturbed, tipped over and generally make the streets dirty again. We are all very much hoping that the white bag collection will improve rapidly, even if the bins do not get replaced quickly.

A number of Members have noticed that fly posting is on the increase again and the Environmental Action Team's response to service requests to deal with that fly posting is now slower than it was when Councillor Smith introduced the first system for getting fly posting reduced. In those good old days we used to go round and put on notices about events our own stickers saying they were cancelled or whatever, which deterred the people from doing it. Now, like most service requests, we wait three weeks until we do something about it.

The other problem is when members of the public refer things to the Environmental Action Teams – for example, rubbish dumped on their streets. It takes several visits by Environmental Action Team members to actually do anything about it. They go and take a photograph, first of all. They then go back to the office. They might put a notice on those bags of rubbish that they are being monitored. They are left for several weeks and then maybe they are taken away and, if you are lucky, someone has not set fire to them in the meantime. That happens quite a bit around the city and I would ask Councillor Dobson to monitor as closely as he can the way in which the Environmental Delegation matters are being dealt with.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke, we have a red light so could you please finish your remarks?

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: That was it, Lord Mayor. If you had not interrupted me I would have actually said the last few words. (*interruption*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Well timed!

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Apologies to the Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Chastney.

COUNCILLOR CHASTNEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I always seem to have to follow him! I was speaking on Minute 14 page 33. We seem to have had a conveyor belt of negative hostility so I am going to go for something a bit more positive for once here. I am going to say something nice about the Wellbeing Fund, noting positively some of the projects that our committee has been able to do this year.

The things include the Neighbourhood Design Statements, the environmental schemes like Green Streets, which we have already had mentioned and, in my own ward that seems to have benefited, the Youth Programme like the Friday Night Project.

We have also got a pretty proud record in our area of innovative use of the Wellbeing Fund. The funding of a Community Planning Officer and Environmental Service Officer I think has been something that has been really good in our area and

I know they have been trying to roll out into other areas, and that is something I would encourage.

When I read these positive funds about what we have been able to fund last year and the year before – this is the negative bit coming up now – it becomes increasingly clear when we start looking at Wellbeing just how valuable the funding is, how many good ideas and projects have been able to be supported and I am pretty sure that is the case across the rest of the city that other Members have found that this is a really good pot and they are always able to find good uses for the Wellbeing funding year on year.

For me I think it is pretty regrettable that the funding has been so stretched and, whilst I appreciate, as we all do, we do live in difficult financial times but, as I said I think earlier this year, despite that Wellbeing funding in my opinion is one of the most carefully considered, some of the best targeted and most closely monitored when it comes to outcomes investments that this Council actually makes, because it is so targeted and so localised.

It certainly seems so in the Inner North West and, again, I am pretty sure that will be the case in all the other Area Committees across the city and I do not feel due regard has been given to that effect as to how carefully it is spent.

It was further regrettable, I would say, that the already stretched Wellbeing funds took, certainly in our area, such a last-minute rebalance – I say rebalance, reduction. This made some pretty difficult, very last-minute and frustrating late decisions about what we were now not able to support alongside projects that we thought we were going to be able to do and actually have been led to believe and were expecting to be able to support, but due to rejigging the funding at the very last minute we had to make some very difficult decisions, which was very unfortunate.

Can I, therefore, ask the Chair of my Committee to make assurances, and early assurances, that our Wellbeing funding is at least maintained in the coming year and that, once we are provided with a figure of what we are going to be able to invest, that that figures is not revised at the very last minute as occurred this year to great disruption and difficulty.

I am aware the Chair has not, unfortunately, been able to attend too many of the Wellbeing workshops in recent years but I can advise him of all these discussions, a huge demand has always been displayed and I am sure that is the case for all the other Area Committees. There has always been a huge demand and a huge draw on the requests for the small amount of Wellbeing funding that there is from worthwhile groups and projects, so any efforts on the part of my Chair to ensure that our Committee receives appropriate levels of support would be appreciated by many and I am sure that is the case across the rest of the city. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am going to comment on the same Minute as Councillor Chastney and that actually makes it five in a row for the Lib Dems, so a bit of a change from the last full Council meeting.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: For the worst!

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: We got in first this time. I hear what he says about the funding for Inner North West and that is what concerns me, because in Outer North West we have seen a similar but larger reduction in our funding. It just strikes me that the way that the balance of allocations are across the city is that it is the Labour-favoured areas that get the better end of the deal now. When we were running the Council we were able to redress that so that everybody got a fair crack of the whip and nobody was disadvantaged. People in every part of Leeds pay their Council Tax and expect an equal service across the city, not an unbalanced one, which is what we see.

Indeed, when I was elected in 2004 one of the big subjects on the doorstep was, people in Otley and Yeadon did not see money coming back out of Leeds. They paid their Council Tax in and it disappeared into this big black hole and it is spent by the ivory tower and they never got to see it back. When we got in we were able to redress that and we have seen lots of improvements in my ward and the other wards within the area.

We find even more pressures on that Area funding because there are many things that were funded centrally that we are now having to fund, for example, Christmas lights. Previously they were funded centrally. Now, if we want them, we have to spend our Wellbeing money to provide them, which we are going to do because they brighten up the area and they help the Christmas trade etc, and the last thing we want to do is to destroy that within our communities.

In doing so, that is then an incredibly difficult balancing act with all those community organisations that are desperate for funding in these difficult times, and so I just wonder whether Councillor Akhtar and his Labour colleagues would like to address this and rebalance things back so that in the Outer areas and in the non-Labour-favoured areas, we actually get a fair crack of the whip once again. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am commenting on page 34, Minute 15, the Area Update Report and, more specifically, my new role as Chair of the Planning Sub-Group.

As a Councillor, as you know, I was first elected this year and July was my first experience of an Area Committee. I immediately saw the importance of the Area Committee in taking decisions on issues that really matter to local people.

I am in the North West Area Committee which covers an area of the city which has a distinctive set of issues which cross ward boundaries. In particular, we have a unique set of planning challenges given the high density of population and the fact we have a high concentration of young and transient populations, which is why I was so pleased to be chosen by the Area Committee to chair the Planning Sub-Group.

Planning is an important issue for the communities within the area and it is particularly important in Headingley, where green space is at such a premium and there is so much pressure on the local communities from a proliferation of late night bars and takeaway.

What is our main planning priority for the area? That is to achieve a much more balanced community and a much more diverse community so the amenities are not focused on one particular sector of the population. This will also reduce pressure

on Council services, particularly our Environmental Service teams who work so hard to deal with changeover each year, and it has to be noted that this year I think has been our most successful changeover yet.

In Headingley we now have promising signs that families are coming back. We have got a long way to go. The next few years offer huge opportunities that we really must grasp. The increase in purpose-built, city centre accommodation for students has led to a reduction in the demand for HMOs – houses of multiple occupation – in Headingley. The big danger is this will lead to an increase in empty homes and that is certainly something we must strive to avoid and we must think and act creatively working with all parties involved in order to encourage more family homes.

Moving to the planning decision on the Leeds Girls' High School site, this was a very positive decision for the area. Whilst the decision allowed some apartments to be built on a part of the site called Rose Court, it upheld the Council's decision into rejecting the majority of the proposed scheme and that is both a vindication of the efforts of local people but also the approach taken by the Council Planning Department.

This site is highly crucial to the area and it is highly valued. It contains much of our green space and is rightly recognised as a conservation area. I was particularly pleased to see that the Planning Inspector highlighted the importance of the mature trees on the site as these are so vital to the character of the area. As with development control, so often the details matter.

Inevitably in the future developers are going to come forward with new proposals for the site. However, I think if they read the Inspector's decision in a calm and balanced light they will come forward with a more balanced set of proposals that offer, again, much-needed family homes instead of simply more flats.

I have worked very hard with local residents and other Councillors on the Area Committee to make sure that the Leeds Girls' High School site is protected from inappropriate development.

It is sites like these that show how important the planning system is for all our local communities. That is why I am so concerned about the Government's proposed planning reforms. In the budget earlier this year they proposed removing the need to get planning permission to convert a property from commercial to residential use. This dramatically fails to recognise the potential implications for local communities. Just to take an example in Headingley with the Arndale Centre, above that is a number of offices, built in the 1970s and now falling into disuse. There has been a suggestion that these could be converted into flats. At the moment, a proposal like this would have to go through our regular planning process and local community residents would have their say and the decision would be taken by elected representatives.

However, if the Government's proposals are pushed through we will no longer have local control over these types of development and I question the Government's commitment to localism.

Concern about the Government's planning proposals has increased further since they published their Draft National Planning Policy Framework. This has been criticised by the National Trust, who describe the plans as fundamentally wrong and

notably a Tory Minister recently described the National Trust as a left-wing pressure group, which I was really amused by. (*laughter*)

There is now an alliance of 22 environmental groups that have been formed to campaign against what they call a builders' charter, and even that noted bastion of progressive thought, the Daily Telegraph, as has been mentioned before, launched an attack on these plans.

Further, to echo Councillor Lewis's comments, it has been revealed that the Conservative Party has been in receipt of extensive donations from development firms, property firms. Similarly, the Conservative Party also receives £150,000 per year by members of their Property Forum which gives access to senior MPs and Ministers for a fee of £2,500 per annum. This, naturally, amongst interested parties and the country as a whole, arouses suspicions that the proposed changes are allowed to have been thought out and driven by private rather than public interests.

I am also deeply concerned as an urban regeneration type with ten years' experience, that the central principle of the document, a presumption in favour of sustainable development is wonderfully – or terrifyingly, depending on your point of view – under-explained, shall we say. This lack of adequate definition seriously again weakens our ability as elected representatives...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw, there is a red light...

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: ...to manage change in our communities.

THE LORD MAYOR: ...which indicates that your time is up. Thank you.
(*Applause*) Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR HARPER: I would like to speak, Lord Mayor, on page 32, Minute 13, the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Fund. We set up the new Hyde Park Improvement Board to deal with problems which are having a detrimental effect on our community.

We have held a neighbourhood conference, which proved to be successful identifying the main concerns of problems that need dealing with to ensure that the area looks clean, tidy and to help create a neighbourhood that the local residents can take pride in.

A major problem every year, which has previously been mentioned by Councillor Matthews and Councillor Walshaw, is the changeover day which, when residents from the previous year move out and leave a large amount of mess behind. This is not just caused by the students, I have to say, but also a large number of landlords who refuse to ensure that their rubbish and furniture are cleaned away, as is their responsibility.

This year as a Council we cleared away 700 tonnes of waste. This needs to be addressed, as this is totally unacceptable. Due to the Board and the local community working together, this waste has been cleaned away and disposed of properly this year, rather than being left on the streets, as much of it usually is, which gives a bad impression in the area.

This has to be contrasted with the Government's continued refusal to back the Little London PFI scheme. This delay needs addressing and the residents of Little London are suffering because of it. Many parts of the city are being allocated

money to bring our Council housing stock up to date but Little London has had little funding because of the Government's continued refusal to give us this go-ahead. The condition of the housing in the area is getting worse by the day and Little London residents are suffering further because of this. The Housing Minister, Grant Shapps, has stopped the scheme in recent months and has asked the Council to make savings under the Value for Money Drive put forward by the present Government. We have already gone back twice with savings and, more recently, the proposal to replace the run-down community centre has been cut from the plans, which is a disgrace.

The money saved by the refusal to give permission is being lost because the cost is increasing every month due to inflation. It is costing the Council around £1m a month and any potential savings which we are making are being wiped out because of this.

The continued refusal to move ahead is a real let-down for the Council but, more importantly, it is a real let-down for the local people, who are living in sub-standard housing which is in desperate need of regeneration.

Despite this as a Council we are fully committed to Little London and through our Area Committee have found money from the sale of an asset to make improvements to the present centre whilst we develop longer term options. Once again, this Council and the community are working together for our people whilst the present Government stands back on the sidelines, all talk and no action. The people of Little London deserve better and I am going to do all I can to make sure they get it. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on page 30, Minute 10, please. Before I do, I just want to take the opportunity to welcome Councillor Gruen to his proposed new constituency. Of course, he should feel right at home in a Conservative area again! (laughter)

Speaking of Councillor Gruen, moving back to the Environmental Services Delegation, on this side we welcome the opportunity to take responsibility for more services in our area, the chance to deliver them, and we are very supportive of that principle, but we have a number of problems with this proposal. When you talk about responsibility, one of the things that goes hand in hand with it is accountability. What Councillor Gruen seems to be trying to do is to keep the responsibility and give us the accountability – in other words, he wants us to be in a position to take the blame when things go wrong but keep all the control over what is going on.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Doesn't sound like me at all.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: "Doesn't sound like me at all"! Ask your Leader, he will tell you.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: The time has come to look at some of these proposals. We are minded not to sign service level agreements at the moment. We have asked a number of questions which hopefully officers will have the answers to, one of which is why there is such a disparity and funding between areas. What is the justification for an extra half a million pounds to be spent in West North West to the other two wedges of the city? We have not got---

COUNCILLOR: We need it.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: We need some as well, so I am sure that everyone will have an argument over it but we have not had it explained to us why there is a need for that disparity of funding, so we look forward to that coming forward.

There are a number of other problems. We cannot manage to get our hands on what the baseline funding is. The commitment seems to be that we will have the same level of street cleaning as we had before, but we are not clear whether that is what actually happened or what we were supposed to have before and that is one of the things that needs to be addressed. It is very clear under both administrations that we were not getting the level of cleaning that we should have been getting and some of the things that have been put forward will help to address that, I accept that, but some of the parts of this scheme need to be looked at again and the key aspect if we are going to move forward – because I am assuming this is going to be the first of many opportunities for Area Committees to take responsibility for locality working, which I think is something everybody in this Chamber would welcome, but we have to get it right and, as Councillor Chastney said earlier, the funding and the accountability and responsibility of delivering things locally is something we should be trying to do because we can get things right, but if we do not hand over proper and full accountability and responsibility to the Area Committees for delivering things we are not going to get this right, there is not much of a point to do it and I would urge Councillor Gruen to have another look and urge his officers to come and work with us so we can get a service level agreement that is serious, we can get the base levels right and we can make sure the funding is fair across the city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I just want to touch on the Environmental Services Delegation as well but may I firstly say that, given Sunday was the tenth anniversary of 9/11, our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent people who lost their lives on that day. Terrorism and the use of fear to intimidate people can never stand and our thoughts are with our service personnel serving overseas who are protecting our freedom at home as well.

On to the matter of the Environmental Services Delegation, we, as Councillor Lamb has said, have our SLA coming forward and it is very interesting that it should say about the equality of standard in there. As Councillor Lamb has said, not all of us are minded to sign our SLA. We notice the disparity with the West North West area and the £500,000 extra that the South and the East North East of the city has received, as well as the massive disparity between the number of bins in the area – 1248 in the West North West of the city and 624 in the East North East. Is it any wonder that we get complaints about litter and then the knock-on service to Councillor Dobson's area, which is with the maintenance of rubbish collection from homes.

There is a massive disparity and I am hoping Councillor Gruen can shed a little bit of light on this for us.

I also welcome his attempts towards localism in this regard. I very firmly believe in it and I am glad to see that he does as well, but this cannot be managed from the centre, as Councillor Lamb has already said. You need to send real responsibilities and real powers to the Area Committees as well.

The retention of the Area Committees - it must be crucial that the Area Committees should retain any funding that they find from efficiencies in their area. This cannot be snatched back from the centre or go into other areas. If the Outer North East or Inner East of this city manages to find efficiencies, they should be able to push that into different areas and the Environmental sub-committees, I am sure, will help on that. As Councillor Wakefield has said in his email this week about the outcome-based accountability, that will ensure that this happens.

I also notice within our SLA, and Councillor Gruen may be able to help us a little on this, it does not mention Aire Valley Homes, yet Aire Valley homes also covers the Harewood ward and it is notably absent from there. Also, on page 8 of the SLA for the East North East area, Section 10 sub-section 3 – and I am sure Councillor Gruen will say that I am a worrier but I worry about the tinkering and meddling from the centre and the raiding of surplus budgets if they are found and the movement of services to other areas where it is failing. I also worry, given what Councillor Matthews has already said, about taking credit for the success that our area finds. I am hoping that he will not do that when that comes forward either.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Oh, he will. He will.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Without trying to put the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods and the Chief Environmental Service Officer out of a job, I would hope that the Environmental Locality Manager is the one that is accountable to the Executive Board as well as the Area Committee, managing to cut out some of the bureaucracy and paper pushing – that will give you direct accountability.

Thirdly as well on this issue, we also managed to find that dog control orders has found its way in there. Previously there was no new funding for increased responsibilities for dog control orders and I noted that when Councillor Murray was in that position and he was in charge, that it was all to do with dog fouling. In a recent press release I notice that with Councillor Dobson it was talking about dangerous dogs. I am hoping that there will be a bit of clarification on this matter as, within Appendix B that is coming to our Area Committee, and Appendix G, they seem to directly contradict each other on the matter of dog control orders, and this lack of clarity may mean that the responsibilities fall on to the Area Committee, or the perceived responsibilities, when they should in fact be with the centre. I hope that this is not an attempt to shift responsibility in a crude way to Area Committees when it should be lying with the centre.

There are a few issues that need clearing up. I am hopeful that Councillor Gruen will be able to do that and work with our Area Committee to do that. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson, please.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Lord Mayor, I refer to page 30, item 10, and can I start – and this may surprise some people – by actually welcoming this initiative because I do think this does give Members a chance to advise and to inform on the service. It acknowledges the problems of the past and moves us forward.

This has been a subject of interest to me for some time, particularly as it was my Scrutiny Board and all the Members who were party to that at the time who came forward with this idea and this suggestion at the time. One of the questions I would ask is, why did officers block it at that time when it was a perfectly good suggestion and now all of a sudden they are rolling over? Why, what has happened and what

has changed? The suggestions that came from the all-party Scrutiny Board were perfectly acceptable and it could have been introduced a number of years ago and we could have by now had an excellent service out there moving it forward.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Who was the Leader then?

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: No, he does not mean as long as that.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: That is why I am going to claim that I and my Scrutiny Board are actually the architects of this policy...

COUNCILLOR ATHA: Hear hear, hear hear.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Well done, Bernard. You recognise that.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: ...if it goes right, but if it goes wrong, it is certainly Councillor Gruen's policy! (*/laughter*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: It's all his fault.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Bernard agrees with you. A wise man.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: There were a number of things in the Scrutiny Board, the recommendations, that we felt were good – the one Council approach, the need to get and develop action plans, to improve communication, get better monitoring etc, etc, but – and this is where the “but” comes in – we do have to think about how we improve the cleansing in a number of areas of the city and we have got to bring the standards up in those areas to the standards that do happen in a number of other wards in the city, so I think this gives us an opportunity to do, but I am suggesting that we need a pause before signing the SLA of about roughly three months.

Why? Because you have got some excellent work, you have done some damn good work, you have made an excellent start in what you are doing but we need time for these things to bed in. In our area they started on 1 September; it needs time for these things to bed in. We need time for the staff to change the way that they do things.

All we need to do is look back for a few months and the lessons that we could learn from the rationalisation of the bin routes where things were not done properly and, as a result of that, it led to failure where none need exist in the first place.

What are the issues? As at yesterday there is still no formal agreement with West North West homes as to how they are going to interact with us. There is still no formal agreement with Education how they are going to interact with us. There is still no formal agreement with Parks and Countryside as to how they are going to interact. There have been conversations but they have not committed themselves to anything. There has been no agreement yet where the unloading of the mechanical sweepers is going to take place. There is talks but nothing has been agreed as to where they are going to do it. There has been no firm agreement as to where the vehicles can be parked in the more remote areas in some of the outer areas. There has been no agreement and no thought as of yesterday how any vehicle that breaks down in its remote location is going to be maintained, and maintained quickly. There is no provision at the moment and no agreement been issued in terms of leaf clearing and, as we will talk about later on in terms of recycling, we are missing a great

opportunity because the Council will not put in adequate leaf clearing procedures and policies and ignore the fact that it is occurring earlier and earlier.

We have heard about the dog warden. We are meant to be responsible for dog warden enforcement. How are we going to deliver that? How are we going to control and direct the graffiti team, which is a centralised team? A true service level agreement would have some form of redress. There is no redress in this service level agreement.

I am told that some union members still are not satisfied with what is happening, so you have still got to sort that end out and smooth out the curves.

What I am really saying to you is, give yourself a chance. You have made an excellent start to what you are doing, you are coming up with the right way forward but work with us, delay it for two or three months before we meet and let the changes bed in and then we can all go forward together improving things.

All I am asking for here and saying to you is, you have had a great start but do not spoil it just to try and speed it up for some expediency. Let us all work together, let us get it delivered and let us debate and discuss things on the way forward. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth, please.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I also want to comment on Page 30, Minute 10. It is always awkward following Barry because he tends to steal all your comments and then you are left with nothing to say, so I apologise if I repeat anything.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Sit down.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I will carry on. I will be the first one to say that the service under the previous administration was not perfect but I have to say this administration has been in control for 18 months and in my ward I think the service has got worse rather than getting better.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: And in mind.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: And in ours.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Colleagues seem to agree with me. I do not know what it has been like in the Labour wards.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: No leaf cleaning at all.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Secondly, the delegated list of services just seems rather strange to me. We seem to have left out grass cutting, which seems to fit well with street sweeping operations, and we have included dog wardens and graffiti removal which seems to be a city-wide service and a reactive service. Councillor Gruen is smiling so clearly he has some thoughts about that, as to why that has been done.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Just wind! (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Secondly, the actual control of Area Committees seems to be really very limited. There seems to be no sanction that can be imposed if the service does not meet our expectations and what we are promised.

With regard to the street sweeping routes, they have been radically reorganised to make them easier to complete. However, I seem to recall that last time we were talking about reorganising routes, we were talking about the bin routes and Councillor Dobson, you were not in the chair but look where your colleague has actually gone when we talk about reorganising routes.

COUNCILLOR ARMITAGE: He is next to me – what's up with that?

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Exactly!

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I think there again we need to let time for those new routes to bed in before we actually take the responsibility as Area Committees and I think that a pause is needed for that to happen and there is clearly no move by Councillor Gruen or Councillor Dobson to allow that to happen.

My final point is just who is in charge here. We have got Councillor Dobson in charge of the street sweeping exercise and that sort of thing and we have got Councillor Gruen in charge of Area Committees, so it seems to be a joint effort. It seems to me that when it goes right Councillor Dobson and Councillor Gruen will take the credit; when it goes wrong, the local ward Members will take the blame, so there is no change there, is there, to what previously happened.

I hope that Councillor Akhtar, by the way, will be able to respond to all these points in the way that he normally does.

COUNCILLOR: Some chance of that.

COUNCILLOR: We note what you say.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pauleen Grahame, please.

COUNCILLOR P GRAHAME: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak on Minute 10, page 30.

Environmental Delegations mean elected Members have a real involvement for the first time in shaping and maintaining street work in their area. In Outer East Area Committee we have appointed an Environmental Sub-Group, chaired by Councillor Katherine Mitchell. Each ward is represented by a champion – I am champion for Cross Gates and Whinmoor. We have agreed to sign up to a service level agreement on the basis of engaging improvements and ensuring delivery. We are particularly interested in the many ginnels we have across the wards and are glad to have a role in the proper maintenance of them. As we all know, ginnels attract rubbish and antisocial behaviour. We are in the process of identifying every ginnel in our wards which will then be identified on a map for Environmental Services to work to. This is long overdue.

Outer East Area Committee comprises Cross Gates, Whinmoor, Kippax, Methley, Garforth and Temple Newsam. All Members are committed to working to deliver an environmental service to our constituents. This is one of the many initiatives being delivered through ward Members with the Area Committee, which is

not publicised enough and I am sure that the Executive Member will continue to deliver the work that he has started. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: There are three other Members who have indicated that they wish to speak on this matter and I will take them in alphabetical order. Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, I wish to support most of what has been said today, but I would like to draw to Councillor Gruen's attention an omission that the centre has made, and that has already been pointed out to you, Peter, the lack of involvement by the ALMOs, Parks and Countryside, and Education. Those are vast areas of land in all our wards, in all our areas, and we have no control locally over them and that is something that should have been addressed by you centrally. It is no good asking us to sign an agreement that we cannot control, we cannot influence totally. We have a nonsense situation where in all our parks gardeners are emptying bins, and yet in all our ginnels we have got street cleaners doing gardeners' work, effectively. This needs a total reorganisation of our city and if you are going to live to your dream, Councillor Gruen, of one city, then that is a glaring omission on your part.

As has been said by Councillor Anderson and Councillor Wadsworth, we have been trying very hard to make it work but once we start, those three areas will make it difficult for us, will shackle us. We will get lots and lots of complaints still from our residents and, as Councillor Anderson said, you will be the very first to stand and say, "Well, it is your local Councillor's who are responsible for it." I am telling you and my residents now that we are not responsible for it; you are responsible for it because you did not set out the ground rules initially correctly and you did not get all the departments that should be involved – and that is all the departments of the city – involved right from the start. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson, please.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Again, speaking to Minute 10, page 30.

I have to be perfectly honest in starting this conversation in terms of I am in agreement with a great deal of what has been said from the benches opposite. I think from my perspective five years in, I am in a situation where the ultimate delivery of this service caused the changes with staff in my department. It is a massive responsibility but I look at it from the perspective of when I first came into this Council in 2007 and that genuine frustration that I am sure a lot of us share. We had no real accountability from officers in terms of we did not know who to go to. I did not know as an elected Member who to access or through what structures.

I think the new structures working through the Area Committees with clear service level agreements will give us those opportunities for the first time, so I genuinely think that is real progress from a Members' perspective.

I also believe, and it is a mantra that I have used many times over, the best and most underused resources in this Authority is us, the 99 of us who know our patches inside out and back to front. I think that is a resource that has been seriously under-utilised over many years. One thing that I am looking for within the Area Committees, we have got the SLAs and I see them as very much a starting position as to where we want to go forward, but we have the necessary

intelligence on the ground to work with our Area Committees and get the right messages to officers about where we want what will admittedly be limited resources deployed.

I agree with a lot of what Ralph has said about the fact that we have got limited resources in terms of core cities. Frankly, that is not going to change but I do think we have to get a lot brighter and smarter about how we get services deployed, and I do not think the central model has ever probably, historically, worked. I think what has been mapped and what I have seen on maps do not work, if it is mapped at all, so I think really we very much treated this as a Year Zero exercise and I think from the administration's perspective there has been a genuine willingness and will to work with all Members, so I really would like you to bear that in mind.

In terms of some of the service improvements and performance improvements that we would obviously be looking for, agreed, you are pushing against an open door. One thing I have said to the three Locality Managers is, working within the budgetary constraints you are going to have I will be looking for you to identify for me in this coming year service improvement.

Picking up on something Barry said about a lot of the work that we are doing with Parks to identify where we can share joint services for dropping off of litter and other materials, where we can deploy vehicles to and from, yes, you are right, I think that work is not yet fathomed out and fully bottomed out. I think my question would be, why – and it is not a political point because we ran the Authority before 2004 – has that work never actually really been fundamentally tackled? I do not know the answer to that because I was not here but what I do know now is collectively that is something we can and should be looking at.

I also, going back to another point that Ralph made about the bins, what gets emptied and when and there is this huge question mark. Again, I do not think because of the centralised model there has been that local intelligence ever really fed into the system and brought into place, so I will be looking to all elected Members to be telling my department where there are shortfalls, where there are anomalies in the service. Fascinatingly, an officer who has now retired who was doing the locality job up to his retirement came out to me into Garforth and Swillington ward and we had a walk around and it actually came about that there were ginnels in my patch we did not even know we had.

I think that this is going to be a steep learning curve for us all. There will be distinct advantages, I believe, for all Members in all localities going forward. It is going to be a learning curve. There will be teething troubles, I am sure. I am hopeful there will be no repetition of the bin roll-out and I am confident, speaking to officers, that will not be the case, but what I am saying is, this is an opportunity for Members, it is an opportunity to work and engage with officers in a way that I do not think we have done for some considerable time and I think it is a real opportunity that we should all grasp and, indeed, embrace. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I think Councillor Akhtar will be delighted that he has had 15 speakers on his Area Committee Minute and most of them are from his Area Committee area.

I want to comment, perhaps, quickly, on two issues before I come to the Environmental Delegations.

Councillor Matthews has clearly recognised that we now have a Labour Councillor for Headingley on this side of the Chamber and he also noticed that the clock is ticking down towards next May and therefore he has to make silly comments about the Hyde Park and Headingley Improvement Board, which is working very well indeed.

I think I also want to acknowledge I am very grateful for the support and the passion with which Gerry Harper spoke about the Hyde Park PFI scheme. I think both he and Councillor Akhtar know that Hyde Park and Woodhouse has my full attention and will continue to do so and I will support him as much as I can with this particular venture.

I think if I then may turn, colleagues, to the Environmental Delegation. I want to thank all Area Chairs of all political parties because I think our meetings have been excellent, they have shared information over eight months, everybody has contributed and nobody – and I challenge Area Chair to say that those have not been inclusive and democratic and open meeting where all opinions have been listened to.

COUNCILLOR: And ignored.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Not ignored. I also want to say, some of the comments opposite seem to be as if we have had a wonderful environmental cleansing Streetscene service and now suddenly we are going into 2:04:09

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: That is why I said 2009 Scrutiny Report.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I know one or two of you did but that is not the case. That is not the case.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Nobody said it was.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I have looked around the Lib Dem ranks and I cannot see a single post holder of that particular portfolio left on your benches. You had six years to manage the Streetscene service. Councillor Anderson rightly said his Scrutiny Board produced a report – not in our time but as soon as we came into office we decided what had happened in the past was unacceptable. That part of the department has changed radically and I pay tribute, actually, if I may, to Councillor Murray, who started that off, and Councillor Dobson, who is continuing that work. Frankly, we are pulling this thing round as we should.

The lines on maps previously – and I have said this at Executive Board and I am sorry if one or two officers are offended by this – they were a piece of fiction. They did not exist in reality. People did not clean or sweep or graffiti clean anything in accordance to those schedules and we are not prepared to continue with that. What we are now being told by officers is what they can do, they will do and you have the power to monitor and to change and to shape.

It was former Councillor David Schofield who said to us at Outer East exactly what somebody else said over there – I am only an elected Member, I do not want the responsibility.

COUNCILLOR J C CARTER: Without the funding.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Not a single Labour colleague has said that to us. They want the responsibility because they are elected to represent their constituents and they want to do it and they know now and the Morley Boroughs know how and the Greens know how, but it seems to me you lot over there, dwindling in number consistently, do not know how. Actually, I will not take lessons from you about this.

What was interesting, those who shout loudest about it, there is one thing in common. I will tell you what Councillor McKenna usually gets these riddles. What do Councillors Lamb, John Procter and Rachel Proter have in common? None of them attended a single workshop on the Environmental Delegations.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: We were on holiday.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: None of them attended a single workshop on Environmental Delegations and then they have the audacity to come in here and tell us what to do.

I will tell you this, you have the option to sign up to the Delegation. Six out of six have done so far. You do not sign up you do not get, you stay where you are now. It is a central service until you decide to sign up – end of. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: End of?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*) We are just waiting, Lord Mayor, to find out when Councillor Wakefield will have...

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: The guts to sack Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: ... the fortitude to do with Councillor Gruen what my Leader did with him some years ago and that is consign him to the back benches and then eventually he will probably leave your party and might come over *here* somewhere. He will probably come over *here* somewhere. Actually, he will probably go to the Greens.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter, can I just ask you to stick to the Minute.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: I am sticking to the Minute. (*Applause*) I am doing, Lord Mayor, because actually then, finally, he will have achieved the thing, if he joins the Greens, that he has never been able to achieve with any of the other parties, and that is become Leader of a party in this Council Chamber.

Lord Mayor, as ever Councillor Gruen is good at getting to his feet and persuading certain Members that what he is saying is a believable, plausible story. He never listens. He never listened when he was in our Group; he does not listen when he is in your Group. It is the same line he comes out with over and over and over again. If he had bothered to have listened to the debate today, what he would have heard people say time and time again, it started off by a colleague in the Lib Dems saying actually it is OK for you to set a date and a time but not everybody can come to those meetings when you determine they should turn up. We are not all at your behest, Councillor Gruen, believe it or not. Some of us have busy lives, particularly over summer holidays and the like, and to be quite frank with you...

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Children to look after.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: ...we were very clear in our Area Committee about the issues that were at hand. You talk about officers will do their best to deliver a service – I believe that, actually. I actually firmly believe that even under their new arrangements. What you have failed to tell your colleagues is that what we have been questioning is the baseline awarding of funding.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Correct.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: That is all we have been questioning, and how that sum was arrived at. What those officers have said is that they played no part in it, so when we say "Who did? Was it a politician?" we asked the question. "Oh, we can't tell you that, Councillor." "Was it an officer?" "Oh, well, we can't tell you that." We have been left with having to go to the Director to say, "Come on, front up, who is the person who originally agreed the sums of money that would be devolved, divided by three? Who was that person? Who has the finger on determining that?" and I hope, Councillor Wakefield, for your sake, actually, and for the rest of your Group, that the person who did have the hand on the tiller was firmly the officer and I sincerely hope it was not Councillor Gruen because it certainly does not look fair and equal at the moment from what we have seen, and all we have said – all we have said – in our Area Committee is we want that explaining and we want our fair share to spend in our area in support, actually, of those officers who are going to have to deal with a very difficult job.

Yes, we did go a step further and say that there may be a situation where we may not be prepared to sign the service level agreement because, Peter, some of us have worked with you for a long time. We know how you work and it will simply be, "You have signed the agreement – touch luck. You have signed it, you agreed it – that is it."

We want to know the resources and have the argument first and, providing we get the answers we are looking for, we will happily sign the agreement and we look forward to better services.

Let us be straightforward and clear about this. What I am astonished about is the other Members in your Group who also share the area that we share. There are a large number of you. Why have you not been questioning the allocation of resources, because it is your areas that are going to suffer as well. Why is it in some areas if you look at the division between three, some areas are literally getting hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of pounds more. Is it on a per capita basis? You do not know because the officers do not know, because no-one has ever asked the question. We were simply going through a balance sheet trying to find out how, who had arrived at a sum of money and was it going to be fair and appropriate. You should have been asking those questions as well; you should ask him those questions now. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR LYONS: Can you go on your next holiday now?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. On page 30, Minute 10, just reminding myself of where we actually are.

Councillor Anderson, I thought, spoke extremely accurately, very fairly and very openly. I do not know anybody on this side, and I guess there is nobody on that side either because the Greens have vacated the Chamber and we do not actually know, who does not think that the thoughts behind what is proposed are not right. Nobody has said that. We have all said, and certainly the Conservative Members in Outer West have said that we welcome what is being done. The mapping is better than we have had before. Let me remind you, by the way, when Councillor Gruen goes on about the six years we were in control, the system had operated to my certain knowledge for probably 20 years. It had never been adequate. When we took over the city one of the reasons people voted against Labour was the fact the city looked such a dump in terms of the awful standard of street cleaning and, indeed, we put a lot of money into it and improved the situation in a number of areas, but Councillor Gruen is right, we all were working – and you were working at it a lot longer than us previously – on a premise put forward by the officers, two generations of officers which nobody had actually said, “Is this realistic?” Nobody had said, “Where do you build in the holiday times? Where do you build in the sickness levels to make sure that this can be delivered?” None had been built in. All right, we should therefore not crow about the success now because we have not seen it yet, but say that actually for over 20 years that is what we put up with and it would be far better to have local control. To pretend that people on this side do not welcome that is a complete and deliberate misreading and misrepresentation of the situation.

Let me sound a word of warning because if, as my colleagues have pointed out, there is significant disparity in funding – and there is – then the officers in charge of that service will not be able to deliver it. The people of this city in vast areas of this city, not just represented by people *here* but *there* as well, will say, “What is going on?” I can tell you in some areas not just in my ward but certainly the neighbouring ward of Pudsey there was nil leaf clearance last year – and you were in control. Nil. Unless you rang up and said you wanted it doing, it was ignored. Richard is nodding his head in agreement.

This wonderful system, Councillor Gruen, which on paper it is, will fall flat on its face unless you have made sure there is fair and equitable sharing of resources for these officers to deliver, and if there is not, then we are back to your door.

My Lord Mayor, on a lighter note I have to say that earlier on I felt like pleading for the protection of the Chair when Councillor Matthews brandished a very large, over large picture of Councillor Gruen. My original fear was turned into outright trepidation when the said gentleman actually stood up. I should tell Members that not only had I to put up with a picture of Councillor Gruen being brandished at me, I then looked to my right to see him engaging in a tussle with a large bag of jelly babies! (*laughter*) After I had worked out which was which (*laughter*) I was a bit more relieved.

My Lord Mayor, Councillor Gruen has given us today a very, very graphic illustration of people growing into jobs not mentally, but physically. Mentally he remains the same mean spirited character that we have all grown to love and know. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Akhtar, please, to sum up.

COUNCILLOR AKHTAR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I just begin by sharing my comments with Councillor Robinson about the anniversary of 9/11 and condolence goes to all those families who have lost loved ones. Certainly from this side of the Chamber we feel the pain of those who ever year they go through come

September, so thank you for raising this and I think it is very positive that we remember those who have lost their lives.

I am really pleased to be making this speech as the Chair of the Inner North West Area Committee. It is a real honour to be leading our work in a part of the city that has huge challenges. We have heard today about some of the important works happening through the Area Committee. This is benefiting all four wards of Inner North West. We are working hard together to fund community events, improve the state of our neighbourhood and make sure we keep on top of planning issues which affect us.

Councillor Hamilton, thank you for pointing out. However, the support will continue on the issue of the school. Councillor Jamie Matthews, thank you for recognising the good work of Streetscene and being a champion for the environment. It is positive to hear that you even appreciate the work our workforce is doing in North West.

Out of 15 speakers there were five from the Area Committee so I think it is important that I respond to all those five. However, the majority of the comments which were made were to Councillor Gruen and I welcome the comments that Councillor Gruen made and the answer he has given and I will not discuss on those issues. However, I will speak on the North West Inner Area Committee.

Yes, definitely the support is there are we are looking forward to be working together and on Day One as a Chair I did appreciate the work that you have put into the Area Committee and definitely that work will be continued to support our residents.

My colleague Councillor Walshaw has spoken about the importance of planning to our area with such a dense population. The green space we do have must be protected. That is why we must do what we can to stop the Government weakening the planning laws and preventing local communities from opposing developments that are not right for our areas.

In my ward, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, there is some excellent work which is happening. We are investing £145,000 in new community facilities for Little London, as my colleague Councillor Harper explained earlier. This is really important for an area that has been let down by the Government cuts to the PFI project. These cuts mean the community hub will not be going ahead and the people are still waiting for the final approval on the scheme as a whole, which is disappointing after waiting for years and years and I hope all of you will support to bring the PFI into Little London.

The Hyde Park Improvement Board, which I really welcome the initiative that Councillor Gruen has taken, is also doing excellent work in making sure extra effort is put into clearing the waste and improving the way the area looks. It is great to see what has in the past been a neglected part of the city given the priority it deserves in our part of the city.

Some people have used this debate to express concerns about the new power of Area Committees or Environmental Services in their areas. We have been working hard on this in recent months and this is to make sure these vital services are transferred as smoothly as possible without making it into a political arena.

Clearly, taking on these services is a challenge but it is also an opportunity we can take on real responsibility for community services. This is something that we should welcome and I look forward to seeing the Area Committee rising to the challenges. I would like to thank Councillor Gruen and Councillor Dobson for addressing the concerns raised today. The work of the Inner North West Area Committee is really important in addressing the local issues which are important to the residents. I look forward to working with the colleagues to make sure this will continue for the rest of the year. Thank you, Lord Mayor for me to speak. (*Applause*)

(b) North East (Outer) Area Committee

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move on to North East Area Committee and Councillor Judith Elliott, please.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor. With such demand for allotments and encouragement for citizens to grow fruit and vegetables to enhance a healthy diet and combat obesity, we are intrigued at your refusal for funding to the Shadwell Fruit, Vegetable and Craft Show when such shows are also excellent for community events.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I would like to comment on page 37, item 6a, Area Delivery Plan, and my colleague Councillor Matthew Robinson's comments about affordable housing issues and, indeed, the National Planning Policy Framework that that is connected to.

My Lord Mayor, I listened with interest to Councillor Lewis a little earlier on the issue of the National Planning Policy Framework. Before I go on to that, I just want to pay tribute to the work that the Scrutiny Committee is doing under the Chairmanship of Councillor Procter on the issue of housing numbers. Indeed, tomorrow they will be in London where they have managed to get the Chief Planning Officer for the DCLG, Steve Quartermain, to give evidence. I think that is quite an achievement and will enable them to ask of the Chief Planning Officer in the Department nationally the questions that we have been asking locally and to which we have not received adequate answers.

Further to that, my Lord Mayor, the issue that Councillor Lewis touched upon was the issue of brownfield regeneration and that is hugely important because it seems to me that the Government has missed completely the argument that by allowing builders to take the easy option, all they do is to put back the dates when we will get the often brownfield – indeed sometimes greenfield – land in regeneration areas developed. That in itself is not sustainable and whilst undoubtedly in outer areas of the city where there is little employment there needs to be some affordable housing and some more than we have currently got to house local workers, but to build large scale estates miles away from places of work is completely ludicrous and goes against any argument for sustainability. Unless we can get this message across to this Government – and, incidentally, we completely failed to get that message across to the last Government – then we will be in deep trouble.

Quite frankly, the national house builders in this country collectively, although there are some notable individual exceptions, want to build cheap, easy and quick on greenfield land and, indeed, green belt land, and that is not acceptable. It does nothing at all for sustainability, for affordable housing where we need it, or for larger housing where we need it and we have identified that in various places.

What annoys me most of all is that this Government, just like its predecessor, wants to refer to everybody as NIMBY. I will tell you, no member in this Chamber can be accused of that. We delivered more houses than the previous RSS required every year, apart from the year when we had the massive economic downturn. Our administration delivered more affordable housing units in the six years we were in power than in the four years between 2000 and 2004 when your administration was in power, so I take a very dim view of any Government Minister of any persuasion referring to what we are saying as NIMBYism. It is absolutely not. It is just the understanding that you do not need to destroy the countryside and the green belt to get houses where people want them and that is what we need to get across.

The final point, therefore, Lord Mayor, is this, that when Councillor Lewis – and I am surprised at him – starts to read from Labour Party propaganda sheets about money being given to political parties from businesses, first of all it ill behoves anybody on the Labour benches to talk about money for anything from anywhere. I think the worst thing that could happen to this city is that we now have a political argument about what largely we all agree about.

I will just say this to you in closing. Brenda Dean, Labour Peer, Director of Wimpeys, Director of Taylor Wimpeys, £50,000 a year and £500,000 pension pot. Your lot were in it right up to their necks. If our lot are, we are going to tell them. Pity you didn't when it happened then. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilkinson, please, to sum up;

COUNCILLOR WILKINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I will take Andrew Carter's comments first. Yes, I agree entirely with what Andrew has said. I am totally against any development in greenfield or green belt. I think there was some mention about affordable housing. As you know, I represent the Wetherby ward and very often when there is an application for a house in the Wetherby ward there are 200 to 300 applicants for it, so I would welcome any affordable housing coming in.

Quickly on with Councillor Elliott, that is a nice easy one to answer. She says that the Shadwell Fruit and Vegetable Craft Show, we refused the application. The application was for £5,000 which we felt was rather a lot of money, particularly in view of the fact that money is tight in all Area Committees, thanks mainly to irresponsible spending for 13 years by the previous Government. She may be pleased to know that it has been funded out of MICE instead. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

(c) East (Outer) Area Committee

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now moving on to East (Outer) Area Committee. Councillor Pryke.

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This is page 54 Minute 14 and it is about the E-ACT Academy proposal. A short history of the mismanagement of education in Leeds would span the administrations going back over several years and I am not absolving the Lib Dem/Conservative administration from this as well.

In East Leeds Agnes Stewart High School and Brainwood High School were failing and the Labour Government persuaded the previous Labour administration that they had to be replaced with an Academy and we have ended up with the David Young Academy, which has achieved some remarkable educational results since

they have really got going. They dipped in their first year but they have recovered and improved far better than any other schools in the area.

After David Young was established the city Council rebuilt Primrose on a new site which was too small for a high school and a primary. They had to acquire additional land from Oxton fields to allow the school to even be given permission by the Government to be built. The Primrose School that we have got has improved ever since it has been going but the last Government forced Leeds City Council to convert it into an Academy and it has turned into an Academy at the beginning of this term. You will probably gather that I am not entirely enthusiastic about it.

I pointed out when people were consulted about their opinions on that conversion that I was against it because, amongst other reasons, people in East Leeds would be left with only the options of education for their secondary age children at Roman Catholic High Schools or Academies. There would not be any State schools, apart from Parklands Girls' School. Keith Wakefield picked up on that point and I am not sure whether he objected to the Primrose conversion at the time but he certainly referred to it in the Exec Board. Of course, Parklands Girls' School is now being turned into an Academy and we know that John Smeaton is being turned into an Academy.

Temple Moor is heavily over-subscribed and, because of the history of poor schooling in the area – I am referring back to Brainwood and Agnes Stewart – an awful lot of parents in East Leeds opted to choose Boston Spa and Wetherby schools as their first choice, or maybe their second choice, and Education Leeds, now Children Leeds, has ended up bussing an awful lot of kids, particularly from Gipton and from Osmanthorpe, out to the outer areas.

People on this side of the Chamber were fully in favour of the Council wanting to establish more State secondary education in East Leeds and we were in favour, Richard Harker in particular, of establishing a new State secondary school in East Leeds. It is a great shame that Parklands is being turned into an Academy and will not be a State school – it will be just another Academy – leaving parents in East Leeds with a choice solely of over-subscribed Roman Catholic High Schools – Mount St Mary's and Corpus Christi – or Academies, or bussing the kids out to other areas.

E-ACT is also one of the main education companies that is in favour of making profits from education---

COUNCILLOR: Rubbish.

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: It is – and while Michael Gove has not yet given permission for private school providers to make profits from State contracts, that is a distinct possibility in the future. I would very much oppose that and I regret that, like Primrose, the building that E-ACT will get is going to be paid for by everyone else in the city while they get the benefits and do not have to pay for it. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: This is the first time that Councillor Mitchell has spoken, so I hope that each and everyone will listen to her attentively. Katherine, over to you.

COUNCILLOR MITCHELL: My Lord Mayor, I would like to comment on page 51, Minute 11, the Wellbeing Budget for 2011/12 and in particular I would like to focus on the money that has been spent on youth provision in our area, East (Outer).

I am sure that each Councillor on this Area Committee recognises the importance of the Youth Service and the difference that good youth provision makes to families. We know that finding something for children and young people to do can be difficult but once you have found that something, it can lead on to bigger and greater things. For instance, the Youth Service in my ward has run a DIY project in partnership with East North East Homes, allowing young people from across different areas to work together learning new skills and leading some of them to consider applying for apprenticeships. That is why we are delighted to fund the Youth Services at Halton Moor Youth Base and continue our tradition of funding cricket coaching for young people during the summer holidays. Great credit must go to the team at Halton Moor Youth Base for establishing such a successful service and quickly engaging with young people in the community in that area.

Last year over a hundred children attended cricket coaching on some days. I am sure each child that took part not only enjoyed themselves but learned great teamwork. You never know, one of these children may go on to be the next England captain.

Once again this year we have seen a programme of summer activities take place in the school holidays. These included sports, arts, day trips and workshops with the opportunity to try new things and learn new skills. Although we do not have figures as yet as to how well events were attended, there is absolutely no doubt that they were enjoyed by all those who took part. It is vitally important to work as a Council to engage with young people. One of the ways we can do this is providing youth activities that take their needs into account. How many times do we hear the complaint there's simply nothing for young people to do and nowhere for them to go? When young people feel disenfranchised and isolated from the wider community, the chances of them slipping into patterns of antisocial behaviour increase. It benefits the entire community if we show our commitment to young people.

I must, however, take the time to note that I do not think this commitment is shared by our Conservative/Lib Dem Government. Those too young to vote for this Government are bearing the brunt of the steady erosion of services provided for them. They have been victimised time and again from savage cuts of 40% to the Area Based Grant to the scrapping of EMA right through to the financially crippling tuition fees.

I am proud that as a Labour run Council we have done all we can to protect and promote services for our young people. We have underlined our commitment to young people by sharing our ambition to become the child friendly city. We want to know what it is to be a child growing up in Leeds and what we need to do to change to make that experience as good as it can be.

We want to ensure that children and young people in Leeds feel part of the city and their opinions actually do count and they have influence on the decisions that are made. We are totally committed to achieving this so that young people know that we will always work with them and for them, no matter what happens at a national level. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Mitchell. Councillor Armitage, please.

COUNCILLOR ARMITAGE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on Minute 11, page 51, regarding the East (Outer) Area Committee Wellbeing Budget and its grants towards Older Persons Week. For Members who do not attend out

Outer East Committee, you will probably be unaware that at its July meeting Members approved the Wellbeing grant of £3,500 to fund a week of events for older people in the Outer East Area as part of the Older People's Week.

Starting on 26 September there will be a number of events for older people across the Outer East Area, in Great Preston, Temple Newsam, Kippax, Garforth and in my own ward of Swarcliffe. These events are a great way of celebrating what older people have contributed and continue to contribute to our communities across Leeds, as well as promoting their independence and helping reduce social isolation.

The theme of this year's people's week is getting and staying active in later life. Encouraging people to get active can only be to improve their health and wellbeing and their quality of life. It can help reduce isolation and it can help people rediscover or maintain their independence. These are all things the Council and Area Committees should be doing to help their older people in their communities.

At the same Area Committee meeting, Members also received an update on the gardening scheme for older people in the Outer East Area. This referred to Minute 11, page 51. This is a long-standing scheme and has been operating in our area for a number of years, support funded by the Area Committee, this year, with a £20,000 Wellbeing grant being agreed at its meeting in March. The update shows that the scheme provides very valuable service for a number of older people in the Outer East Area. It can only help them to continue to live in their homes and maintain their independence. Again, this is something that the Council and other Area Committees should do to help out people in our communities and I am so pleased that our Committee has approved this for the people of East Leeds.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Andrea McKenna.

COUNCILLOR A MCKENNA: Lord Mayor, just before I go on to the Minutes can I actually declare an interest in Item 11 as a member of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

Lord Mayor, I would like to speak on page 49, Minute 8, the North East Divisional Community Safety Partnership Annual Report. This report once again highlights the positive work that the police are doing in our community and the importance of co-ordinating their efforts with ours to reduce crime and ensure public confidence.

The Neighbourhood Management Tasking Team still meets every six weeks. These meetings are always very well attended and play a valuable role in helping us address the priorities and concerns of our community.

It is clear that these efforts are making a real difference. It is well documented that burglary is a significant problem in many areas throughout the city but through a number of positive initiatives and co-ordinated action, we have seen a 1.6% reduction in burglary in the last year over the North East Police Division area. This is encouraging. Tackling the city's unacceptably high burglary rates is a priority not only for the city Council but also for our partners on Safer Leeds, so it is pleasing to see that we are making some progress.

Of course, the Council, through Safer Leeds Partnership, has developed a new burglary reduction strategy which will be investing £1.3m over the next two years

as we look to address this problem. Hopefully this will see the burglary rate reduce even further in the year ahead.

Another encouraging aspect of this report is that we are seeing the ill-gotten gains of criminal returned to the communities through the Proceeds of Crime Act. This ensures that criminals do not get to keep their profits from their appalling acts, reinforcing the message that crime does not pay. It also provides local community groups and organisations with potential avenues of much-needed funding, which is obviously very short in supply at present. In my ward alone this money has had a extremely positive impact on numerous organisations and provided some young people with some great experiences. For example, Garforth Tigers Rugby Club received £250 grant from the proceeds of the Crime Act to take an Under 14 team to Toulouse in France where they played competitive matches, which is a wonderful experience for them. Garforth Parish Church Cricket Club also received a donation towards the cost of providing their junior team with kits. These costs are considerable for young cricketers. As we all know, anybody who has had children who play cricket, a cricket bat alone can be over £150, so it is excellent to see that we can receive assistance from this valuable fund.

Swillington Youth Club has also benefited, receiving £250 grant to set up a DJ workshop at the request of the young people. I am sure this will prove popular and offer many, many youngsters the opportunity to have good, honest entertainment.

These are usually positive schemes that can only contribute to help keeping our streets safe but also provide good opportunities for the community in the process. It certainly seems that the work being done is having an impact, with overall satisfaction with the police and the confidence in local policing both increasing significantly in my ward over the past year.

With initiatives like these I have just mentioned, I have no doubt that this trend will continue in the next year. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Parker, please, to sum up.

COUNCILLOR PARKER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I go back to Councillor Pryke and being a big supporter of rugby I got sold a dummy yesterday. The email that got through to me said Councillor Pryke was going to ask a question on Minute 4. Minute 4 is apologies for absence (*laughter*) which it said were received from Councillor Murray. I just could not get my mind why did I need to find out where Tom had been that day or whatever.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: You don't want to know, Keith!

COUNCILLOR PARKER: With some thought from officers that week and phone calls we did deduct it possibly be this item on page 54 – 14 not 4.

I hear what you say, Ralph, but I had heard it all at the Planning Committee. Councillor Gruen, Mick, we all say it in the Planning Committee, expressed his concerns there, genuine concerns, and I would find it hard to disagree. Yesterday we had another Area Committee where we had a report from the Children's Services and a good report where a good debate was had expressing concerns about developers wanting to build houses but never taking into account where children who are going to live in these houses will get their education, so I think we do not fall out over this one, it is full agreement and it is something we will keep our eye on.

Councillor Mitchell, a rising young star in the Area Committee and welcome and I congratulate her on her maiden speech. (*Applause*) The provision for youth, it is something that has been close to our hearts. I consider this Area Committee – and I look round the room and of the twelve Members eight are sat on the Front Benches, so we have got some people with some clout supported by Councillor Lyons and myself. (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: That's where the real power is, Keith.

COUNCILLOR PARKER: If I struggle with anything that comes to the Area Committee and I want some advice he is the first man I ring and especially if it is anything to do with IT, Mick, you are my expert on that.

There are many things we supported and I would add to what Councillor Mitchell said, we started up some time ago with support for the Youth Service for a Friday Night Scheme. I checked this morning and there are up to 80 kids attending on a Friday night, which I think speaks well of the Youth Service and the Leisure Services for the facilities and that is 80 kids that are being looked after, cause no bother when they leave the building and it just shows that there are good kids about and we should do more to support.

We could expand then on to something that I love dearly is the cricket coaching weeks. We put some money into cricket coaching and have done for a number of years and the numbers are increasing. I think what Councillor Wakefield said about the Chinese coming into Leeds would rub off on the kids, I think the ability of the England Cricket Team to now be rated as number one in the world...

COUNCILLOR: What about Yorkshire?

COUNCILLOR PARKER: We had well over 200 kids getting coached by Yorkshire coaches led by Arnie Sidebottom, the father of Ryan Sidebottom. We were fortunate with the weather, I think we had one day when there was any rain, the other nine it was glorious sunshine. With the help of Sport Development Officers I suggested that maybe if the coaches picked out the best five children – because there were a fair number of girls turned up for this coaching – we could probably get some extra coaching done up at Headingley and so we spoke to Yorkshire Cricket. They were running a scheme for any child and they were willing to take on five children who we would help and find the funding for.

I have to say I was biased towards Kippax cricket ground when I suggested they pick three from Kippax and two from Whitkirk, so when I got to know the five names and addresses of the best five kids, really, there were three from Whitkirk and two from Kippax and it would appear that some of the Whitkirk kids had come to Kippax and outsmarted me, so they got me. I actually went down, accompanied by Councillor McKenna, and we met the kids down there, so the best five kids locally were going to get coached then by the Yorkshire coaches and I asked what happens from there. It would appear that Yorkshire run several junior sides – Under 12, 13, 14 – and the managers from those teams would go watch these 50 kids and those that they thought were best would get possible further coaching and possibly break through into these Yorkshire teams at Under 12, 13, whatever. The first rung on the latter, actually, if you can perform well and get through to the Academy side – who knows where. As you mentioned, Yorkshire needs some help!

I am really proud on that and I think most people know that I am retiring come May – whoever takes over I am quite prepared to help and advise on the funding for

this if we can continue with this facility. I think we are quite good at helping out with kids.

The entertainment and that from the Old People's Week commencing, I think it is a week next Monday. Very popular – there will be the best part of a thousand elderly people go to the five venues. We will feed them, we will give them an opportunity of finding out about benefits, making wills – you name it, it is covered. The police will be there, fire services will be there and so that goes down well.

One of the attractions there has been for the last five years is a Pocket Panto that is a very talented group that does pantos and whatever. They do take advantage of my good nature and I certainly get roped up into singing with them, dancing with them. We have had a change this year and so the great attraction will be a Cliff Richard look-alike. Tickets are hard to come by. If there are any elderly people in the room who would like a ticket and they would like to see this Cliff Richard look-alike, for all his talent, while he is performing and singing he shows you how to make chocolate! (*laughter*) He is multi-talented, is the man, so we are expecting a great turn out for these events. No expense spared, Councillor Murray, and it is supported by all the elected Members, i.e. through the MICE money.

I suppose we probably could have mentioned luncheon clubs. We have quite a number in the area – well run, a lot of people go and get meals there. A number of men are now joining because one or two of the luncheon clubs are playing music for dancing, so that is normally just 20 people there, 20 ladies, but I am reliably informed now that men are showing their faces there to dance with the women and I am reliably informed that there has been one romance at least!

That is about winding me up but I just wanted to congratulate the team. There will be a successor in the New Year but I am more than willing to help and they continue in a good manner with the excellent facilities at Garforth, once it stops raining. It is the only building I used to take a raincoat that I put on when I went in the building because the roof leaked for six months and buckets and umbrellas, pouring in and it would appear now to have been corrected and we have not seen any rain for a while. One of the bonuses is the new MP frequents the building. That is something not to be...

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Keith's friend, the new MP.

COUNCILLOR PARKER: What I would say, a week last Saturday I saw him in action. He was at Kippax Vegetable...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Parker, I am very much reluctant...

COUNCILLOR PARKER: To see that man giving the award for the three largest carrots (*laughter*) the three biggest leeks and the three heaviest onions. (*laughter*)

With that I will sit down, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

(d) South (Outer) Area Committee

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now moving on to the South (Outer) Area Committee. Councillor Wilson, please.

COUNCILLOR WILSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The Outer South is made up of three different political parties – five Labour, five Morley Independents and two Liberal Democrats from Rothwell.

I want to speak to Minute 4 on page 58 and again, it is the Christmas lights that have already been mentioned. When we were told a few months back that Christmas lights were no longer going to be put in the outer suburbs, just central Leeds, the first reaction is what a golden opportunity Labour is presenting us. We went to press very quickly about Labour has cancelled Christmas in the suburbs.

COUNCILLOR: Too honest.

COUNCILLOR WILSON: Yes, too honest. I did get a reaction from several of the Labour Councillors who came back at me and said it is the cuts, as you would well expect. Adam has already said that once this afternoon. You would have thought that they could have been at least seasonal and said the bells, wouldn't you, but it was not, it was the cuts, it was the cuts. At least they are all singing from the same Carol sheet.

What I would say is that the Outer South Councillors, all twelve of them, very quickly came to the conclusion that the Christmas lights were essential in our communities. Not only does it give you a lift on dark nights, it is good for the kids and I think it encourages local business. We do now have a Labour Councillor who has been one of the shop owners in Rothwell, so I am sure she will be furthering the cause of lights in Rothwell.

I think it is Christmas lights and along with the three main items that we have in the parks – the Fantasia and the one for the children, the Party in the Park - I think that we should encourage these things. We should fund them so it gives the people of Leeds a feel-good factor and I would like to make a few suggestions, if Adam is listening.

As far as the lights are concerned, I know in Rothwell it costs roughly £6,000 per ward. I would suggest that we fund the lights – we can dispense with the light switch-on because that, again, costs £6,000, as much as it costs to put the lights in and we usually finish up with some unknown celebrity turning them on, so I think that if it is cuts we are looking for let us dispense with the official switching on but reinstate the lights, Adam. I think it is something that is essential for the feel-good factor and the kids in the outer suburbs. That is one.

I would like to make a suggestion about the Opera in the Park. This year we got 7,000 people. My arithmetic is that it would be far better to have 40,000 at £5 than 7,000 at £12. I think we should look again. If you have a look at all the letters in the press, it was being suggested by most people that £5 would be more appropriate. I think that people would go for that. I would rather have £200,000 than £84,000.

I think the same thing applies to the Fantasia. I think that again it should be prices so people can attend. I think it was priced too highly. I do not understand the £12 – if anything it should have been £10 so that it was easy to deal with, but I think £5 would be more appropriate and I think we should encourage the community spirit, I think we should encourage the feel-good factor in these times.

I would encourage you to do that next year, so thank you very much, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Renshaw, please.

COUNCILLOR RENSHAW: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I speak on page 58 Minute 6. It is my great pleasure to talk to you about the excellent activities that were provided for the young people and children of Leeds last summer and I am sure they have been repeated this summer. I am delighted that children and young people from Ardsley and Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell were given the chance to take part in out of school activities after funding of £20,000 was allocated by the South (Outer) Area Committee as Wellbeing Funding

It is fantastic that the funding has allowed a varied programme to be developed that has empowered the local community and provided activities in the local area for all children and young people aged 5 to 19. A great variety of activities were offered, including summer camps, local sport, family trips and dance classes. In total there were 354 sessions of activity, each lasting a half a day, for everybody to get involved with.

One fun filled event that took place across local Leeds parks were the Mini Breeze events. Activities such as bouncy castles, making jewellery and opportunities to get up close with snakes and tarantulas were available for young children to try out. This event was an especially positive one in the Outer South area, as it attracted 746 young children across two parks in Morley and Rothwell. This is especially important as it makes use of local facilities to bring the community together.

I believe that these activities could leave a lasting effect on the community by providing a model for future partnership work between different sectors. This year's scheme has already displayed this with groups such as the Breeze Culture Network, Looked-After children and local area clusters working together in partnership to promote events and to ensure that as many children as possible can attend.

As we all know, it is important to let children and young people voice their opinions when it comes to the activities they wish to take part in. Through consultation processes provided by the Youth Service and clusters, this opportunity was provided and young children were given the chance to discuss their ideas on the location of activities and the types of activities which should be provided. I see this as an excellent opportunity for children and young people to improve their communication skills and to encourage them to attend these events that have already been especially catered for them.

I am confident that the publicity involved with communicating this scheme to children and young people has already been particularly successful. Some of the funding was used to publish 20,000 booklets which were sent out to all school age children in the Outer South area. These booklets were also placed in community buildings such as libraries to allow access to all. Further to this, clusters were also able to publicise events through family support workers, allowing further targeting of young people. This promotion was a greatly important factor in ensuring the success of the events.

A further positive that I believe has come from this funding and the events provided through it, is that they have given children the chance to do something different. Police tasking groups from the Outer South have suggested that events could lead to a reduction in antisocial behaviour as children may be doing something different rather than spending time on the streets.

I believe that this funding has made a positive impact on many children's summers and, in fact in some places these activities have taken place throughout the year. For example, activities in Rothwell were conducted across October half term, Christmas and February half term holidays. This displays how helpful the money has been providing children with things to do throughout the year at times when they may be bored and perhaps turn to something less desirable. A continuation of funding could benefit our children for years to come.

I am excited the allocation this funding has given children and young people around Leeds the chance to do something different with their summer and the opportunities for families to be brought together. I believe that this has benefited our community greatly and if the schemes could be continued throughout future school holidays, they will continue to provide the children and young people of Leeds with new skills and opportunities. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bruce.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE: My Lord Mayor I would like to comment on the Minutes page 60, Minute 10.

As a recently elected Councillor, albeit one who has already served for six years in the not so distant past, I was pleased to find out how the work of the Area Committees improved, how the Council works now since I last served as a Councillor.

Two of the issues that most concern local people in Rothwell are crime and antisocial behaviour and the day to day local environment where they live. Many things the Council does do not touch the lives of everyone in the area, but these are issues that affect everyone. That is why I am pleased to see that the South East Area Committee has invested in both of these.

The purchase of off-road motorbikes benefits both. It helps to reduce antisocial behaviour by combating illegal motorbikes and joy riders who blight our green spaces, and benefits the local environment by making our parks safer for everyone to enjoy with their families and dogs. It is for those people who want to enjoy our green spaces with their dogs that the Area Committee has purchased signs reminding dog owners to clear up after their pets.

As a dog owner who does clear up, I would like to see more disposal bins placed around the ward. Perhaps that is something that the Area Committee will invest in in the future, like it has with the new litter bin for the Manor Road shops.

Other initiatives that the Area Committee has invested in are paying for the Vehicle Police Team to have smart water kits, which it can issue to householders to mark valuable belongings, which is a lot better than writing your postcode on with an ultraviolet pen.

It has also paid for a scheme to improve the visibility of Neighbourhood Policing Team officers and invested in a Victims' Fund to help people who have suffered from antisocial behaviour or hurt crime. The money is used to improve the security of people's homes, or target harden, as the jargon has it, by installing security devices such as CCTV, alarms, fencing and door intercoms.

Finally, a subject that is particularly close to my heart as I campaigned on it in the community for many years, and that is preventing excessive speeding. The Area

Committee has paid for a prolaser device or, a speed gun to you and me, that can be used in hot spots like the Leeds-Wakefield road in the Rothwell ward, which is blighted not just with speeding cars but with lorries, heavy good vehicles coming from Stourton, which should be using the motorway but uses Rothwell as a rat-run instead.

Local people are benefiting from the investment in Police Community Support Officers and other action to combat antisocial behaviour but many people locally are worried about the Coalition's 20% cut to the police budget and what effect this will have locally at the same time as all the rest of the Tory and Lib Dem cuts on public spending. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Just to comment on page 58 Minute, 6 and page 60, Minute 10.

I am really glad to see that Councillor Renshaw has taken on board that even with reduced resources you can have a U-turn in performance in terms of Youth Services, because when this administration was in charge every meeting we had at the Area Committee and every meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Board, Councillor Renshaw, you could rely on it, would always point out how shocking the Youth Services were in her ward and it was never up to scratch. Now that your administration is in charge and actually there is less money to go round, they are OK, so I am really glad that you have been able to pay even closer attention to what is happening in your area.

Councillor Bruce, I am really glad to see that you are endorsing commitments that have been made for several years now on the Outer South Area Committee in terms of supporting work that we do with our local police community team. It is a really close relationship that we have and I am glad to see that we are able to support them in their community policing role which, as we know, Chief Inspector Bettison – Sir Norman, I beg your pardon – Chief Constable, has committed to keeping the commitment to those individual community areas that the policing levels will be maintained, even though they are also subject to Government cuts brought about by the profligate spending of the previous Government.

I am glad to see that Councillor Bruce is joining with us here on the Liberal Democrat side of the Rothwell ward Members in continuing support for police initiatives. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I think he was trying to do your job, Robert.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Just to try and focus on the positive things that we do do at Area Committee and I think it does blend fairly well, we do try and keep the political bickering to a minimum. It is not always possible to eradicate it entirely but the Crime Prevention Programmes that we have financed have been financed in Rothwell, they have been financed in Ardsley and Robin Hood, they have been financed in Morley, are a very positive sign that the Area Committee signs are that they are in a genuine partnership with the local police service, and I know at a ward level that Councillors get on very well with their local policing team and are able to work with them to set particular priorities and make sure that we provide the help and support, whether that is financial support or

otherwise, when they need it. I think it is very positive that we have all recognised that and we continue to do that, whether it is the off-road motorcycling issues or smart water or whatever it might actually be.

I am delighted to hear – and I think it was collective support that we have for what we did do in terms of offering young people an active programme throughout the year supported by Children's Services. I would like to pay tribute to our Children's Champion, Councillor Gettings, who made sure that every last penny is scrutinised and that the money is spent wisely and appropriately.

Then we come to the Christmas lights issue. I must admit, certainly the Morley newspapers were doing the same, headline "Labour cancels Christmas" – I do not know where they get this information from, it is a shocker. We certainly felt that it was important to support local traders both in Morley and in Rothwell. The Christmas lights do make it a more attractive place, it does encourage footfall and we are very keen on making sure that we do have town centres that are thriving. I think that is why the Area Committee did provide the help and financial support that was necessary to make sure it goes ahead, even if it is at a reduced level from previous years.

We are puzzled and perplexed as to why the city centre, when it has got its Harvey Nicks and its Debenhams and other such organisations who are in a much stronger financial position than perhaps local traders are, are not asked to make a bigger contribution. The city centre seems to get defended where the outer areas do not get the same level of defence and I think that is entirely regrettable. There are some very wealthy operators in the city centre; the same cannot be said for most of the outer areas and their town centres that are struggling.

Overall what we would say about Outer South Area Committee is that we do work collectively. There is a consensus about what the priorities are, whether that is improving the environment, whether that is finding things for young people to do, whether that is supporting the policing. I would hope that we will continue to work in a very supportive and collective environment in the future. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

(e) West (Outer) Area Committee

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jarosz, please.

COUNCILLOR JAROSZ: Lord Mayor, I am commenting on page 71, Minute 20. I am delighted to talk to you about my role on the Divisional Community Safety Partnership and the excellent work that has been taking place on community safety across my ward in Pudsey and across Outer West Leeds.

The issue of community safety is clearly a main priority for residents, which is reflected in the work of the Outer West Area Committee and is one of huge importance. I believe it is vital that we work together with police, local residents and other partners to keep our communities safe. I am happy to report that we have had a series of successes in dealing with community safety in our community. One example is Operation Agnew, a partnership between the police, the City Council and either other organisations, including Bradford Council and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, in an attempt to crack down on illegal drivers and metal thieves across the area.

A two day operation took place over 20th and 21st July. This involved setting up a vehicle checkpoint on the A647 at Thornbury to catch any driver suspected of illegal activity. I was invited by Neighbourhood Police Inspector Cawkwell to see the work in action and I am pleased to say that this operation had numerous successes, resulting in seven arrests, several fines, vehicles being seized. When I say vehicles seized, these are only vehicles that are just too dangerous to stay on the road. Any others were given fixed penalties and time to mend what was wrong with the vehicle. Crimes ranged from illegal use of red diesel to not having the correct licenses. Further to this, £20,000-worth of copper cable was discovered at scrap metal sites across South Bradford and West Leeds, which were also investigated.

This operation allowed for a number of criminal to be brought to justice, including those who receive stolen goods, especially metals, and it was a great success for the Community Partnership.

Another operation, Operation Algorithm, took place on 1st September at Thornbury Roundabout. Again, it was a success with five arrests, a number of fixed penalty notices and intelligence submissions. Each agency made a big impact and this shows how working together can help substantially to help substantial results to be achieved. This initiative was also attended by the Chief Constable, Sir Norman Bettison, who is a pioneer of neighbourhood policing teams and who on the same day visited my ward and was impressed with the work he saw and the way in which local officers carried it out.

We are privileged in Pudsey to have PCSO Mick Cox as one of our officers, who won the national award for the most outstanding PCSO, and still works in Pudsey.

It is great to see so many organisations working together to tackle these important issues. Through this partnership we can achieve much more than we could acting alone and these community partnership which I believe help to further reduce crime in our local area and I believe it is vital that we continue to work together on similar operations to make sure crime continues to be tackled effectively.

The Safer Leeds Burglary Taskforce is a partnership between a number of groups including West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council and the Crown Prosecution Service and will focus on building evidence on criminals and supporting local police officers to respond to tackle burglaries. This is another fantastic example of our communities working together to increase community safety for all and make people feel comfortable in their own home.

Further to these examples, any issues that occur in West Leeds, and I am sure across other areas of Leeds, can be addressed at the Police and Community Together meetings which we incorporate with our Forum meetings across Pudsey and across other West Leeds wards. These meetings are where residents can meet with local police to discuss issues. Residents can also nominate an issue via an online e-survey if they are unable to attend the meetings and this allows access for all. It is very important that it allows those who are experiencing issues...

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jarosz, we have now come to a red light.

COUNCILLOR JAROSZ: I am sorry, this work so far is an excellent example for the future. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: For the benefit of the general public, we have now come to an end to this session on the Minutes and I invite Councillor Wakefield to sum up.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think this afternoon has allowed me time to reflect, and I reflect back on 2001 when this Council was modernised and we moved towards an Executive Board model and did away with 108 committees. I think there was legitimate concern about whether we were creating a democratic deficit between those on Executive Board and those that were not. I think that concern is still a legitimate one, particularly for new Members, Back Benchers who want to engage in the life of the Council and the policies of the Council.

As you know, I would never have supported what we did in the 1990s when we did have 108 committees and sub-committees and working groups, and I do actually believe that an Executive Board is more strategic, but I do think we have a real problem and a challenge in making sure that everybody feels a part of the Council's life and direction. Although we cannot move towards committee system unless we have an elected Mayor, I think many of us thought that strategic committees would have been a lot better in terms of engaging people, a lot less but a lot more involved in the policies of our Council. We are not there now.

I think today has been extremely useful because (a) it puts more importance on Scrutiny Board for me and it puts more importance on Area Committee, so I applaud Councillor Lobleys initiative to make sure that we have an opportunity in an afternoon to listen to colleagues about the work on the Area Committees. Shame you were not here for most of the afternoon, Matthew, but it is an initiative that you have our full support on.

I also applaud Area Committee Chairs from all parties, because a lot of their work goes underneath the radar, no publicity, no profile and I think what you have heard today is an incredible amount of work and activity that goes on here.

I think it is a shame probably today we have not heard the full range, the breadth and the depth of some of the work that goes on in Area Committee because it is truly amazing.

When this city has got so much character and diversity, you want to hear it reflected in here and I can only speak for the Outer East. Councillor Parker revealed his secret plan of making England a number one cricket team by having these cricket galas all through the summer and you are right, when you see over a hundred boys and girls come in, it is absolutely tremendous during the summer. I think he has not done very well with Yorkshire but he never mentioned that!

I think when you see, in all honesty, we could not have had playing fields, sports fields, children's play areas, we could not have done environmental projects, youth work and so on had it not been through the work of the Area Chair, Councillor Keith Parker. I have to say that he has decided to retire after ten years of Area Chair and I think he is a wonderful example of a champion of the community and I would like to put on record our appreciation for the work you have done. (*Applause*)

Nobody is more passionate of sport and young people than Keith and I think we have been the beneficiaries of all his energy and his focus over the last few years and I can say that about a number of Area Committees in our city. The work never gets the profile it deserves and all the things that we have heard today are a result.

Just one example, Councillor Ben Chastney was being very positive on the resources. In the Wellbeing money, we put in £6.7m for the city. It has actually levered in £20m for the rest of the communities, which I think speaks very well about using wisely, as Ben said, the Wellbeing money and actually bringing in other partners and other resources and so on.

When you really think, as I say we probably did not do it justice today because of the environmental debate which I will come on to, but when you think about the Neighbourhood Network Schemes and the luncheon clubs, that could not have been done without Area Committee. There is no doubt that it is now a national role model which I am pleased to hear, but the Area Committees were the ones that drove that and the ones who supported and the ones who championed the days that we are going to have in the next few weeks. If you look at the work with the police, it has already been mentioned by other colleagues, the Area Committee has really focused on antisocial behaviour and crime and I think it has paid off. There is a tremendous relationship and partnership now with the police which we never had until Area Committees came up.

The one thing which we will probably talk about later but I really welcomed at our more recent Area Committee, is that we have information which I certainly have been waiting for for over 20 years – I am not blaming anybody because we have been around for over 20 years – and that is that it started to tell us about how many looked-after children, how many NEETS people and, of course, how many looked-after children there were, how many NEETS there were and – what's the other one, Judith – attendance. The three obsessions. Frankly, if we are going to help those challenges that the Children's Services have got, it is best done within our own locality and I very much welcome that.

I very much welcome all the environmental projects. The Village in Bloom in our area – and I know Robert speaks on this as well – could not have grown and developed without the Area Committee support. I think it really has been a success and I really do think while we might not always get it every time here, because we never get chance to, I think it has engaged Back Benchers in the life of the policy and the community in a very positive and constructive way.

I hope we can look at this, Area Committees. It is not perfect, it is still the unfinished article, in my view, but it is heading in the right direction. It definitely is. When you think what is going to happen in the future as we reduce our services and we work with the independent, voluntary, co-operative, social enterprise and so on, I think we need a debate how we can manage to keep Members engaged as the guardians of their community in a whole range of provision. We are now looking at mixed provision with the elderly. How do we as elected Members maintain our role that people vote us to do, and that is look after the community, the elderly and vulnerable and so on.

I think there is other work to do about area management which I hope we can bring back and debate properly, because I think it is about the future governance of the role of the elected Member as we reduce in size and provision of services.

I just want to come to a point that was made time and time again about the environmental services. I cannot say that there was an olive branch by Councillor Gruen but I think it would be a great pity for Members and communities if we cannot come to some arrangement in the future. (*hear, hear*)

I want and we all want, and I know Councillor Gruen wants, elected Members to have more power because that is what we are seeking outside of this Chamber. What better issue than the environment that Councillor Dobson is doing now, that knowing and understanding the services of your area...

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: We all agree.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: ...and improving it, if you have to.

I will just finally say this, that I think there is more work to do on that. I hope that we can because actually you disempower elected Members if you do not agree and, above all, you let your community down on the services that are vital.

I hope that there can be some arrangement when people agree. If I can say one thing, if it does vary in resources – and I know West gets a vast amount more – then I think it is about need. I think whatever we try to do we are all signed up to closing the gap, and that is looking at the way that we fund services that close the gap according to need and not just wealth, and I think that is the value of our Council and our group that we want to maintain. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I now call for a vote, please, to receive the Minutes? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED. Thank you.

We are now going to break for tea and, as I said earlier on, members of the public in the gallery are invited to join us on this occasion and if we can all be back here by twenty-past five. Thank you.

(*Short adjournment*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Just before I move on to the next item on the agenda, I am going to ask Ann Blackburn just to say a few words about David.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: All it is, David is not here today. He is not here today because he fell this morning coming down the bedroom steps – no, I did not push him - and he said that he felt as if he was going to faint. He might come down later, he told me, but I have rung him up and he still feels a bit woozy. My grown-up son is with him just on the chance he did pass out or anything, but hopefully he will be all right tomorrow. That is why when it comes to my amendment I have asked someone else to second it for me. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Ann, and no doubt you will take our best wishes, please and hope that he is feeling a lot better.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: He has our sympathy.

THE LORD MAYOR: He has provided authority in writing, pursuant to Rule 12.3(b) and that is authorising Councillor Finnigan to second the amendment that is to be proposed by Councillor Ann Blackburn on White Paper 8.

ITEM 8 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – FOOD WASTE

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move on to White Paper 8? Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Most Councils call themselves green, cleaner and safer. This is because they know that the priorities that our citizens set us are to provide them with communities that enjoy a safe, clean, healthy environment.

It has to be said that the current administration should be commended for carrying on the good work started by the previous administration in several of these areas. The ones that come to mind, of course, are continuing the work on improving Safeguarding for Children and secondly, of course, a commitment to maintaining the number of PCSOs financed by the Council, which we are very grateful to Councillor Gruen for because, after all, these all contribute to a safer city.

It also has to be said that this administration has progressed good work to make the city greener through schemes for photo voltaics on Council properties and home insulation.

However, Lord Mayor, in the area that our citizens can participate with the Council most actively in our green aspirations, which is recycling, they have been sadly let down by this administration.

Yes, our recycling rate has risen but at a lower rate than our neighbours, many of whom have now overtaken us over the past two years. During this present administration a major opportunity has been missed. The food waste trial in Rothwell was instigated by Liberal Democrat portfolio holders for Environmental Services, Steve Smith and James Monaghan. They recognised the ambition that Leeds' residents have to recycle more, and their willingness to adapt to achieve it.

Lord Mayor, it is interesting how the trial ended up in Rothwell. It was also suggested that the trial happen in Kippax and Methley but Labour Ward Members turned this down. It has to be said, Lord Mayor, that some Conservative colleagues in Cabinet also thought cutting weekly black bin collection was political suicide and would not sanction a trial north of the river. Perhaps this explains both parties' decidedly lukewarm amendments to this paper.

I think what did surprise both those parties, though, was the reception of Rothwell Ward residents was anything but lukewarm to the scheme. They embrace it overwhelmingly and are proud to be the best recycling ward in the city.

Lord Mayor, I have talked earlier about how councils want to be cleaner, greener and safer. Lord Mayor, our manifesto also includes the word "fairer". Lord Mayor, our administration increased the Highways budget precisely because we realised that, although some areas needed more resources to narrow the gap, it was only fair that all areas should have equal access to core Council services.

Lord Mayor, some Councils have achieved a 70% recycling rate after introducing food waste collection. That is the kind of ambition many citizens aspire to here in Leeds. Is it fair that only Rothwell Ward residents enjoy a 21st Century waste collection service?

Our proposals is modest, recognising the short term costs but it is mindful that Leeds already sends more waste to landfill than any of its neighbours; has paid £40m in landfill tax since 2005; and faces a doubling landfill tax rate in 2014.

If we do not invest now we let down our residents both in ambition and, potentially, in their pockets. I move, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilson.

COUNCILLOR WILSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I second the motion and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We have three amendments to this. First of all, Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In moving the Labour amendment to Councillor Golton's proposals, I have to say to start off, I am pleased that you have acknowledged the significant progress that has been made around the recycling rates in Leeds. The 40% has been hit ahead of targets – as you are aware, we are looking for 50% by 2020. We have given ourselves nine years' breathing space to hit that 50% and I am very confident indeed, working on some of the strategies that we are progressing at the moment, that we will hit 50% well in advance of that 2020 date.

I think when we look at the 40% we cannot look at it in isolation. Is it about food pilots? Is it about changing to black and green? Is it about a whole host of issue? Actually, it is about a waste strategy and the waste strategy for the city is something that we are actively keen to progress but we are not going to look at one single piece of the jigsaw in isolation and call it the be all and end all.

You were right to touch on the PV scheme. Lots of progressive work that is going on in the city – I was going to talk in Questions about the Revive Centre, which is fantastic. It is a re-use facility at the new recycling centre at Limewood Approach, a real genuine third centre partnership with the Council and it is sustainable. That is the sort of work that we need to be doing, so whilst I completely accept that there is always scope for improvement, I think the general direction of travel around recycling in Leeds is very good indeed.

Touching on the Rothwell pilot, I think fundamentally what we have proved by that pilot is that logically we can make it work. There would, I sense be a resistance in some quarters to how it is actually being delivered, from four black and one green we have gone to black/green, black/green, which is four rounds, and added another four on top for food, which is eight rounds. That obviously comes at a cost.

I think the point we have to remember is – and it has been brought to Scrutiny in 2010 – that there is an argument that says it is cheaper to collect food and remove food through composting than to bury it in the ground, and I can get that argument because, as we are all aware, it is costing us at the moment about £30 to take the food waste to Selby for composting as opposed to £70 currently to bury it in landfill, which is completely unsustainable.

The bottom line, the Rothwell pilot has come at a net increase in terms of how we actually deliver that, so that is something we have to take into consideration. That said, as landfill charges inevitably rise, by 2013 we will be touching £80 a ton, the actual economy has come into play and the gap will inevitably narrow around that and it will become a more sustainable model.

I also think it is fair to say, Stewart, whilst I do not agree that we have got the need to roll out another model pilot exactly the same as the Rothwell one, because we have learned the lessons from Rothwell, we are actively looking at how we can improve on that particular pilot and perhaps expand it.

At the moment we have teams collecting food that can finish around midday and then they go off to do backup work. Talking to officers, we are thinking about actually saying, stay on the ground and perhaps we could look to – obviously consulting the residents – extend the existing pilot through more properties. We also need to think about using smaller vehicles. What we have learned from the collection of food is we do not need the bigger vehicles, we have not got the need for them so, in terms of leasing fleet going forward, that is something we are also going to be considering.

I think what it has also proved – and you touched on this, Stewart – the public perception has been excellent and there is, in certain areas, clearly a mindset to do more around recycling, and going forward we want to give them the opportunity to do that.

That said, I do not think it is all about the macro model. When I came into this job what I did not know, to my shame, was that we have actually got a composter bin offer to Leeds residents where we will sell you one at cost. I compost and I did not know that but that is something we are going to refloat because, as I say, it is part of a broader strategy and the least amount of food or whatever waste you can keep off the kerbside, in my opinion, the better.

I think broadly we are on the same page in terms of what we want to achieve – I just think the direction of travel is slightly different. Another roll out would only add 0.3 of one per cent on what we would save on landfill costs, so again I am not sure that another model in isolation is perhaps the way forward that we want to go.

Realistically, where would I like to take this over the next few weeks, months and years? The obvious answer for me is AD. We spoke at the last Council about anaerobic digestion and the technology is there, the technology is robust and I think it is something as a city that we should be looking to drive.

I think in the previous round of looking at the Minutes we touched on budgets. I do not think the days where the city can say, “Light bulb moment, let us build an AD. We will finance it, we will run it, we will be the major player in that.” I think broadly those days have probably gone for quite some time. What the Council should be doing, in our opinion, is using our influence to say, let us bring in a partner, “Let us say we can perhaps provide you as a city with 40,000 tonnes of food waste that will make AD a viable proposition for the people of Leeds. Who is interested?” I suggest that if we work with partners and think about how we can be facilitators in a creative way as an Authority we can perhaps do that.

I am thinking about schools – a large part of school budgets goes on removing food waste. I am thinking about the Universities, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, smaller private businesses but get some buy-in that the Council can actually drive in a new, co-operative way working with our city partners, or even look further afield and say do we need a city region approach, could Leeds strive on that? Could we say to a contractor, one contract but a number of satellite AD facilities around the area?

I also think there is a role for agriculture. Perhaps we need a conversation with the NFU. I know for a fact that these things create a great deal of digestates that can go straight back on to the land and they are worth money to people who work in the farming industry, so perhaps if we think creatively there is a way to square the particular circle around the cost of AD, around the cost of food waste and how we can do it in a collaborative way working either as a city or, indeed, with the city region.

It was interesting, we were down in London yesterday for the launch of the Green Investment Bank bid for Leeds and I was listening to people who represent the business sector on the left and they were saying, "Very interested in what you are talking about, very interested in working collaboratively with you on these sort of projects." CO₂ Centre, a group who have actually delivered AD projects in other areas, are saying to me, "We want to come into Leeds on a very quick turn around and talk to you about how to make some of these things a reality."

What I would like from this debate today, however it goes, is for a broad understanding from Council that perhaps the way we deliver these services will inevitably change. I think what the Rothwell model has proved is, whilst we are putting extra rounds in and extra resources, it has come at a cost of black and green. Perhaps that is a debate we have to have on another occasion because it is still contentious. Moving from four black and one green to a 28 day cycle, perhaps that is a bridge too far for this Council but I think in the round when we are considering how we can best raise our recycling rates and how we can best manage the challenge of landfill – because quite simply by 2013, as I say, this Council is looking down the barrel of £16m a year to bury. We have not got the money.

We have to think creatively and we have to think fast.

In terms of some of the long-term benefits about AD, we could actually put ourselves in a very, very decent position where we could actually beat the energy companies. I do not think any of us think anything other than that energy charges are going to increase. We could create gas from these facilities that could generate cheap electric for this Authority and its businesses. Moreover, the gas can be cleaned up and used to power our fleet, so effectively on a very limited time scale we could hit a lot of the aspirations that Stewart has talked about.

I genuinely believe that the White Paper the Liberals have put forward has been delivered in good faith. I think broadly we are on the same page. The speed of travel is different and I am hoping that Members of Council today will be convinced to support the labour amendment. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Walshaw, please.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Lord Mayor, I would like to second the Labour Group's White Paper amendment regarding the extension of food waste collections in our city.

Firstly, I will not go over all the point that Councillor Dobson has pointed out and he has demonstrated the depth and breadth of his command of the subject. However, I would like to state that I am very pleased that Councillor Golton has recognised the work the Council is putting in to boost recycling rates in our city and that the 40% target was hit for the first time this year.

In fact, it is worth casting our minds back to 2006 when the Integrated Waste Strategy paper outlined a target to recycle and compost a minimum of 40% by 2020. We have achieved this nine years earlier than expected and I think that is a testament to the work the Council has done.

Given this tremendous progress, however, it was disappointing in the extreme that literature is circulating in Headingley, the ward I represent, that states this progress is not happening and, indeed, has stalled.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: It is not.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Nothing could be further from the truth. However, I am also please that, as a Group – this Group - we remain committed to extending the roll-out of future waste collections.

As Councillor Dobson has said, I do not believe that we should focus on one aspect of our waste strategy in isolation from others because this will not transform the delivery of our recycling improvement plan. What will make a difference is a cohesive, joined-up recycling strategy which is delivered properly and working to its maximum will mean that food collections are able to play a full and vital role in the diversion of rubbish from landfill and, as we all know, the landfill tax costs are considerable and will continue to increase.

The Rothwell pilots achieve positive results and, as our amendment says, has set a platform for future roll outs. However, we now need to plan properly how to build on this because what must be taken into account is that a one size fits all approach won't work. What works in Rothwell may not be applicable to the rest of the city, but we have a successful model to move from.

There is a wide range of localities used, for example, that need to be considered when we look at the suitability for the scheme. We also have to make sure that they lead properly to other aspects of our recycling strategy so, again, we need to maximise performance.

I believe by exploring food waste collections further and identifying the challenges ahead in a paper to the Executive Board, that will provide us with the information we need to maximise these collections in the future across all areas of waste, not only food, and I look forward to reading its findings.

I urge you to support Councillor Dobson's amendment. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson, please.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I first of all start with an apology for the English graduates amongst you. On page 14, line 9, there is a superfluous "the", for those who are pedantic about these sort of things, just to show that I do read what I have put down. As to how the error occurred, I do not know.

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: It is not good leadership (*inaudible*).

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: I am not interested in that.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Councillor Gruen has gone to the back benches now.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Can I first of all start by paying tribute to Councillor Murray and Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: No, we don't agree with you, Barry. We don't agree.

COUNCILLOR ANDERSON: Yesterday this was rushed out to us all. (*demonstrated*) I might be wrong but I think that was us that started *this* and there is very little acknowledgement in what has been said so far about the golden legacy that was actually left to the Labour Party, which reminds me of the golden legacy that the previous Conservative Government left to the last Labour Government and they managed to destroy that in a number of years. What I would hope is that the administration do not destroy the golden legacy that has been given to them in terms of recycling within a few years as well, so we need to be aware of that.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Members of my Scrutiny Board yet again, who contributed a lot to this work that has been done. We came forward with suggestions about hard to access properties and hopefully more will be done on that. How we need to work with Ward Members and they take a lead. Again, in Adel and Wharfedale we have taken that forward and we have done that by introducing recycling into the Hopedales, we have put money in, we have worked with West North West Homes to enable to do that so again, that is something that we have done.

Glass is something that we need to look about because some people can get to the glass banks that we have got; others cannot, so we need to look at how we can do that, particularly people who maybe get glass jars and in terms of older people who cannot necessarily pick them up and take them down to the nearest bank. That is the sort of things that we need to look at to try and increase what we are doing.

What has undoubtedly helped, and my understanding is contributed to the majority of the 40%, is the success of the bring sites and the sort sites in terms of the contribution that they have made, the investment that we made and the further investment that you have done and will get even better with the Seacroft one opening up and will hopefully go a long way to improving our targets.

We also need to look at is there anything else we can start recycling? For example, textiles, is there anything we can do to start recycling those things and that would be another way of contributing towards a target of 50, 60, 70 but let us get the target moving forward at the rate it was a number of years ago. We also need to look at working more with charities.

We also need to continue to lobby the Government about packaging, because that would help us and that is up to us who have the parties in power. We have got to do our bit by lobbying the Government but equally we need to make sure that we do it on an all-party basis, because packaging is one of the major problems that we have got to face up to in terms of moving things forward.

We also need to work more with the supermarkets because they produce a lot of food wastes. What do they do with their food at night after it has past its sell-by

date? They should be putting that in to some sort of system with our food waste as well and we can then benefit a lot of people from that.

We also need to start looking at supermarkets to have more collection points so that we can start getting more recycling done as well. We also need to look at what role City Development can take, what impetus can be put in in terms of the design and construction of buildings to make sure that we can start recycling things in a more constructive manner.

We need to think about incentives. Birmingham has just offered Nectar points. I am not suggesting that that is necessarily the way forward but we need to look at trying to incentivise it and is there anything can be done in the current financial climate, which means it will not be necessarily easy to do. What work are we doing with students? Unipol came along to our Scrutiny Board and were very interested in working with the Council to try and do more, and I said this at the Climate Change Meeting the other day and I apologise to Councillor Dobson for repeating it again, but one of the things the students said is that they are confused when they come to the city because they come from various parts of the country and they have different methods of recycling. Some people use boxes, some separate, etc, etc. I think we have got to get the message over to the students because that is a good captive audience and we can certainly help to move things forward there.

It is good that we have got new powers coming through Localism so that we can work with private landlords as to how we can try and get recycling more because in some parts of the city that is a major problem.

I will confess that there have been two major successes. One is the SORT 3 pilot where we have got fortnightly green bin collections. That is proving a great success so maybe we should look at expanding that one, if you are not going to go as far as the Rothwell pilot and the success of that has already been made clear on how good that has been.

What we need to be careful of is that this 40% could have been a lot higher if we had not had the bin dispute last year because that could have led us to getting closer to the 50% because that definitely had an impediment in terms of us moving things forward.

To repeat what I said earlier on, why don't we collect the leaves? If we could collect the leaves in this city, again we would contribute more to the recycling but there seems to be an aversion, not within Councillor Dobson, he is not responsible, but within the officers to actually organise getting leaf collection throughout the city. Why, I do not know, there is a blockage there. It is not at a political level and I accept that, but why is this blockage there, because that is not going to help us.

We need to make plans now because the economy will pick up and by getting policies in place – look how long it has taken us to get our energy for a waste plan put in? We need to start planning and preparing now in terms of what we are doing.

There soon will be convergence with the cost of landfill tax and the cost of implementing the additional rounds, so it is getting close when the day is going to be here and we got the difficult decision to make and I think we need to prepare for it well in advance. As we said, we have got the Green Bank so we can start potentially drawing down from that if we can get it into this city. There is Green Jobs – that will provide employment for people. There are a lot of good entrepreneurs. Yorkshire has got a great reputation for being able to innovate so people might be able to use

some of the recyclates that we have got and then we can generate jobs and we can all benefit because it brings money in, it then gets spent locally and we can all benefit from what we are doing.

We do need to look at anaerobic digestion quickly and try and get some plant put in place and identify some locations as to where that can go. I know that will be controversial and I accept that but we have got to make those difficult decisions. It is very easy to make popular decisions; it is sometimes more difficult to make the right decision and that is one thing that we have all got to accept in what we are doing.

We also could look at using the biomethane more to run some of our vehicles and improve the leases that we are getting. There are various things we can do.

What I would say in conclusion is, it makes sense both environmentally and financially to improve recycling, so what I would say is, please, support my amendment. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wadsworth, please.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have got pleasure in seconding the amendment in Councillor Anderson's name and I would also like to thank Councillor Golton for bringing this White Paper and also officers for reaching the 40% rate. I think it has been hard to achieve and they have achieved it. I think where Stewart is just going a little bit wrong is narrowing White Paper...

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: A little bit!

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: He has given the specifics, actually.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: ... down to the food waste pilot and I think that we needed to have a wider discussion about recycling because there are a number of issues around this item and Councillor Anderson has touched on quite a number of them. I am pleased to say that Councillor Dobson has also touched on a number of them and I am pleased he is looking at some, but we need to look at the education because there are a number of people in this city that still think that they should put everything in one bin and we should sort it all out, aren't there, Councillor Carter? I think we need to change those minds and I am working on him quite heavily.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Hammer and chisel job.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: It is, yes, but as I say, those are minds that need to be changed and we need to work heavily in the schools to try and change those minds. Also, with pursuing it around food waste, Councillor Dobson accepts they did not know that he could get a composter at cost price and I think we need to ensure that that is well advertised and that more people do take composting to heart.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: You are a gardener.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: I know that – I know it, Mick. I think, as I say, we need to work on education and we need to work on the viability of whether these schemes are viable because in the present climate we do need to get value for money and I think having trucks going around collecting small amounts of waste is not really the way forward.

Recently I was in Europe and I noticed that nearly all their vehicles when they collect waste collect two types of waste – they were collecting what appeared to be blacks and what appeared to be greens in the same truck but with a segregated body and I am pleased that Councillor Dobson is going to look at the fleet to see if our fleet is just what it should be moving forward.

As I say, I think in this present climate we do need to look at whether we can increase collections of food waste but it needs to be viable and it needs to be cost-effective and I do not think the general public really want more trucks running around doing more collections if they are not necessary. I think Councillor Anderson's amendment does take a back step and look at things before we actually introduce them. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn, please.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Yes, thank you, Lord Mayor. As you can see, my amendment just alters slightly Stewart's White Paper. The reason why we have put this amendment in is because we do have to ask where, if we had another food waste collection scheme, where the money would come from. We do appreciate this is something that should be looked at and expanded but we know that if the money was found it would have to come from somewhere else, so another facility would be cut.

I say this because, though it is changing the subject slightly, the fact is that one of the residential homes in my ward is to close, so you might argue does this mean that if we go down the line of having all this food waste collection, could it be other Council homes that would close because we know the money has got to be found somewhere. I would not want that to happen, though I am a Green.

The fact is, of course, that talking about being a Green, we believe in the old adage of reusing, reducing the amount of waste, repairing and as a last resort recycling. It is the thing everybody talks about, recycling, but we should not be getting to that stage, or we should have in fact not as much material there that goes out, if you like, to waste in the first place.

One thing about this recession, though by no means do I welcome the recession, people are looking at this more and if you go to the charity shops you will see that there is not as much clothing, etc, in there because people are using it more. I would say in any case that charity shops are a good thing and we should be using them.

It has been referred to, packaging. Yes, of course, I think to do this on a wide scale it would have to come as a Government initiative because we know that the stores all say that they are cutting down on packaging on that but they do in one area but then not in another and it is all a bit of a gimmick, really.

The compost bins, of course I welcome what is being said over there about those. Again, this is something that I have been going on about for ages but when I have mentioned it to officers I have been told, "Ah, yes, well, if you had a reduced amount for compost bins or free compost bins we do understand where you are coming from, Councillor Blackburn, but in fact if we did that there would be no way that we could actually count the figures towards the Council recycling because we would have no way of knowing what in fact you composted in your home composter."

As far as people that do not have gardens and that, I do agree that we should do this, we should be collecting food waste and so I think that that does need looking at. I totally agree with that, we must do what we can to reduce, reuse and then recycle as much as we can and so that is why I look at this. I see that we mention, of course, the incinerator, that nasty word “incinerator”, and the fact is, of course, that it did mention Labour and I will say this, that in fact it was...

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: It was the Coalition.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: ...the Coalition that did that. (*Applause*) The Coalition brought that in. That does not mean that Labour would not have brought it in, it just is a fact at the time that it was the Coalition and, in fact, if you remember, Greens left the joint administration because of that.

The fact is, yes, I understand where Stewart is coming from, I like a lot of what it says but it is just those minor amendments I would ask you to look at and maybe be mindful to support it. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Formally second the amendment and reserve the right to speak, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Illingworth, please.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Listening to the speeches from the other parties I am mystified as to why you have all put separate amendments in because you all seem to be agreeing with each other and agreeing very much with what Councillor Dobson has been saying in his amendment. In a sense we are all agreed and I do not know why we need to spend a lot of time on this other than to get on and improve recycling.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: You are right there.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Why you need to spend a lot of time on, we announced it first.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: Neil spoke about the Integrated Waste Collection Strategy, which is important, and also that one size does not fit all in this city, that the situation in Burley or, for example, in my ward with close back-to-back housing is a very different situation in Scholes or somewhere where you might have quite separate waste collection problems, and trying to make one solution fit the entire city simply is not going to work.

Barry, you gave us a golden legacy in the form of some unwelcome, unworkable collection rounds and part of the problem when we had the bin strike was we had a scheme (*interruption*) that was completely impossible to implement and had to be amended substantially to make it work. Having said that, you have made great progress in boosting recycling when you were in office, we are going to continue making progress under a Labour administration and 50% should be achieved an awful lot earlier than 2020, or whatever the present target is.

Could I agree with Councillor Anderson when he said that textiles ought to be in the list and we ought to do more work on sort outs. One of the miserable jobs I have had to do in the last few weeks is to clear my stepmother's house in South

Yorkshire and see how they do their recycling. It is very different to ours and we have got things to learn from other Local Authorities, we cannot just simply be thinking we know best in these all the time; we should learn from others.

Certainly one thing we could improve in Leeds is our recycling of toxic materials, things like used batteries and electronic goods, some of which is quite poisonous material and it goes in the general waste because they can't think of anything else to do with it.

When I go to see my daughters in London and look at their green waste, they are not looking at plastic containers saying is it a 1, or is it a 4, or is a 5. They just stick any clean, dry goods in the green bin and the Council takes it away and sorts it.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: I do that as well.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: That seems to be the target that we should be aiming for.

You are right about the students, Barry, that they do not sort their waste, they come from different backgrounds, they do not know what they are supposed to be doing and the recycling rates in Headingley and the student areas are very poor indeed, partly because of ignorance and partly because they are young and they have not learned sense yet – they are good at talking about it but not at doing it.

COUNCILLOR: Like Liberal Party.

COUNCILLOR ILLINGWORTH: In some areas home composting is a great solution to this. At our house, we have got a garden, we compost just about everything, including the food waste. We have got to bury that to keep the foxes out of it but including the edible waste, but even so we have two green bins which we put our full every cycle. We debate whether we are going to put the black bin out this month or not bother. We do not bother putting it out three collections out of four because it is not full, there is nothing in it and all the waste is going into the green bin and it is all sortable or recyclable.

That is achievable but you need a garden. It is very difficult to do home composting if you have got no garden and half this city has no garden and there is nowhere to put this stuff and there needs to be some solution found to it.

I am sure Mark is right about anaerobic digestion. I know I am a retired biochemist now but you do not need to convince a biochemist about anaerobic digestion. I remember there was a student protest about this ten years ago and thinking at the time this is the way to do it in Leeds, we ought to be doing AD, it is an efficient way of capturing the energy, it operates cold, it does not require a big thermal process like the energy from waste scheme and it recovers a lot of energy used from materials from stuff which is otherwise unusable, so I am 100% behind looking more closely at AD. I think there is a big future for that in Leeds and I wish Councillor Dobson every success in his project. Thank you very much, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke.

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Some of my points have survived but I have deleted the ones that have been covered by colleagues around

the room. Barry has mentioned some, Mark did, John just has, Ann did and Stewart did as well.

Like John, at the Vicarage in Harehills we would only put out the black bin about once every three weeks. The green bins fill up very, very quickly and we would like a more frequent collection of them. We do have to put our black bins out more frequently, however, because other people in the neighbourhood have found out about this and they tend to put their rubbish into our bins! It is one of the burdens of being in a Vicarage, but never mind.

Back to basics. Why do we think that separate food waste collections are good? They contribute to targets for diverting waste from landfill, obviously. There is a reduction of environmental impact associated with landfill, toxicity and 40:15 and methane production, for example. It improves our recycling rates. We have reduced waste disposal costs. We do not spend as much sorting, transporting and paying landfill fees and taxes. There is reduced nuisance from rats, vermin and flies attracted to food left in residual waste. There is a greater acceptance of fortnightly refuse collection – this is the Conservative point again – which saves resources and/or increases the frequency of recycling in the general collections. There would also be reduce pressure for new incinerators and people are more likely to separate their food waste compared to households where they put their food waste into general composting bins, as mentioned by Mark.

Mark, About Leeds carries an item about the composting bins quite frequently, I think the last one was Spring this year, and I recommend it as you have a hand in its production. I hope you will ensure, given your enthusiasm for composting, that it could appear in every issue of About Leeds in future.

There has been publicity recently of a Friends of the Earth survey about food waste collection and there were some negative comments that it was based on a fairly small sample not including any cities. The Friends of the Earth survey showed that 75% of people wanted a separate food waste collection. The critics, who tended to be right-wing think tanks, said they only surveyed small towns and villages and did not bother with big cities. However, DEFRA had a survey last year which said exactly the same thing and they did survey the big cities like us as well, so it is entirely valid that most people want a separate food waste collection to reduce dumping in landfill and probably incinerator use.

Leeds still sends most of its waste to landfill. Last year we sent 70.22% of our waste to landfill. The bill was £9.8m. Over the last five years we have paid over £40m for sticking our waste in landfill and, as Mark pointed out, I think it is 2013 we hit £16m a year at current rates, so something does have to be done about this.

I welcomed the Friends of the Earth Delegation this afternoon and went to speak to them afterwards, as did Mark and Mick, and no doubt we will be in touch with them later on about arrangements.

One mention about anaerobic digestion. I seem to recall that Veolia's initial discussions with the Council on their PFI bid for our contract included an option for AD but I think we have to wait until November when the administration will reveal the details of their final proposals to the rest of us. AD is an option even with an incinerator bid from one of the potential contractors.

Mark's amendment also mentioned rather obliquely sustainable energy production. I am not sure whether he was only referring to whatever electricity we

could get off gas from AD or whether he was talking about energy from waste, which is what the Council's project is all about. We have yet to hear what the real proposals are to do with whatever energy gets produced from our waste, and what, if anything, is going to be done with the waste heat that will be produced. The two locations for possible incinerators at the moment are not conducive to effective use of that heat, which is an argument against locating those facilities where they could be put. Energy, of course, could be fed into the grid with some loss but, again, we are not quite sure what arrangements could be put in place to benefit the locals as opposed to everyone.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Pryke, you have done it again on a red light. Just a gentle reminder but no doubt you have got three words?

COUNCILLOR PRYKE: In that case, Lord Mayor, I will finish there.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Matthews.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I hope you do not shout at me like Councillor Pryke! Thank you.

I wanted firstly to say, as I often do when we speak on environmental issues in this Chamber, how astonished I am by the Green Party. You are not a Green Party! Your amendment, all it does is take out reference to your friends, Labour, and it takes out the specifics that Councillor Golton has put in there, which will be to expand the scheme to one additional round in 2011/12 and further request for a report to be brought back. You have taken out the specifics to actually increase the scheme, so I am really astonished by the Green Party and, once again, the Liberal Democrats have proved to be greener than the Green Party. It is amazing, isn't it?

Coming to my ward of Headingley, as John mentioned Headingley and the student areas do bring the recycling rates down quite significantly. I refer to the report that Barry helpfully raised, which was rushed out to us yesterday, the Member Update Recycling Improvement Action Plan. There is a specific section there on the research in partnership with the Universities affecting Headingley and Hyde Park and Kirkstall. The specifics – I speak regularly to the University and they air a lot of frustration with this plan because they went through a very lengthy consultation process last year – about 18 months ago – where they fully co-operated and they went through all the details of it and Councillor Yeadon is nodding because she agrees with me on this one that nothing has materialised since the report was done.

I will go through, Lord Mayor, the bullet points that are set out in this report.

Bin audit of all properties in target area. Yes, I will give you that one, it was done, you looked at the bin provision and that was nice.

Suspension of city-wide bulky collections for use during the three weeks when the students vacate. Great, it happened already, it happened last year, it happened the year before.

Use of additional collection resources over the summer months to ensure all bins are off the streets. They are not.

Any broken or damaged bins reported and replaced. They have not been.

Bins are labelled to identify them to particular properties. They have not been.

Using bin audit information, deliver recycling provisions for the quick win properties, i.e. those with space and need for the additional bins. Right, I will give you that one. The administration's response to the over capacity in Headingley, you have got six or seven adults in many HMOs, the administration's response? Deliver more wheelie bins to the streets of Headingley. Fantastic; what a solution. We have got terraces, back-to-backs with all these wheelie bins lining the streets, on the pavement preventing access for disabled people, parents with prams, and we have got more. The astonishment of Headingley residents when they looked out of the window one morning and there is another bin – brilliant. What a solution.

Develop a plan to deliver other specific solutions for problem properties such as those with bin yards. Has not been done, has not happened.

Deliver a high profile marketing campaign aimed at the student population to be in place and deliver when students arrive on campus. Already happened the last two years.

Where is your radical solution to improved recycling in Headingley? I am astonished by new Councillor Walshaw, talking about seconding this White Paper, talking about things in the Headingley ward. What planet are you on? There is no recycling provision in lots of parts of Headingley. It even refers in the report to green bins being removed from Headingley and parts of Hyde Park and parts of Kirkstall. How is that radical to increase recycling in the Headingley area?

I regularly get stopped in the street and asked about food waste and brown bins. By the way, we do not have brown bins in the Headingley ward either, even though there are many properties that are suitable for brown bins. I note in the report, any further large scale roll outs for brown bins are currently on hold. Is that radically changing the recycling plans? No, I do not think it is.

Every recycling aspiration that Headingley residents raised with me has not been met. The administration has failed. The Council in Headingley carried out a survey which I have referred to which the Student Union fully co-operated with, so they were there waiting with bated breath, what is the administration going to do to improve recycling in Headingley? In fact, the answer, the straight answer, is absolutely nothing. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilson.

COUNCILLOR WILSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. When the food waste started in Rothwell roughly 18 months ago I thought it would be a very good idea to follow it down the line to see exactly what happens to the food waste in Rothwell. I thought it would be perhaps little photo shoot to repatriate some of the Rothwell food waste.

I went with the local In Bloom groups and we went to a company in Sherburn in Elmet called Mytum and Selby in Leeds, and they showed me the process. It seems to me a fairly simple process. They had a cylinder roughly 20 feet high, roughly ten feet across, and they had acquired this cylinder from the Doncaster Council. Apparently Doncaster Council had been trying for twelve months to try and get this system to work and failed, so Mytum and Selby got a cheap recycler.

Working in conjunction with Hull University, who seem to be well versed in recycling, they did set this system up and achieved success at the very first attempt. It appears that it is like a composting bin. It is like a layer cake – you put in a layer of food waste and the food waste that I saw on site is mostly old vegetables and salad, mostly, it is mostly green waste to start with. Then they put a layer of woodchip that they do on site and they sprinkle water on it and it keeps on going up and, as I say, it is like a layer cake. It is about 20 foot high and apparently the process takes about a week. They keep adding to the top of the cylinder every day and they keep withdrawing from the bottom likewise.

We pay Mytum and Selby so much for every tonne we take to them for recycling food waste. When I tried to find out exactly what it was costing Leeds City Council to dispose of our food waste this way, he said it is considerably less than landfill. I am trying to find the figures out about what we charge for landfill and what we charge to take it to Mytum and Selby.

The compost is eagerly pinched – well, it is not pinched, it is supplied to the local farmers, who provide their own transport and are only too pleased to do so. The process, apparently, over a week, is a fairly rough and ready one. It gives you a rough compost. The longer you keep it in the cylinder the better the quality of the compost.

As I say, I wanted to repatriate some of the food waste and the Rothwell In Bloom Group actually managed to do that, only in a few bags, but I understand now the bulk of it is going to Temple Newsam. I do not know whether Mick wanted the incinerator but for sure he is getting our compost!

This company has been tasked, at the time I was there, by Goole City Council, or Town Council, whatever, they had got a landfill site that was unstable and they were more or less offered the site if they could recycle the entire site, they were going to acquire the site cheaply. They claimed, they made the claim that they recycled 100% of that landfill site and, in fact, they are expanding on to that site now.

They are on the website, they are quite a well known company, Mytum and Selby. In this paper this chap Steve Carrie is claiming that when they get their new MRS up and running in two years' time, of which they are building two, he claims he can recycle 90%, so what are we talking about? Should we not be having a word with Mytum and Selby? It might be doing away with the argument of the incinerator altogether. I think it is a local company and Mark can have these papers when I have finished. I have already had a quick word with him about them. I would suggest it is a company well worth visiting. If Councillors who are interested in rubbish, which I appear to be, I think you would learn a lot. It is Mytum and Selby, a local company and I think this could be the answer to much of our problems. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Finnigan, do you wish to exercise your right to speak?

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. There have been a lot of contributions today and I hope I am going to give them all justice because if I go

down a list I will get to the red button before I should do, so I will try and do some generalities.

Councillor Illingworth, I think gave us the most erudite contribution and you said, "We all sound like we are all agreed" and, to tell you the truth, we are. We are all agreed that we have ambition for the city to recycle as much as we can.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: I am not!

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Apart from Les, but we are not all agreed because this party actually wants to do something and it sounds like the rest of you do not. I just do not understand what the underlying fear is.

I know that we have had some hard times recently with our waste collection service and I know that a lot of people out there who were elected Councillors have said why bother messing with the bins because when people's waste collection gets disrupted we are all in trouble. I am not sure if some of that is behind some of the reticence to actually take the proposals we have put forward on board and just do one more round – not do the whole city, just one more round. It is not a lot. I know it has actually got a net cost to it but at the end of the day we do have an obligation to our citizens to invest in their future. If we have got an example in Rothwell that works, Councillor Dobson has told us they recognise it works, they know it has got excellent customer satisfaction levels and they have got ideas what they can do with it, then why do we just do it because the response we have had off Councillor Dobson has been, "Well, we need to look at this and we need to look at that and we need to look at the other." Then we got a response off Barry Anderson which was, "Well, we need to look at that and we need to look at this and we need to look at the other."

I would expect, actually, that David Cameron's "Vote blue go green" actually turns into "Vote blue and we will go on amber for a bit" but I did expect a little bit more progress from the Labour Party because I assumed that Eric Pickles' large figure did not shadow our thoughts so much in terms of weekly black bins are sacrosanct. I know that is an issue that is big for the Conservatives but I was not sure it was so big for the Labour Party and I certainly did not think it was so big for the Greens.

I have to say, Ann, a Green Party on Leeds City Council is there to actually do things which enable people to be more Green. Just sitting there and saying, "Well, people should be a bit more green" isn't really very helpful for them. If you actually enacted something to help them recycle (*interruption*)

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: You big bully!

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: You would not dare say that if her husband was here! (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: All I would say to those who are a bit reticent about going to fortnightly black bin collection is, Councillor Wilson reads the Daily Mail. (*interruption*) He has been a convert to fortnightly black bin collection. (*interruption*)

Now, what else? Yes, one size does not fit all, another point that was put forward by Councillor Illingworth.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: My ward has had fortnightly black bins in the past.

COUNCILLOR: We have still got it.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Stop doing a Bernard Atha impression. (*laughter*) One size does not fit all is absolutely correct and one of the reasons why the communities of Rothwell ward and initially Kippax and Methley were chosen is because they have such a good range of household types within them. They have got terraced housing, you have got Council housing, you have got flats – you have got everything. It was chosen specifically because they wanted to see how well it works. Actually, what works is that food waste applies to more households proportionately in the city than it does for green collection and for brown bin collection. Everybody can participate in food waste.

If we are really interested in getting everybody working individually, Ann, as individuals, in the recycling process, food waste is the most accessible way we can do it in the city.

Please, do consider supporting the motion. We have a lot of people out there who have real ambition to the best recyclers not just the best recyclers in the city, as we have in Rothwell, but the best recyclers in the North of England and we could do that. Please support the motion. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I am now calling for a vote on the first amendment in the name of Councillor Dobson. (*A vote was taken*)

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Touch and go.

THE LORD MAYOR: I thought that. I think probably that was CARRIED.

We now go to the second amendment in the name of Councillor Anderson. (*A vote was taken*) LOST

I am now going to the third amendment in the name of Councillor Ann Blackburn. (*A vote was taken*) That is LOST.

We are now voting on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Dobson. (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

Therefore, the motion stands in Councillor Dobson's name.

ITEM 9 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – COMMUNITY POLICING

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move on to Item 9 and Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: My Lord Mayor, Members of Council, unlike many major cities across England, Leeds did not witness the disgraceful rioting and looting on a large scale that took place last month. Yes, there were a number of violent incidents, mainly focused on Chapeltown, between Monday 8th and the early hours of Wednesday 10th August, with a small number of sporadic incidents after this time.

However, throughout this time tensions within the community and between different sections of the community were undeniably running high. The murder of 34

year old Gavin Clarke in Savile Place, Chapeltown, at 6.40pm on 8th August was the starting point, sadly. Gavin died in hospital on 12th August, four days after he was shot. To the best of my knowledge, seven people have been arrested and charged in connection with the shooting.

New incidents appeared to begin around 11.00pm and were mostly over by about 1.00am and involved damage to vehicles, with several being set on fire. Crimes included numerous windows broken in a mosque and the Islamic Centre on Mexborough place and an attack on the Caribbean Centre on Ruby Road. Chapeltown Carnival was thrown into doubt as a result of fire destroying many costumes.

A further 15 people were arrested for disorder-related issues in Leeds. The unrest also came at a financial cost with West Yorkshire police estimating the total bill at around £280,000, which includes sending officers to cope with the unrest in Manchester for which we will be reimbursed.

Of course, the unrest in Manchester, not to mention London, Birmingham and Gloucester and others, was on a much larger and more violent scale than we saw in Leeds. There will no doubt be much debate about why this was, but it is certain that the community of Chapeltown itself was instrumental in helping to contain the unrest.

Many residents were very vocal in their opposition to the unrest, organising a peace demonstration on the evening of August 9th. They were also very supportive of the police as they provided a reassuring presence on the streets.

Many of our own staff also deserve credit. I particularly want to mention Streetscene services, who went above and beyond to ensure that the area was immediately kept clean and orderly; to the Youth Service workers who provided additional support and activities for the area's young people and our elected Members. These efforts undoubtedly played a key role in keeping the area peaceful. Unlike elsewhere, everyone in authority was in the country and on duty.

The police were, of course, pivotal in maintaining order and deserve a tremendous amount of credit for the way they handled the situation at all levels. Divisional Commander Richard Jackson and his police teams not only worked hand in hand with the community to provide reassurance, they also fully engaged in a democratic process from the outset and recognised the importance of co-ordinating the efforts of many partnership organisations was critical.

Senior police officers on Gold Command held regular briefings for Councillors and community leaders, providing daily updates on the situation. In this context I would like Councillor to particularly thank Neil Evans, who carried out his role within Gold Command in an exemplary manner. Local Councillors Dowson, Rafique and Taylor, Area Chair Councillor Ghulam Hussain, Harehill Councillors Maqsood and Hussain and the Area Locality Team all did their job well and their community proud. Our Police Authority Members, while we are still allowed to have them, Councillors Lowe, Iqbal and Les Carter, all worked tremendously with us.

The briefings I have referred to were not only extremely invaluable in keeping Members informed; they also ensured that all services were pulling in the same direction and working with the community to maintain order. There was a clear sense of leadership, including the Leader of Council chairing all-party meetings. There is no doubt that the strong relationships that already exist in Leeds between

the police, the Council and other partners on the Safer Leeds Executive helped us to respond swiftly and positively to the unrest.

Safer Leeds is now a mature partnership that functions extremely well and provides excellent strategic leadership on community safety for the city. These relationships provide a solid foundation upon which we were able to build our response to the unrest and I am very proud of the work we do on the partnership.

There is a real risk that these positive relationships, many of which have been built up over many years, will be massively undermined by the Government's plan to introduce Police Commissioners. (*hear, hear*)

As we saw during the recent unrest, there is already democratic engagement with the police in Leeds. We also have the democratic Police Authority. The system is functioning well in Leeds – clear accountable leadership fulfilling its duty of keeping the public safe. We have no need for a Commissioner, and nor would we welcome one. There is no guarantee that a newly elected Commissioner would have coped with the recent unrest. It is not at all implausible that we could end up with someone from outside the area with no local knowledge or experience of working with community issues.

The process by which the Commissioners will be elected leaves a huge amount to be desired. This unnecessary and ill-thought out election will cost the taxpayers in the region of £100m. To make matters worse, these elections have now been delayed until November to appease the Lib Dem side of the Coalition. Not only will this increase the cost by a further £25m, it also means the election at a time of year when turnout is bound to be low could have some quite, quite desperate results. We do not want these elections to be hijacked.

Finally, Lord Mayor, I want to address the real concerns that we have around the police cuts. The Government's plan to slash police budgets by 20% will leave forces like West Yorkshire with insufficient resources to protect the public. No matter what the Government says and despite the assertion of Councillor Carter in his amendment, it is not credible to suggest that this cut will have no impact on front line policing. Independent reports suggest we are set to lose as many as 16,000 officers from our streets over the next four years. That is as many as were deployed on the streets of London at the height of the riots.

West Yorkshire will not be immune. Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison has given his assurance that neighbourhood and community policing will be protected and that is very welcome, but the cuts have to fall somewhere and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary estimate that we could be set to lose as many as 750 officers over the next four years. That is around 13% fewer uniformed officers on our streets and is a major concern to everyone in this Chamber.

Councillor Downes is right to point out in his amendment that reoffending rates remain far too high and we have to look at what can be done to address that. I will listen carefully to his suggestions when he speaks. However, we cannot ignore the impact of the cuts, even though nationally you are party to the Coalition I think you should be brave enough to stand up here and say these cuts are unacceptable.

We want the Government to abandon their expensive, divisive and disruptive plans for elected Police Commissioners. The money this saves should be reinvested in front line policing and the Government should make every effort to ensure that community policing is maintained.

Lord Mayor, Members of Council, in summary I ask Council to note the events in the city, pay tribute to those who handled the response, agree that further leadership work with and within the communities is vital, and continue to oppose the Tory proposals for the elected Commissioner and the Coalition cuts in the police force which are not tolerable. I move the White Paper. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor, and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In moving my amendment first of all I would like to say that when I saw the Labour White Paper, the first three paragraphs I can agree with and what Councillor Gruen said to them I think was right. We were fortunate in Leeds that we did not suffer the scenes that we saw around the country and I pay tribute to Council officers, the police and the Councillors and the community groups that all had a hand in helping to prevent that and I think it perhaps goes a little bit further than some of the people that Councillor Gruen mentioned because there are Members of other parties that also were involved as well on the ground at that time. I will agree quite happily with those first few comments.

Where I think we are coming from, though, with this White Paper, is that you said about the fact that you wanted to hear about the alternative methods of dealing with these people, because 75% of the people that committed the riots and were arrested and convicted were reoffenders. I think that speaks volumes for the fact that our judicial system, or our penal system, is not working. These riots were not necessarily anti-Government, these riots were more organised crime and it is my belief that certain types of criminals, convicted people, when you send them to prison, all you do is you educate better criminals. They come out, they have got no place back in society and so they reoffend and I think that can be demonstrated by the people who caused this trouble.

What my amendment is about is about restorative justice, which is a conflict resolution technique that brings the victim and offender together to talk about the effects of the crime and to find a way for the offender to make amends.

It is a voluntary approach whereby an offender accepts responsibility for having caused harm and agrees to participate in peer Panel, in some cases, as an alternative to penal justice. It is proven to be effective in administering youth justice for crimes such as theft, criminal damage, assault and antisocial behaviour. Community Justice Panels were introduced in Sheffield in June 2009 with the objectives of reducing reoffending and involvement in antisocial behaviour, improving victim satisfaction and community engagement, making communities safer, increasing volunteering, reducing police administration time.

Norfolk County Council has adopted a five year strategy to develop Norfolk as a restorative county by 2015. Norfolk Constabulary has trained 605 police officers and PCSOs to use restorative justice as well as 65 staff from partner agencies who are able to provide support to police and communities. Data from Norfolk Youth Offending Team shows that the use of restorative approaches have contributed to a big drop in the number of looked-after children being charged, from 7.2% in 2009 to 3.4% in 2011, a reduction of 52% over a three year period.

NACRO, a charity dedicated to reducing crime in England and Wales, has also been involved in extensive work with young offenders. In 2009 NACRO won the National Justice Award for their Restorative Justice Centre in Preston, Lancashire.

If I move on to the bit where Councillor Gruen talks of the 20% cut in budget, I think we also need to be mindful of what the previous Government did. They wasted billions of pounds on unnecessary and expensive ID cards. Under Labour, more time was spent on paperwork than patrol. Just 14% of all office time was spent on patrol in 2009, compared with 22% on paperwork, and time spent on paperwork crept up by about 22% in 2007/8 alone.

Also, Labour kept police numbers artificially high, using officers for administrative jobs. According to Peter Fahy, the Manchester Police Constable, Labour had a political obsession with the numbers of police and those numbers were kept artificially high, with large numbers of officers being kept in back office roles. Under Labour one third of police spending was wasted. Jan Berry, former head of the Police Federation and the author of the Government's independent report on police bureaucracy said that "I would estimate one third of the effort is either over engineered, duplicated or adds no additional value."

Labour admit that they could not guarantee police numbers with Alan Johnson, the then Home Secretary, replying "No" when asked to guarantee that numbers would not fall again in April 2010. Finally, Ed Balls admitted that under his plans you will lose some non-uniformed back-office staff.

When the Government presented these cuts of 20% to the police, they were confident and said that they could deliver a budget with those cuts that would not affect front line police...

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: They never said that.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: That was actually on Prime Minister's Question Time at lunchtime.

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: So what? Lots of things are. George Osborne is on Prime Minister's Question Time.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Anyway, it is my contention that the police said that they can live with it and this was echoed by Sir Norman Bettison when he came to Leeds and he addressed us.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: He did not say that. You are misleading the Council.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Sir Norman Bettison said in the meeting to me that front line policing will not be cut. I was there and he said that. (*interruption*) I do not know what you were listening to – you probably listened to what you wanted to listen to but he said...

COUNCILLOR ATHA: I did, I listened to him. That is what I wanted to listen to.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: He said under that, "We are here for good" – with a double meaning on "good" – he said, "We are here for good and we will continue to

maintain our neighbourhood policing team and we will not be cutting front line police services. We can afford that within the budget."

COUNCILLOR ATHA: Why don't you tell the whole truth?

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Therefore, I move my amendment. (*Applause*)

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I'd stick to buses, Rik, if I were you.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I was at the meeting. Nobody said that.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Hamilton, please.

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to second the amendment in Councillor Downes's name.

First of all, like Councillor Downes, I actually agree with the first three paragraphs of the White Paper in Councillor Gruen's name. I think it is to this city's great credit that the amount of disruption was extremely minimal over the period of those riots, whereas all the other major conurbations suffered far greater violence and disruption and I think that says a lot about the people of Leeds, it says a lot about the way that our police work, our youth workers, indeed, the whole community in the way that we were able to avoid the scenes that we saw on our television screens elsewhere in the country. I think that point needs to be made and is well made by Councillor Gruen's White Paper.

Lord Mayor, I think it is typical of Councillor Gruen that he spoils what would otherwise have been a very good motion that we could all have got round and supported by inserting just a bit of politics at the end. He does it every time. There have been a number of White Papers in this Chamber that Councillor Gruen has presented and he cannot resist that little bit of a knife – yes, Peter, you know very well that that is what you do.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: What are you referring to?

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: I am referring to the last paragraph, because without the last paragraph there is nothing there that anyone in this Chamber, I suggest, would object to.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Writing to the Home Secretary?

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: As usual, you have to introduce the politics.

Lord Mayor, around the country there are Council Chambers just like this that have had White Paper motions along the same lines but the White Paper motions have been constructed to get all-party agreement, and that is what has happened. It is a real pity that one of our major cities, the Leader – I was going to say the Leader of the Group, Councillor Gruen, a Freudian slip there...

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Has there been an election? Have I missed something?

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: ...Councillor Gruen seeks to divide us on this particular issue when cities up and down the country have managed to come to a consensus. I think that is a real pity.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Downes ran through a few of the myths surrounding this so-called 20% reduction. Of course, it is 20% over four years, it is not 20% in the first year, so it is 5% a year, effectively, and the important point is that we have heard chapter and verse from police officers saying this will not affect front line services. I was not at this meeting that Councillor Downes refers to but I have heard from a number of people who said that there were three and four Labour Councillors – Rachel Reeves, rent-a-group Rachel Reeves was there – and she was saying, “Will this mean front line cuts?” Every time Sir Norman Bettison said, “No, it will not.” You ask the question four times and he says “No” four times, I think that is fairly clear what the position is.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: Twenty per cent cuts.

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: I think it is very clear what the position is from Sir Norman Bettison, so, Lord Mayor, you get this mumbling and grumbling from the Opposition on this particular issue in the face of what are actually the facts.

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: You are the Opposition.

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: The facts are that the police are clear this will not affect front line services. Indeed, Lord Mayor, if you look at some of the, I think, even more worrying rhetoric that we have seen in the newspapers, I think Yvette Cooper was equating the police cuts directly with the rioting, which I thought was an appalling thing for her to do, I really do, and I think that is something that she should withdraw. On the night of the riots Ken Livingstone was on BBC News doing exactly the same thing – again, an absolute disgrace.

I think we need to step back. We need to step back from the politics and actually say what is it that we want to say as a city about this issue? I think we want to say it is wonderful that we were not drawn into this riotous behaviour. I think we need to say that it is wonderful that the police, youth workers, the whole community worked together to ensure that what little disturbance there was was damped down and dealt with and if we can say that as a Council, Lord Mayor, then I think we are doing our city a great service.

I would urge Councillor Gruen to reflect on that and to withdraw that part of his White Paper. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Les Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. My Lord Mayor, my amendment was designed to try and be apolitical and it was designed that way purposely, because originally Councillor Gruen had been to officers and said, “Can we have an amendment which we can all agree on.” Then he just vanished, he decided not to do it. I do not know why, I do not know what happened.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Your Whip.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: No, I do not think our Whip had anything to do with it.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I wanted all-party – you know I wanted all-party.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Anyway, let us just move on to the amendment – I only have a certain amount of time.

What I am trying to do with this amendment is remove some of the errors and omissions which Councillor Gruen has got in the Paper. First of all, there is no argument in the part which refers to community leaders, PCSOs, police officers, youth workers, street cleansing and the strength of the partnership approach to Safer Leeds, which I chaired for a long time.

However, Councillor Gruen, in my opinion, has missed one vital part. He did say it in his speech but he did not put it in his motion, and that is to thank the local Councillors. Those local Councillors which I heard of – and there will be others as well – were Councillor Rafique, Councillor Dowson, Councillor Taylor, who were in there battling to stop a riot and they were doing a marvellous job according to the police, according to all the information I got they were doing a marvellous job. There will have been others – I understand you, Lord Mayor, were involved and other people have been involved. I just want to pay tribute, I think this Council should put it on record their thanks to those people. (*hear, hear*) (*Applause*)

The work of the Divisional Commander, Richard Jackson, and the Silver Commander, who was actually Mark Milton, was absolutely outstanding – no argument about that and I agree with you.

As the Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, I was briefed and updated by both the Gold and Silver Commanders. I know the detail and meticulous planning they conducted. It should be remembered that at the time of the highest tension, they allowed the Leeds United football match to go ahead as a sign that this city was not going to close down and that, Lord Mayor, did not happen across the country.

Whilst such briefings, Lord Mayor, that they gave me are confidential, one part was very important to the police. They wanted assurances that when and if they took various actions, they could count on being supported. My Lord Mayor, I have to tell Council that I gave them my total support and I hope all Members of this Council would have done the same.

The amendment does, in my opinion, but the White Paper does not strongly condemn the actions of the criminal minority who rioted on the streets of our country. We must all say quite clearly that their behaviour was unacceptable and there can be no excuses for such behaviour – no excuses whatsoever.

As I say, I have been through the original intention to try and get an all-party. It is a shame that Councillor Gruen could not do this because I feel the importance of having an all-party motion on this is that we could send a message out to the people who were doing the rioting.

Let me just talk about the budget figure for a second. There is a mystical figure of 20% cut in police budgets. Peter, you are wrong and I will tell you why you are wrong. To be quite honest I am not surprised people are wrong because you need to be a brain surgeon and a part-time astronaut to understand how you work it all out, but the reality is in cash terms the budget has been reduced by 8.6%. That is the cash reduction in the budget, 8.6%. However, you have got to take into account real term and that includes inflation and that takes it to 15.8%. That is the reduction over that period of time. It is not 20, it is less than that.

What people do not realise is on a simple and easy way of working it, 80% of our funding is grant, 20% is from the precept. The cuts are in respect of the grant, not the precept.

My Lord Mayor, any suggestions that riots were due to budget cuts or that future cuts would have an effect on the police's ability to maintain order is wrong and misrepresents the argument. Indeed, doing this only gives succour and comfort to rioters and I think we must resist doing such things. As has been said, the riots were overwhelmingly perpetrated by people with a criminal history. More than 75% of those had convicted criminal records; 83% of those arrested had previous contact with the police. Any suggestion that this was average UK citizens motivated to take to the streets because of cuts is clearly false and should not be entertained in any way.

As you heard, West Yorkshire Police are committed to ensuring neighbourhood policing. Let me give you some of the facts and Neil will understand this. There are 5,600 warranted officers but anyone who thinks those warranted officers are on the streets of West Yorkshire is wrong. It was something like the order of 3,200 of the warranted officers who are on the streets, not 5,600 who are the actual warranted officers. You have got to be careful how you play with these particular numbers.

There was a resistance by the last Government and there is resistance by me to say we will have police numbers reduced, so I am not claiming it is the last, Government, I did the same thing. Sir Norman, the Chief Constable, said neighbourhood policing is going to remain, it is going to remain here. In spite of what has happened this year we will have 2,000 staff working directly with local communities. Neighbourhood policing is the front line of policing. It is something which our people see, that is why I pushed so hard for PCSOs in the past and that is what people appreciate, require and feel safe with.

There are savings to be made and not all savings can be back office or reorganisation and reviewing structures, but Alison is aware of the work that has gone on in restructuring. An enormous amount of work has come forward to us at the Police Authority about restructuring various departments to save funding. All those are important and will help as far as the cash reductions and we want to try and put them on to back office functions, the cuts, not front line policing.

Councillor Gruen called for community policing to be prioritised. I am delighted he has because in that way he is supporting both the Police Authority and he is supporting the police force because that, in my opinion, is absolutely vital.

Let me go on to Police Commissioners. I do not think anybody in this Chamber cannot understand my view as far as Police Commissioners are concerned. I have said it here, I have said it at the Police Authority. I do not support a single elected person over an area of two point something million people deciding everything and having the power that individual has. However, I think we have got to be careful on what we are saying now because there is no getting round the fact - and I have seen what has happened in the House of Lords this week – that it will be approved. That does not mean to say it is right but it will be approved. What we should be saying is, OK, we can say "Forget it, don't do it, we think it's wrong" and I am quite happy to do that. If I thought it would work I would be quite happy to stand up. What would be more meaningful – this is what I am trying to put in my amendment – is the election, the Government have put £50m on one side for the

elections of Commissioners. The stand-alone elections are going to double that. It is going to be £100m.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Plus

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: It could be plus as well. What I am trying to say is this is to ask the Chief Exec to write to the Home Office to tell them under no circumstances – no circumstances – should the police pick up that bill, the Police Authority or the police force pick up that bill. It is the Government that introduced it, the Government should pay for it and that is what I am asking you to do here. I am asking the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary to demand that the election funding is made by Government and not our cash-strapped police force.

In finishing, Lord Mayor, I am sorry that we could not get a united front on this, and I will tell you why. There are other areas – other areas – which would affect Yorkshire as far as savings and funding is concerned which we should all be united and lobbying against. I cannot do it now, it would take me too long, but there are other areas which are vitally important and I am quite happy to sit down with the Executive Board Member or any Member of this Council and go through those, because they are vital.

I will give you one example. There are floors and ceilings on our grants. We lost £10m – it is not just now, it is for God knows how many - £10m every year on that. That £10m is going away from policing in West Yorkshire. There are other areas as well. It is the rate of this cut. 80% of that cut is going to be made in the first two years and that is wrong.

The final point the I make on that is, you have got to remember that we are not, because we have saved a lot of money for our ratepayers and we have 80% grant towards the payment of our policing, that 80% is based on needs. That 80% is based on need and that need is there right and proper but the cuts apply to the total figure.

My Lord Mayor, the light is going to come on. I just hope that Peter can get up and accept this amendment. It is not miles behind. The Liberals have brought another amendment in which, quite honestly, deserves a separate debate and a separate White Paper to be quite honest, it does deserve it. They have probably tried to mix too much up in this particular paper but, my Lord Mayor, I just hope Members of Council can accept it has been put in the proper way and will vote for it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Fox, please.

COUNCILLOR FOX: Thank you, Lord Mayor. When I first saw this White Paper motion my first reaction was, what a shame that two separate motions had been put together, as they have. The bulk of the White Paper no-one can possibly argue about. We did not have the riots and we have heard the reasons why and the great efforts that were made to avoid them, but to then tie in that with the issue of Police Commissioners and police cuts I thought was a great shame. They could have been two separate motions, we could have had two separate debates and we might have had two agreed situations as between the parties, but it was not so.

I just want to spend a couple of minutes referring to the Police Commissioners, or rather the police cuts that are talked about in the White Paper. I have to say, I am not aware of any political party in this country or indeed anywhere

in the world, for that matter, which has a policy of saying that one means of reducing crime is to cut police resources. I do not think any political party believes that. What we have is a situation of chaos left by the previous Labour Government. We can be indebted to Alistair Darling, who has spilled the beans. He talked about his 2009 budget being unwritten 48 hours before he was due to deliver the budget because, and he singled out Brown's allies, Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper, who resisted spending cuts whilst at the same time Brown refused to increase VAT. That was a year before his final budget in 2010. In 2010 Alistair Darling tells us:

“You need to be united at the top but you also need a credible economic policy. If you do not have a credible economic policy you are simply not at the races and our problem was, it was so blindingly obvious to the outside world that the two of us, Gordon and myself, were at odds, that it really hampered us when it came to the election in 2010.”

He goes on to say that he was forced to present a budget, and I quote:

“...that simply lacked credibility”

and it is from the years 2008/09/10 that the situation has arisen whereby cuts have to be made, whether we like it not, and I think we should recognise that, Lord Mayor. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: It has now reached seven o'clock and according to our procedures we now wind up this matter. In doing so I will be calling for a vote. I am calling for Peter to sum up.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Thank you very much, Lord Mayor, and I am very sorry for those people who have not had the chance to speak in what is a really important debate.

I want to begin by just clarifying, because it is the second Council meeting now where people are squabbling – he said, she said, we did this and you did not do that. I think all of this started with Matthew putting in a draft White Paper some considerable time ago. We then drafted a White Paper and send it round the Groups to say, “Would you agree?” I think the Greens indicated agreement, I do not think we heard back from one other Group, who are talking at the moment, and both the Lib Dems and Tories indicated that they would not support that White paper.

COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS: No. (*interruption*)

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: That is what we were told.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: As early as August I came to you suggesting an all-party paper.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Come on – time and time again.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: Order. Order.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we let Councillor Gruen sum up, please.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Thank you. Unlike other people I am not a Chief Whip, I do not interfere, I do what I am told.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: For goodness sake!

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Unlike you, Councillor Procter. I know what I am told.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: What rubbish.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I know what I am told and we would have wanted a White Paper which is all-party and we did not get it. Whatever reasons you guys decided not to.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: That was rubbish.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: That is not true.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: That is what I am told.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Shame on you all.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Let me come to the actual contributions. When Councillor Hamilton said the last paragraph is difficult for him, can you actually read it? The last paragraph says:

“Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary and all Leeds MPs in order to highlight the importance of prioritising community policing, particularly at a time of budget reductions.”

What the hell is wrong with that? What is wrong with that?

COUNCILLOR M HAMILTON: Page 16.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: What is wrong with that? I think the last paragraph to me is blindingly obvious that we should do something rather than just talk about it.

Councillor Downes, I did promise you that I would listen carefully. You had the door ajar but you blew it. I am afraid your speech was not up to scratch (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: This is the man who said he wants an all-party agreement. It is a joke.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Patronising.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: The 75%, we do not know where you got that figure from, whether it is a London based figure, a national figure, we do not think it is the figure. However, the restorative justice bit is absolutely a key issue and we acknowledge that and we will work on that.

I am very grateful for the contribution from Les Carter. His amendment is not a million miles away. It is a proper amendment and we agree with some parts, unlike you with our motion, but disagree with other parts. We think our White Paper is nearer the mark. However, some of the points you made very tellingly in the debate are absolutely important and I think as we do through Safer Leeds, my colleagues and I are extremely happy to pursue those discussions further.

As I said in my speech I have, I think, paid tribute to everybody connected and working with us and I included Les as well as the other Councillors who were mentioned.

I have to say, if I am wrong on the budget numbers...

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: You are, Peter.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN:then I am in very good company...

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: I know you are.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: ...because the Vice Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, Simon Reed, says:

"The scale of the cuts will result in police forces struggling to cope as they try to deal with increasing demands and diminishing resources. It is extremely unrealistic and naïve of the Government to think that the quality of policing will not be affected by a 20% cut."

Ian Pointon, the Chairman of the Kent Police Federation:

"Government reassurances that police cuts will not be felt are at best poorly judged spin."

Closer to home, South Yorkshire Police Constable Med Hughes says that:

"Crime would increase because of cuts to police and Council services combined with the impact from a likely rise in unemployment."

Not what I said, this is the Chief Constable Constable of South Yorkshire. Let us hear what the Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, thinks:

"If you ask me whether I think there is a case for cutting police budgets in the right of these events, then my answer to that would be no. I think their case was always pretty frail and it has been substantially weakened. This is not a time to think about making substantial cuts in police numbers."

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Peter, I will give you those figures afterwards.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Can we, perhaps, go even nearer to home and see what Councillor Golton has said. Councillor Golton, wise man that he is, talking about Commissioners:

"I welcome any measures to strengthen local democracy and accountability but this overhaul comes at the wrong time. I would urge the Government to reconsider their proposals. We all want to focus on police keeping us safe. My other major concern is potential cost of the programme of change."

Does not agree with it. Former Police Authority, Brenda Lancaster – do you remember Brenda?

"West Yorkshire Police Authority plays a valuable role in putting forward public concerns as well as agreeing to budget and policing priorities. By having a team of people, Councillor, magistrates, independent member, avoids the trap of allowing just one person to set priorities for policing and it is hard to cost."

I could go on with other quotes, but let me say also, we have not said that the budget cuts led to rioting. Les is absolutely right, that is not the case. What we are saying is the budget cuts will prevent the police from dealing with policing across the whole spectrum as effectively as they have done up to now and that is bound to be right.

I was at a meeting with Sir Norman in Chapeltown and he had the slogan "Here for good" and that was about the neighbourhood teams and he said they were here for good, but he was questioned about the cuts by a number of people and his view was that he would do his very best over the four years but he could not say that it would not be affected.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: That is not what he said at all. What have you been listening to?

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Colleagues of mine, Councillor Lowe and Councillor Gerry Harper, went to another meeting and they said the same thing. He said, "I cannot say" – this is Sir Norman – "that it will not. It is bound to have some effect."

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Of course it is.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: We all say, you Les, say, quite pejoratively, it is only back office – and what a horrible word that is.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: No, I did not.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Listen, Peter.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: We think it is actually front line as well.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Alison will tell you why you were not listening.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: You need to switch your hearing aid on, Peter.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: At the same time that all this is happening...

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: You must listen, Peter.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: ...in-year cuts last year by the Coalition Government in terms of Communities Fund, crime reduction, drugs, antisocial behaviour, cut by £1m last year. Respect, Youth Taskforce, antisocial behaviour initiatives cut by 230 to 55k(*sic*). Reward Grant – this is funding PCSOs - cut again by 192k, including CCTV. Preventing extremism, was 288k, is now 84k. The total reductions in-year are more than £2m in community safety, policing cuts by the Coalition Government in-year last year. Do not tell me those cuts make no difference to the way the police can police and what we can do. They make a difference and therefore we are absolutely right to defend the police, the role and the work that they do and actually,

Clive, it is no good going back to Alistair Darling. He is history, the last Labour Government is history, just like your administration here is history. We are now dealing with today and the way forward.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: You carry on and you will be history.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Therefore I am afraid I am not prepared to accept either amendment and I commend the original motion to Council. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I am now moving on to call for a vote on the amendment. I am led to believe that when it comes to the first amendment in the name of Councillor Downes, that there is a possibility that this could be withdrawn.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Yes, Lord Mayor, in the interests of seeking all-party consensus, despite what Councillor Gruen has just said and Les said about the fact that my amendment should really be a second White Paper, as it were, in the interests of trying to move together as a whole Council and trying to get us to work together, as Councillor Lobley said, I seek leave of Council under Procedure Rule 14.11 to withdraw my amendment.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Does that have the agreement of the seconder of the amendment?

COUNCILLOR MA HAMILTON: Yes, I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I now have to put that to the whole of Council. Does Council agree to the withdrawal of the first amendment in the name of Councillor Downes? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

I now move to the second amendment in the name of Councillor Les Carter. (*A vote was taken*) That is LOST.

I now move to the motion in the name of Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Lord Mayor, I move a recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: Seconded.

(*A recorded vote was held on the substantive motion*)

THE LORD MAYOR: There are present and voting 68 Members. 55 have voted in favour, 13 have voted against and there are no abstentions. Therefore, the motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.1(d) – YORKSHIRE HEART CENTRE

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we now move on to Item 10, which is a White Paper not for debate, and can I call upon Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move the motion in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb, please.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you. I am proud to second this and show the Government that there is not a fag paper between any of us on this issue.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 11 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.1(d) – FIRE
SAFETY (PROTECTION OF TENANTS) BILL 2010-11

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we move on to White Paper 11 in the name of Andrea McKenna.

COUNCILLOR A MCKENNA: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harrand?

COUNCILLOR HARRAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: (*A vote was taken*) That is also CARRIED. Thank you.

Can I remind people that tomorrow the Banquet Hall is being used for afternoon tea and the Lord Mayor's raffle. Thank you, everybody, for attending and a safe journey home.

(*The meeting closed at 7.16pm*)