

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 16th September 2015

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR J CHAPMAN)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2015

THE LORD MAYOR: Welcome everybody to this meeting. Just to remind you that this is all webcast and can I ask that people turn their mobile phones off. I will add to that that if somebody has an emergency and they are expecting some emergency call, that would be the exception and please keep your phone on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: I have two or three announcements. The first one is to congratulate Leeds Rhinos on winning the Challenge Cup. (*Applause*) I was there to see it: it was a bit one-sided. Congratulations to Yorkshire Cricket Men's team on retaining the County Championship. (*Applause*) Also, the Ladies have been crowned the County Champions on Sunday. (*Applause*)

We are working at the moment on some sort of reception for all three teams, so we have written today to Yorkshire County Cricket Men's and Ladies' and we will get a suitable date, and then the Leeds Rhinos is a little more of a problem because I think they have only got one day when it can be done, so we are just waiting to see how that pans out.

Lastly, just so you are aware, Brian Close passed away this week and he was a former Captain of Yorkshire Cricket. I do actually remember him, but I suppose some of you are a little old hat for that. Anyway, sorry to hear that, although he was a controversial captain, I am told.

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 8th JULY 2015

THE LORD MAYOR: Minutes of the meeting. Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I move the Minutes be approved, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) Motion CARRIED.

ITEM 2 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Declaration of Interest. Have we any further declarations of interest to be announced? No, thank you.

ITEM 3 – COMMUNICATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: On to Item 3, the Chief Executive has a letter or a statement that he wishes to give.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Members will be aware, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is scheduled to undertake an electoral review of ward boundaries in Leeds starting in 2016. This review is likely to amend current ward boundaries which will be used for local elections from 2018.

The Leader and I met with senior representatives of the Boundary Commission last week at which we were requested to respond within the next two weeks on the key issue of elections by thirds or a move to all-out elections. A briefing note was sent to all Members of Council yesterday and a meeting of the Elections Working Group will be convened as soon as possible so all political parties can discuss the Council's intended response.

The Boundary Commission has arranged to provide a face-to-face briefing to all Members of full Council at 12.45 on 25th November 2015 when more information will be provided on the review.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blake, I believe you wish to make an announcement about the refugee crisis.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Members of Council will be acutely aware of the humanitarian crisis that has been unfolding over recent months as a result of particularly the conflict in Syria. The significance of the issue has been there for all of us to see in recent weeks (*disturbance in public gallery*) with many refugees tragically losing their lives as they seek to find refuge and a new home for themselves and their families.

I am particularly pleased and proud that Leeds, an established City of Sanctuary, has already played its part in supporting the refugee crisis by being one of the key Authorities that last year agreed to take Syrian refugees as part of the Government's previous plans. It is, however, clear to me and I know also to many Members in this Chamber, that Leeds can do more, and more we will do.

We have already set up a Task Force headed by our Assistant Chief Executive and Members of Executive Board will next week receive a report recommending that Leeds commits to taking an additional 200 Syrian refugees over the next two years.

Leeds has a long and proud history of welcoming people from many different countries and we would not be the city we are today without our rich and diverse communities from all over the world.

I would also like to pay tribute to all of the organisations and individuals in the city who support refugees and asylum seekers. They do a fantastic job and are a great asset to the city. I hope all Members can support the action we are taking and ensure Leeds lives up to its aim of being a compassionate city, acknowledging that we have a very clear and moral responsibility to help respond to this developing crisis. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Standing ovation*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Blake.

ITEM 4 – DEPUTATIONS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. To report there are three Deputations: the Radha Raman Society regarding the Radha Raman Festival; the Meanwood Valley Partnership regarding the Highbury Cricket Club site; and young people regarding the National Citizen Service.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Charlwood.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

DEPUTATION ONE – RADHA RAMAN SOCIETY REGARDING THE RADHA RAMAN FESTIVAL

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

MR A KAYSHER: Good afternoon, my Lord Mayor and respected Councillors. I am Ahmed Kaysher, the Managing Board Member of the Radha Raman Society and I have a Vice-Chairman of Radha Raman Society, Rahman Mujib, with me today.

On behalf of Radha Raman Society, we actually approached to some of the Councillors in relation to Radha Raman Festival, a festival of Bengali secular folk music and folk dance. We are happy for the positive responses and support we received from Councillors, media and audiences – some of the Councillors actually passionately helped us. I have to name some Councillors, Councillor Jane Dowson, Councillor Asghar Khan, Councillor Roger Harington and Councillor Ron Grahame.

We are proudly letting you know that this year Radha Raman Festival is celebrating fifth and half decade of the Festival. The Festival is going to happen in Harehills, attracting socially excluded people like Asian women into dance and music. Last year we did a successful two day festival in Harehills which drew the attention of mainstream media like Guardian, and Evening Post covered the festival as one of the top five cultural events of the month in the city. This is now shaping into a true colourful festival in Harehills with significant audience from diverse background and from the remote part of the city as well as other neighbouring towns - Bradford, Rochdale, Manchester and even Birmingham and London.

This is not just a cultural festival we are intending to do. We have a serious political and social message for the local community against religious radicalisation. We probably therefore faced stark labelling when we started about five years ago. We faced negative propaganda, bias, superstition that being involved in music and dance and this sort of festival is bad, is unacceptable in religion, but we were the firm believer of the power of culture. Once any woman just somehow managed to join

first, they automatically became the part of these happy moments; wiping all negative propaganda out from mind, they spontaneously participate in dance and music.

We knew these women and youngsters have a long heritage of rich progressive culture; dance, music or poetry stirs in their blood in spite of having all these impositions. Among all these odd and adverse situations we managed to attract significant local groups (mainly Asian youngsters and women) into festival, who are the ambassadors against continually developing radicalisation in the community; who speaks for the beauty of cultural cohesion; who offer their flexibility to amalgamate their folk dances with Irish and Ukrainian dance, for example, on the stage and they are performing all across the city with Irish and Ukrainian collaborations. Audiences, distinguished guests sang with the praises; I can also quote from a detective senior Police officer who kindly wrote a comment last year that this event gave a very different scenario of Harehills; that seems a new Harehills that has so much positivity and so many multicultural beauty to contribute against growing religious radicalisation among young people.

We want to achieve more and position the positivity we make of Harehills mainly but obviously as Leeds as a whole in media and community perception through this festival. We are craving for more support from all Councillors, every corner of the community now on the eve of our half decade.

I would like to invite you all into the upcoming spectacular showcasing of Bengali folk music and dance by mainly groups of women and young Bengali Diaspora through collaboration with other folk music and dance, like Irish and jazz music as well, happening mainly in Harehills but also in different parts of the city through flash mob style performance.

If it was just a cultural festival, we could ignore and we may not have needed collective support in a way we are asking for. This is about contributing the best of a progressive culture in this multi-cultural ambience; this is about working to combat fanaticism in a vulnerable area with the most powerful and diplomatic way. This is all about positioning an area of the city at the utmost positive way to media and hundreds of visitors coming from all around the country.

Actually this year...

THE LORD MAYOR: May I stop you there, you have actually gone quite a bit of time over the five minutes, but I let you finish according to the paper.

MR A KAYSHER: Thank you very much, yes, finished. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I move that the matter be referred to the Director of City Developments for consideration, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon and thank you once again. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION TWO – MEANWOOD VALLEY PARTNERSHIP REGARDING
THE Highbury Cricket Club Site

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

MR J OXLEY: My Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors, my name is Julian Oxley, this is Jackie Prescott, Gilli Speakman and Andrew Omond. We are a working group of the Meanwood Valley Partnership, representing Weetwood, Far Headingley and Meanwood residents. We are focused on solving the problems at Highbury Cricket Club and the Highbury Works site, which is in disrepair. Trees are crashing through adjoining garden fences, the Meanwood Valley Trail is collapsing into Meanwood Beck and the former cricket pitch and pavilion are in ruin.

We have recently applied to the Charity Commission to set up Highbury Works Community Trust, a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and it is our intention to take ownership of the site, to restore it and to run it for sport and recreational in Meanwood.

We are asking for Council's help with the current landowners, Country and Metropolitan Homes now Avant Homes, who have neglected the land and are in breach of their Section 106 agreement. We note High Royds Residents Association are also experiencing difficulties with this developer under their Ben Bailey Homes brand.

We engaged Avant Homes earlier this year. In February we walked the site with one of their Directors showing him the damage trees are causing to the beck walls. We understood a survey by Eastwood Engineers was carried out and we were told remedial works would start in May.

That did not happen. Notably, a proposal to build more houses on the site was vehemently rejected by the community at about the same time. Avant have told us they are keen to offload their Meanwood liability and would make bare minimum repairs if a community Trust were to make them a cash offer.

We have spoken with local schools, cricket clubs and residents and we believe there is a viable business case for such a Trust. However, a cash offer on top of additional costs to clear the site, restore the beck walls, renovate the pavilion, inspect the dam and regrade the cricket pitch present considerable cost challenges.

There are also issues from incomplete obligations and breached covenants in the Highbury Works Section 106 agreement which we believe run with the land and would be contractually binding on the Trust were it to take title.

We have shared with Planning Services legal advice from our solicitors that addresses these issues and the limitations of the agreement. Their argument is that because no deadline to perform these obligations was specified, the cause of action cannot have accrued, meaning Avant Homes are still bound to the Section 106 covenants, both positive and negative.

Avant Homes are required by the agreement to landscape and dedicate two plots as public open space, to annually inspect and repair as necessary the culvert and mill pond dam and to pay approximately £60,000 to the Local Authority for improvements and maintenance.

There is also the ongoing and effectively permanent obligation to ensure the cricket pitch is only used as such and the landowner should not do, cause or permit anything that prevents this. The fence Avant has erected and the site and their rental of the land for horse grazing are breaches of the covenant which the Local Planning Authority can enforce by injunction. Broomfield St. Chad's junior cricket teams are in need of a playing field.

On the original Highbury Works application the planning officer noted the plans were overdeveloped and permission was only granted in pursuance of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in which it is stated that:

“Planning Permission is subject to the completion of the Section 106 agreement and without which planning permission would not be granted; and that the Developer agrees to be bound by and observe and perform the covenants, agreements, conditions and stipulations.”

Avant has not completed these obligations despite agreeing to them and benefiting from the planning approval they enabled.

We ask the Executive to therefore support our initiative and direct Planning Services to notify Avant Homes they are in breach of the Highbury Works Section 106 agreement; to enforce compliance or to carry out the obligations at Avant's expense; to instruct Avant Homes to remove the infringing trees along the Highbury Works boundary and to make appropriate repairs to the walls of Meanwood Beck. As a responsible partner to the city, we think they would want to do this at their earliest convenience.

We also ask the Local Authority to consider a future Section 106 variation enabling the public open spaces and associated maintenance costs to be passed to Highbury Works Community Trust.

Thank you for hearing our deputation. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I move that the matter be referred to the Director of City Developments for consideration, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon and thank you once again. *(Applause)*

DEPUTATION THREE – YOUNG PEOPLE REGARDING THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

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

MISS P HUGGAN: I am Phoebe Huggan and this is Dean Myers and we are both NCS spring graduates, and this is Nicky Goodison and she is one of our NCS co-ordinators.

The National Citizen Service, more commonly known as NCS, is a once in a lifetime opportunity that helps young people build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and meeting new friends. It is funded from Central Government and is open to all 16 to 17 year olds and its run in the spring, summer and autumn holidays. You have a short time away from home and a social action project to help shape and change your community. Individuals from different backgrounds come together and develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. You work on skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication and you spend 30 hours putting together a project on a local issue the young people feel passionate about.

The adventure started for us when we joined NCS, and when it came to an end we were not really sure what to do as it was such a big part of our lives, so we decided to carry on making a mark in our community.

Since finishing, a lot of us NCS spring graduates have gone on to giving up a lot of our free time to be on the Young People's Panel, and the new NCS staff leaders were picked with our help. This was an amazing opportunity and it gave us so much experience that we could not have got anywhere else.

NCS has been our backbone, it has given us all a break from everything, from worrying about our studies to other things beyond our control and it has really helped us find who we are.

On behalf of all graduates, we must say we could not sum up our NCS experience in a few words, there is way too much to say. NCS is an amazing opportunity which has helped us see so much in this world, help us see the issues that need changing and help us realise that young people really do need a voice. All graduates could say they were not confident when we all met for the first time but by graduation, we could not be a better family. We all stood up for what we believe in during our social action projects, and that made a difference - a difference in our confidence, a difference in the awareness of the issues individuals face and a difference in young people's lives.

We have all had tough times during this project but we have got through it with each other, and we have got this far. We have all had different roles in our social action projects which have been brilliant. We have built on a variety of skills and no doubt we have become better people than we were when we started the NCS programme. It has been very exciting, and definitely worth all of the hard work.

All the graduates agree the residential made a huge impact on all of our lives. We faced fears, we took risks and we made friends. We made friends brushing our teeth, going to the toilet and even plugging our phone chargers in and the friends we have made are definitely friends for life.

NCS makes such a difference. Not once have we looked back on the day we signed up and thought why - we have just looked back and thought wow. We wrote our names down online for something we heard about through school and now we have carved our names into many people's lives - our friends, our leaders, the charities we've worked with and the people who we have helped throughout our social action project.

The dragons on the Dragons Den panel have helped us to believe in ourselves. We went in there confident but scared, the nerves were peeping through, but they made it clear that what we were doing was amazing and that put a smile on all our faces.

Our team leaders have always supported us in everything we do, from everything that is involved in NCS to everything that has affected our journey during NCS. They always make us laugh and they inspire us with the passion they have to work with young people.

Every team's social action projects were successful and we were proud for all the hard work we put in. We have become aware of so many charities we did not even know existed before, but they sure do put in a lot of work to help others.

Looking back on our journey now, it is sad to say it has ended but we know that NCS will always carry on, from all the graduate opportunities we have had so far to when we apply to volunteer next year. We shall not hesitate to recommend this programme to others. We have become a part of a family, one we shall never forget. We will always thank everyone for being a part of our journey. We have become a part of the NCS community, a community which shall always remain close to our hearts.

NCS has happened at exactly the right time in our lives because it has allowed us to talk about and debate what we think and our views, which does not happen in school. Regardless of where we come from or how clever we are, we have been able to work with each other and help one another.

We think that Leeds as a city should have its own kind of NCS and we would ask that all of you 99 Councillors to think about how we can fund our own NCS programme in Leeds. With your help and support you can change more young people's lives just like ours have been.

Some of the adults we have met during our NCS journey have found it really surprising at how interested we are in politics and that we ask the questions that are sometimes hard to answer. We hope one day we can give back to the people who have given us so much and we can be as inspiring as all of you. We want to make a

difference, we want to be known as the individuals who changed people's lives, and together we shall do that. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Director of Children's Services for consideration, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon and thank you once again. *(Applause)*

ITEM 5 – REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5, Report on Appointments. Councillor Charlwood.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

ITEM 6 – REPORT – COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6, Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I am delighted to be moving the Community Committee Annual Report to Council today. It is fair to say that this first year of the new Community Committee structure has been a success. Across the board we have seen bigger numbers of local people getting involved, both at meetings and on social media. I know that in some committees, even in my own Outer East meetings and workshops, there has been standing room only. It clearly demonstrates to me that local communities are embracing the localised way of working.

The Committees have a bigger profile in localities and have become more relevant to the people they are supposed to engage. This has been helped by the Third Sector partners recognising the Committees as a useful forum for them to engage with their target audience and service users. I would like to thank the Chairs of the Committees for their work throughout the year. I know that each and every one of them have

dedicated their time, effort and passion to transforming the dull old report-led meetings into the vibrant community focused ones that we have now.

The Committee Champions also deserve thanks for their commitment to driving the local agenda forward within various departments and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my ward colleague and previous Executive Member for Communities, Councillor Peter Gruen, for his commitment to the new locality based way of working and I am sure he is pleased with the early successes this has brought.

As the Council's budget continues to be squeezed, we need to work in a different way to collaborate with partners and understand what is really important to local people. Community Committees can be the most effective way we have of doing this.

We are not there yet and there are still improvements that need to be made to how the Committees are operating and I am looking forward to working with Members to shape how they work in the future.

There are some key areas around which Committees can lead the way. For example, we have seen in most if not all Committees this year a commitment to engaging more widely young people and ensuring their voices are heard in the decision-making process. This has to be a key agenda for the future and I hope we can support committees to spearhead that drive, going into schools and youth groups to involve young people in creating their own future.

This Council has devolved some powers and budgets to the Community Committees which has boosted their role even further, such as youth activities, locality teams and, more recently, parks and countryside. With devolution being the hot topic at the moment I am looking forward to what will be coming next for Community Committees. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I am pleased to formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ritchie. *(Not present in the Chamber)* Councillor Pryor.

COUNCILLOR PRYOR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to be speaking as the now Community Committee Chair, particularly for the Inner North West which is an area, as a lot of Councillors have said they have all lived in at some point and have always told me about fond if not hazy memories of living in the area.

The Inner North West Community Committee has been able to really engage with the student changeover. For those people who know the area, that presents a real challenge where a lot of the ward moves house at the same time and this creates a lot of problems with rubbish in the area. As a Community Committee we have managed to really get to grips with some of these problems. We have managed to fund something called Leave Leeds Tidy, which works with a lot of the Student Unions, works with recycling and reuse. We have funded a dedicated Noise Nuisance patrol. 91% of antisocial behaviour calls are to do with noise nuisance and it is a particular problem in the Inner North West area and I am delighted that I am hearing from residents that we are having more and more success with getting to grips with that.

We have also managed to fund extra littering patrols which, again, is a problem, particularly in that student changeover period where there is slightly more fly-tipping and as well people are chucking a lot more stuff out of their houses.

Looking to the future we are, as a Community Committee, looking to where we can do more work. We need to work more with residents to see if we can recycle a bit more, we need to look at food waste and food reuse. We also need to look at how students are moving out. Increasingly a lot of students will move as soon as their exams are finished, which means that instead of there just being a one day period where everyone moves, it is now moving to a two to three week period, but it is fantastic that as a Community Committee we can really get to grips with these kind of local issues. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Coupar to sum up.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Lord Mayor, apologies, Lord Mayor, that was one of my constituents. Would I be allowed to comment out of order, please?

THE LORD MAYOR: Yes, I will allow it on this occasion. Yes, of course you can.

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I will make a suitable donation to the Lord Mayor's Fund.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Is that allowed!

THE LORD MAYOR: I tell you what – just make your speech! (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR RITCHIE: I am speaking on the Community Committee Annual Report as Chair of the Inner West Community Committee. In line with our breakthrough project to get more jobs for young people, there has been a major drive across the city to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training, commonly known as NEETS.

We have had great success in Leeds, the number of NEETS has been reduced from a high of 10% in 2007 to around 6.4% in 2014 but we still have work to do as it remains higher than the English average of around 5%.

It is pleasing to report alongside this fall in NEETS there has also been a reduction in the number of not knowns – that is young people we are not sure of what they are doing. Not knowns are down from over 1,000 in 2014 to around 550 in the most recent figures. This is our best ever result and a clear indication that the reduction in NEETS is not as a result of people dropping off the radar.

Our Inner West Community Committee has recognised this issue and has been working to improve things for local young people as one of our priorities. I would like to thank Councillor Jim McKenna for his work as the Inner West Employment and Skills Champion (*hear, hear*) who has led on initiatives in Leeds West and beyond, chairing the West North West Employment and Skills Board.

One such initiative was the development of a pilot, which was essentially a NEET prevention strategy. Working with partners, a Destinations Team was established.

This worked with young people we know to be most at risk of becoming NEET, often those eligible for free schools meals, those who have been excluded or suspended from school, those with their own child and also those who are living with a disability.

Now into the second year of the pilot in Inner West we have seen 137 learners identified with 80 of those still engaged in either training or employment in the November following leaving school. Partners involved have indicated their delight at the high retention rate, highlighting the effect close support has played in supporting these young people. Given the success of the pilot, the same model is being rolled out to other parts of the city this year.

To underline the Inner West Community Committee's continuing commitment to this agenda, I am pleased to welcome our fabulous new ward colleague Councillor Julie Heselwood, who will add her expertise (*applause*) alongside Councillor McKenna's, to enhance this vital Champion role. All my Inner West Community colleagues are determined to deliver better outcomes for our young people, a vital element of this Council's determination to reduce the inequality gap in the city. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Coupar to sum up.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Pryor for his contribution. In Headingley and the Inner North West we have really seen the value of local knowledge a Community Committee can provide. Working with the Executive Member and department they have made enormous improvements to the local environment which we have struggled to achieve for years. The Committee has been able to use its funding more effectively locally to target those issues that local people are saying matter the most, not being bound into city-wide priorities in the same way as in the past.

I would like to thank Councillor Ritchie for his late but worthy contribution. (*laughter*) The Inner West Committee is a very vibrant group and having some fantastic innovative ideas generated, one of which he mentioned in his Destinations Team that was a product of a range of voices coming together in collaboration and the results achieved have been fantastic. Hopefully the rest of the city can see a benefit as that model is rolled out.

I must say that I am disappointed that not even one Member of the Opposition has spoken on this report. I also understand that the Tory benches are very critical of us as a Council discussing Community Committees. I know outside this Chamber many of you feel differently and are very supportive of the new approach to locality working. It is a shame you are silent today. This side of the Chamber feels very differently.

Communities have embraced the new involvement in decision making. It is about listening to our communities and working with them. In here we get the opportunity of reporting back to the Council that delegated that power and we have the chance to share good practice and highlight any need for change. We cannot be truly effective as ward Councillors without carrying out our function and roles and responsibility at the sharp end, which is locally, and it is a shame you on the Opposition benches do not feel the same. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now move on to Community Committee Reports. Consideration of each report will last for no more than ten minutes. The first report, Councillor Coulson.

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON THE OUTER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR COULSON: *(Problem with hearing loop)* Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Chair of Outer West Community Committee I would like to talk today about the progress made over the last year. My immediate reflection will be that we have come a long way and transformed into a Community Committee. Our first topic looked at delivering actions that could drive business enterprise, local economy, quality learning and employment opportunities.

What was really pleasing to see was the mix of partners attending the meetings. We had the public sector, the private sector, community groups and from that we received a lot of valuable information and contributions.

In terms of next steps, Business, Employment and Skills sub-group has been formed chaired by Richard and assisted by Councillor Andrew Carter. The second meeting focused on tackling social isolation and loneliness through partnership working. The meeting saw the Community Committee working together with colleagues from Public Health, Out in Leeds, local GPs and Third Sector organisations. A big launch event was very successful where we had 30-odd older people from different areas in Pudsey, over 50s walking football project, which has been funded in David's area, and also a full partnership working group has been formed to push those projects on. The 50s football team is not only in the Wortley area...

THE LORD MAYOR: Could you sum up? I have given you a bit of extra time for being out of action so could you just give us your last sentence?

COUNCILLOR COULSON: I cannot really give you a lot in two minutes! *(laughter and applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Deputy Chair of the Outer West Community Committee I have got to say I will not go over, like my Chair has just done, I will try and keep in my time limit.

What I am talking about is the Outer West sub-group for Environmental Services delegation. We have worked strongly together. The Outer West Committee, unlike

lots of other committees, is very balanced, covering three different wards and three different parties. Certainly in the Environmental sub-group with Councillor Wood, Councillor Coulson and myself, we work closely together and it is a pleasure to actually work with those two people on that.

The sub-group has led to some positive work to ensure the Service Level Agreement is fit for purpose and that resources are targeted at areas of greatest need and to deliver the greatest impact. Currently the sub-group is reviewing the way in which litter bins are being emptied across the Outer West area by different services and developing a more co-ordinated and streamlined model to make further efficiencies.

As I said, and I think this goes across the whole Outer West area, it is a group of Councillors that work closely together, never mind what party we are in but we all care for the area that we represent and we want to do the best for that area.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I want to comment briefly on the Business, Employment and Skills Group that we set up in our Area Committee at the end of the last civic year, and it has been, I think, an interesting success story – a lot more to do, I have to say.

We have set up a Farsley Business Forum now five years ago and we were very pleased to get involved with the Pudsey Business Support Group in their first meetings as they got set up, and they are now receiving support through the Area Committee as well. The setting up of the LS128 Group, which includes members of the Business Networks throughout Outer West has also been a very useful development because it gives a forum for best practice to be exchanged between the three different business groups that operate in our Area Committee area – the Calverley Business Network, the Farsley Business Forum and the Pudsey Business Support Group – and they are doing a lot of work now in stimulating community activities.

I would just make this critical point. I think at the centre of Leeds City Council in the bureaucracy, if you like, there is a lot of catching up to do because far too often the answer to questions from groups trying to stimulate employment activity in the community is “Can’t do that.” We need to develop a much better Can Do culture at a lower level in this Authority. It has always been a problem throughout the years that I have been here and it needs taking on board at the top. We are good at doing the big things, we are not so good and sometimes very poor at doing the little things. I am glad Councillor Coupar is listening to me – it has not been my experience in the past that Councillor Coupar has listened to much except her own voice, but anyway I hope she has listened to me. I am Conservative, by the way. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: You are saying you are not Tory at the moment.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Coulson, are you in operation? I am not joking. I am asking are you able to speak.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: I have self-destructed so I do not know a lot of what has been said! *(laughter)* It is maybe as well! What I can do is I will give you my

view as the Chair of Outer West, working with a great team of Councillors – three Greens, three Conservatives, three Labours and we have not had a fall out in ten years. We work for the community.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: It is only because his hearing aid has been off!

COUNCILLOR COULSON: We talk to each other and if there is a problem, we talk it out and we act on it and that is how we have gone on all the way through.

On the business side of things, it proved a big success. The conscious decision was taken to base it at Farsley this year because they have Hainsworth Mill, which has about 30 businesses in there and all are business people bar none. It has proved a big success. The Pudsey Business Forum is up and running and running strongly.

They have made a commitment to raise £10,000 for the Pudsey Christmas lights, which will not happen this year because it is too late, but they are working together, I work very closely with them. Up to now they have raised over £6,000 towards that aim of ten, so that is the sort of thing we have in Outer West. We all work together for the betterment of the communities.

I could have said a lot but in two minutes – I am Mick Coulson, who are you?
(laughter and applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON THE INNER EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8, Councillor Khan.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on the Annual Report of the Inner East Community Committee. The report outlines the work that the Community Committee has been undertaking over the last year to improve services and the environment in the local area. At this point I would like to thank local residents, partners and representatives from the Third Sector for the really good attendance we have seen. These meetings are so much more interesting and beneficial when we can get a wide range of views and perspectives.

Since the last update to the Council in November 2014, the Committee has held two successful workshops to focus on the highest priority issues in the Community Committee. In January this year more than 40 people met in Gipton to talk about issues and experience around social isolation. In the months following we have seen partners working much more closely together to explore the option of funding a Community Development Worker who could help to strengthen local networks and restore a sense of neighbourhood. Councillor Catherine Dobson will be talking a little bit more about this shortly.

Also I would like to thank my Councillor Members, Councillor Ron Grahame, Councillor Ingham, Councillor Harington, Councillor Maqsood, Councillor Hussain, Councillor Hyde and Councillor Selby and Councillor Dobson and the Council officers.

In June the Committee held a workshop in Harehills to focus on developing a Service Level Agreement for the Environment Service on a ward base. We all know how environment matters are a big and regular concern for residents, so it was very positive to be able to involve them in shaping the service they need. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Ingham.

COUNCILLOR INGHAM: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on the Annual Report of the Inner East Community Committee School Youth Engagement. I will also discuss the importance of engaging with young people.

Many of you will have heard in the new stories about growing youth apathy over politics. They tell us that our young people are gravely uninformed about most Government matters, going as far as to shy away from contributing to the democratic process. Following these reports you might be led to believe that democracy itself faces inevitable expiry, all down to the fact that young people, the leaders of tomorrow, cannot be bothered with propping it up any longer.

Today I would like to refute these claims and look at how we, the Council, can better engage with the youth of our city.

Recently I attended a series of councils where panel members led discussions over which activities they would like to see delivered in their area during the school holidays and challenged ideas they did not agree with. It was fantastic to see how keenly everyone participated in these debates. Panels like this are not uncommon and I am proud to say that wonderful schemes like this have been put in place city-wide. However, my Lord Mayor, more has to be done to give young people the opportunity to have a say on issues affecting them.

In some ways the topic of youth participation in community projects is one that can be easy to dismiss, perhaps because it lacks a sense of urgency, but we should not forget that when we talk about young people we are talking about the future of our city. We are accountable to the younger generation of Leeds and we have a responsibility to reach out to them. I am confident that the Inner East Community Committee will continue to find ways to engage young people and ensure that their views play a key role in influencing decisions taken at a local level. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dobson, and this is Councillor Dobson's maiden speech.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on the Annual Report of the Inner East Community Committee. Whilst I am still a relatively new Member of this Council, I am very aware of the excellent work that the Committee has carried out over the past year and of the positive impact it has had in my ward.

One of the biggest challenges we face in Inner East communities is social isolation. It is a problem that often goes unseen and unheard, but the damage loneliness and isolation can do to a person's wellbeing should be of concern to us all.

Over the last year my Committee has made this a high priority issue. Councillor Khan has already touched upon the workshop which was held bringing together residents with a whole range of partners to discuss the issues people are facing. These first hand experiences are really the best way to understand the struggles people face and enable us to take action and change services in a way which will help.

We are also keen to encourage any social groups which can reach out to those who may find themselves alone, especially as we head into the winter. Just one example in my ward is the £1,000 funding given to Seacroft Men's Group to help them with their community engagement and social events. That money will help give people a positive focus and the mental stimulation they need to stay well.

There is a lot more to do and I hope to see Committees across the city continue to work to tackle social isolation now and in the future. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Harington.

COUNCILLOR HARINGTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In the last twelve years or so we have had Community Involvement Teams, Area Committees, probably a few other titles I have forgotten and now we have got Community Committees. Because of the new format with fewer reports and those that there are being shorter, obviously that gives more time to look at a particular issue and not only to discuss but try and make sure that leads to some action, so there is obviously the potential for the change to be substantial rather than merely cosmetic.

When there is, as there have been in some of ours, a really good mix of people present, local residents, Council officers, Third Sector representatives, there has been a real sense that we can meet together to discuss something that will either improve what we have already got or make some new initiatives.

Key challenges. One, I think sometimes we have not looked at how what we are talking about relates to discussions that are going on elsewhere so, for example, there was one issue I felt that some people felt they were marking time coming to this particular Committee because they had actually got further on elsewhere, so it needs to look at how it relates elsewhere.

The second issue is how we involve residents. I do not know whether Gipton and Harehills have got a worse problem than others but over the last twelve years or so we have had residents' groups that have come and gone and mostly gone, and we have got various attempts to get the right kind of forum, the right kind of community leadership team but none of them have really worked, so this is a new opportunity.

It is also obviously a communication exercise therefore, partly to let people know what is already happening like, for example, the new loan shop that we have got started up at the Compton Centre which Councillor Coupar came to open the other day, an opportunity for affordable loans with the interest rates being capped, which does not happen with pay-day lenders, but also just to get across the message to people that here is an opportunity to meet to discuss something that really does make a difference, and that is the message we have to get across to residents and therefore, although we have made a very good start, as I agree with Councillor Khan, we have obviously got some key challenges yet to meet. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Khan to sum up.

COUNCILLOR KHAN: Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors, what we heard demonstrates the range of work that has been going on in the Inner East Community Committee over the last year and there is plenty more to come. The Community Committee continues to develop the important role in the local area. In total this year events that we have funded were attended by around 4,500 children, young people and families and they played a key role in bringing the local community together.

This role is going to become increasingly important over the coming months as the Committee will develop and approach the neighbourhood improvement in the priority areas of Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Seacroft. We will need to bring together a wide range of partners from the area with the Council, local residents to improve the performance of local services, discuss the real priorities on the ground which would make our area better for those who live, work here.

It is no secret that the Inner East Community Committee has its fair share of challenges but we also have a fantastic dedication to the community and many people who really care and are willing to put in the time, effort to bring about changes.

There is a lot to do but I am confident that the Community Committee is ready to play its part over the coming years and I am looking forward to getting started. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

ITEM 9 – REPORT ON THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES MINERALS 13 AND 14 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. By way of brief explanation, seeing as I am down as having four minutes to speak on this, the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan was adopted by the Council in January 2013. There was a subsequent High Court challenge to two particular policies, policies Minerals 13 and 14. The policy was subsequently amended, there was a public examination by an independent inspector, further amendments were made to satisfy the inspector and the end result is the policy that you have in the document in front of you. Having said that, I move the recommendation in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I formally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – QUESTIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now go on to Item 10, the Questions. We have a period of only 30 minutes and Members of Council can ask questions to the Executive. Those questions that are not asked, you will receive written responses to them.

Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. May I begin by just reminding all Members that it is the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and it is absolutely right at this time that we remember and respect those people who fought for our country and still fight for our country today and our freedom. (*hear, hear*)

To ask the Executive Board Member for Children and Families if they believe that changes to the Council's home to school transport funding arrangements have been properly implemented and are fair on parents and students?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you. As Council will be aware, the need to priorities budgets led Children's Services to review areas of discretionary spending on transport assistance and Executive Board approved the new policy in July 2013.

The policy changes were taken to an extensive public consultation and the agreed changes were widely publicised. The changes were posted on the Council's internet site. Every High School Headteacher was notified of the changes in order they also disseminate the information amongst students, staff and parents. Changes were phased in over two years in order to give families time to plan ahead. All affected parents received a reminder last year of the policy change and were given clear notice that they would therefore not be sent a renewal form this year.

One of the policy changes means that support has been withdrawn from those families who live more than three miles from their nearest school but who choose not to send their child to the nearest school. It is the responsibility of parents to transport their children themselves, or to pay their fares if they choose for their children to travel by bus to a school which is not the nearest one to their home.

It is estimated that about 280 children in Leeds were affected by this particular policy change and, following our previous communications those families, we are advised by Metro that the majority of them have not made applications this year.

A small number of children in Bardsey and East Keswick with children who have just started in Year 7 have been awarded assistance for one year. This concession relates to a very specific difference between transport and admission policies which we could have communicated more effectively. We feel it is very fair to give those families a year of assistance while they plan ahead and we have also improved the way that we communicate the difference between the two policies.

Special arrangements apply for low income families whose children are entitled to free travel to one of their three nearest schools, so every family in every part of Leeds is assessed for transport assistance in the same way, using clear qualifying criteria and the policy is consistently applied. There is a review and an appeals process available for applicants which provides an added assurance that all families are treated fairly.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Do we have a subsidiary question?

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Please, Lord Mayor. I appreciate the response from Councillor Yeadon and her long email response to me earlier this week and the offer of a meeting on this topic. As Councillor Yeadon might remember, a year or two ago Councillor Blake was in this Chamber and stood up saying that the in-year changes to GCSEs which affected English results was absolutely awful and that it put children at a disadvantage and that the DfE were wrong to do it.

With that in mind, does she think that it is fair to parents to make in-year changes during the school years and that they will likely move their children to a different curriculum, separating them from their friendship groups and introducing them to a new school that they do not already know? Is that fair?

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I just say that that does not bear resemblance in any way to the school transport funding. It is a different matter that you have brought up there.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: I qualified it.

THE LORD MAYOR: You qualified it but it must be around this actual point.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: I think the point that I am trying to make, Lord Mayor, is that round school transport, if you are, as a parent, forced to move your child because of this charge introduced to you, is that then fair because you are moving them to a different curriculum? I appreciate that you were Chair of the Children's Scrutiny Board as well on this, Lord Mayor, so I know you understand these matters.

THE LORD MAYOR: Yes and this actually did not come up within the inquiry. Councillor Yeadon, would you like to respond?

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you. I am happy to meet with you and hopefully we have got a date in the diary now to do that. I just make it very clear, like I said in my previous response, the policy change was debated and consulted in 2013, which is two years ago. I appreciate that for a small number of families there has been an issue regarding the discrepancy around admissions policies but it has been phased in over two years. This is not an in-year decision that has been taken and I wish the cuts that we have been facing as an Authority we had had two years' notice.

Just to make it very clear, we are not saying that parents should move their children's school. We are saying that we have to look again at the transport policy, this was agreed two years ago, and that we have given parents ample notice to make plans for that. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Does the Executive member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning share my concern over the possible granting of fracking licences in Rothwell and other areas in the south of the city and will he pledge to oppose fracking in these areas by all available means?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I do share the concerns of Councillor Golton and, indeed, Councillor Nagle who has asked a very similar question later on, about the way in which these decisions have been and are being taken by Government.

The licensing of onshore oil and gas exploration is not new. However, concerns about unconventional means of extraction, including fracking, are now very evident and so this current licensing round will be under much closer scrutiny. However, to date the Department of Energy and Climate Change has undertaken no consultation on the licence grants. This is clearly unacceptable, given the potential impacts on communities and the environment.

On 18th August the Government announced it was making formal offers to companies for 27 onshore blocks under its 14th licensing round and that a further 132 blocks were being considered. The Government is consulting but only on habitats regulations assessments for the 132 blocks and those regulations concern European habitats designations and a block is an area of land typically about 10km by 10km.

Among the 132 blocks subject to consultation are two that affect Leeds, one directly and the other through a zone of impact. Block 27 relates to South-East Leeds for which the Government has now signalled its intention to award a licence. The information lists the company concerned as Hutton Energy PLC, Coronation (Oil and Gas) Ltd.

The Planning Department has responded to the technical consultation, setting out the need to look more broadly at the lower Aire Valley and its eco-systems. Once the licence is awarded there is a potential for exploration and eventually extraction to occur anywhere within this block.

If the companies awarded the licences decided to proceed, they will still need planning permission although, worryingly, CLG recently announced that Shell Gas applications would be fast-tracked. Should a planning application be received for this block the City Council will need to determine the application with regard to national and local planning policies. The impact on the local environment and communities will be important considerations in determining any application.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do we have a subsidiary question?

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Yes thank you, Lord Mayor. Taking into consideration the comments at the end of that statement about planning policy, would it not be appropriate, therefore, for the Council to proactively, in reaction to these licences being announced, actually consider amending their own Natural Resources and Waste Development Plan document so that it can take into consideration our own priorities around the extraction of shale gas in the same way that North Yorkshire Council and Staffordshire Council have done?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have not had full discussions with officers about what our approach to this should be, although I think there is a clear consensus amongst many of us that we need to do something about these

applications and I am happy to have conversations with any Members who feel strongly about the issue who are affected.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Smart.

COUNCILLOR SMART: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can the Executive member for Children and Families please update Council on this year's exam results?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Yeadon.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to update Council on the exam results for this year. We have seen improvements in exam performance with many young people in Leeds continuing to achieve some fantastic results. We have seen vast improvements in our schools with 78% of pupils now attending secondary schools being judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. This is above the Yorkshire and Humber average of 70%.

Additionally at the end of term last year we had over 90% of our primary schools judged as good or outstanding. This makes Leeds the best place in the region for children to attend primary school. This builds on the very strong Early Years Ofsted outcomes for settings, which is significantly above the national average. We should be very proud of that and we continue to strive to increase those figures even more. Our ambition is for every child in Leeds to attend a good or outstanding school.

In terms of our GCSE results, provisional figures show a 5% increase in the numbers of students achieving five A-C grades including English and Maths. This compares very favourably with other Local Authorities, the majority of which have either seen much smaller increases, no change or indeed, in many, a decline.

This is, of course, good news for Leeds but it does not mask some disturbing national trends. We have seen more disadvantaged and less able students struggling to achieve the grades we need, due in part to Ofqual's imposed and exam boards' implemented shifts in grade boundaries, and in particular the C-D boundary.

The impact of a grade D instead of C can be devastating as it will have an impact on a young person's choices and what options are available to them further down the line. It can influence whether or not they become NEET, whether they gain an apprenticeship or training and, eventually, their employment prospects.

We have a duty to provide the best education we can for the young people of our city and it concerns me greatly that sometimes their hard work is not being recognised the way it should be due to constant changes in the way that they are being assessed.

I am extremely proud of every young person who has received their exam results this year and I think that they deserve our congratulations in recognition of the amount of hard work that has gone into achieving those results. It would be remiss of me not to also thank the dedicated teaching staff and supportive families without whom those results would not have been possible. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a subsidiary question? No. Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Does the Leader of Council share my concerns about the adverse impacts that the introduction of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership could have on the ability of Leeds City Council to deliver local services?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Councillor Blackburn. Just in answering I want to make it absolutely clear that we believe that trade between the countries within the EU and, indeed, between the EU and the United States is of great benefit to the people of Leeds, but I think your particular point refers to TTIP which is still being negotiated, and the real concern that we have that we do not know the details of what is actually being negotiated. We, I think, can all join forces in asking that there be far more transparency, not least to the Members of the European Parliament who I think have a real need to understand what is happening.

I think with particular reference to ourselves in Leeds, there is a risk of serious impact on local services around the issues of compensation, private tribunals. What I would like to suggest, I think this is a very significant issue for a city like Leeds and I would like to suggest that we set up a cross-party working group so that we can actually first of all ask for more information along with our other colleagues in Local Government, and actually assess the impact or likely impact on Leeds and then lobby appropriately when we have more information. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. A subsidiary question? No. Councillor Nagle.

COUNCILLOR NAGLE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Please can the Executive Member with responsibility for sustainability update Council on the possibility of shale gas exploration in Rothwell ward?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Rather than just reprise what I have said to Councillor Golton, perhaps it would be best for Councillor Nagle to ask any supplementary at this point.

COUNCILLOR NAGLE: Thank you very much, Richard. Does the Exec Member share my concern that the geology in this country is totally unsuitable for shale gas and that, indeed, the geology being completely different to America where shale gas has been successful in some areas, would be one of my concerns.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I suppose I have many concerns about shale gas. Obviously there are big ones about continued use of fossil fuels but yes, I have huge concerns that in a relatively small country with a large population concentration such as we have in Leeds there are huge worries about any extraction of shale gas close to centres of population. I think that is a concern that will be reflected across your ward, across other wards in South-East Leeds and I think it is for us to consider how we can best combat these proposals for the city.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Buckley.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Will the Executive Board member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults take this opportunity to welcome the NHS chief Executive's comments about the sale of unhealthy foods in hospitals?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of the NHS has repeatedly stressed the importance of prevention in reducing demands on the NHS. He has highlighted the rising problem of obesity and the five million people at risk of Type 2 diabetes and recognises that NHS staff are a part of that phenomenon and also part of the solution.

I welcome the £5m initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of Health Service staff, including the challenge to catering contractors and providers of private finance initiatives to raise the standards of food and nutrition in hospitals and other care settings. This is in line with action taken locally. Leeds City Council's Public Health team has worked proactively behind the scenes with staff at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust to develop and produce a Public Health Strategy for the Leeds Teaching Hospital. Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the Leeds Teaching Hospital Public Health Strategy last autumn and I am delighted that the Trust has recently joined the World Health Organisation's health promoting hospitals network. The range of food products available at Leeds Teaching Hospitals is very different to a few years ago and the Trust recognises more could be done, as set out in the letter I received from the Chief Executive, the contents of which I forwarded on to Councillor Buckley just a few weeks ago.

In advance of Simon Stevens's new initiative, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust had already set a Board Workshop for their Board planned for the New Year and I intend to be kept up to date on progress in that area. The Board Workshop will be focusing more broadly on the contribution to the city's public health that the teaching hospitals can make and not just on the narrow focus of food sold within their hospital.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary question?

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Please, Lord Mayor. Notwithstanding the various answers she gave there, would she not agree that is she not as disappointed as I am that, even given those developments, that Leeds could and should have led better on this rather than be dragged into it by the Chief Executive?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mulherin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I understand from the comments he has made that he is talking about Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of NHS England, rather than Julian Hartley, the Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, and it might be helpful if Councillor Buckley could use people's names in his comments.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on Councillor Buckley's interest in this very specific subject over and above any other area of the Health and Wellbeing Board's work or the Council's Public Health responsibility. I note the absence of any comments to date from him, as the Conservative Group's Health spokesperson, on the

£2.8m in-year cuts to Public Health funding in the city. With regard to Public Health funding cuts I particularly note that Simon Stevens commented earlier this year at the LGA Conference that cutting back on public health spending is penny wise and pound foolish. No doubt we will take that particular element of this discussion under the White Paper later today.

In summary, Lord Mayor, I do not take his comments that the Council and the Health and Wellbeing board do not take public health as a serious concern and deal with it in a proper manner seriously. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Jonathan Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Has the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning assessed the impact on the Council Housing Growth Programme of the Government's proposal of an annual 1% reduction to Council house rents?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In the July 2015 Budget the Chancellor announced that for each of the next four years – that is 2016/17 to 2019/20 – housing rents will reduce by 1% each year and then revert to the previous policy of CPI plus 1% from 2020/21.

On a cash basis this equates to a reduction of £20.5m in rental income over this four year period. These reductions in rental income will be required to be managed along with having to absorb pay, price and service pressures. The Council's current Housing Revenue Account Financial Plan was based on the assumption that rents would increase in line with CPI plus 1% each year for ten years, as per the Government policy that was agreed last year – in essence a 3% increase per annum based on the Government CPI target of 2%. The Government's proposal therefore equates to a 4% per annum reduction from the plan for each of the next four years. When compared to the level of resources assumed in the financial plan, this equates to a loss of £283m of rental income over a ten year period.

Can I just add, perhaps, that nobody within the Housing Association movement believes for a moment that after four years we will revert to the CPI plus 1%. There is a total lack of faith that this Government has any commitment whatsoever to housing investment by Housing Associations and Local Authorities.

The projected loss of rental income will have implications for Executive Board approved investment strategy for the HRA and this will be required to be managed through a combination of identifying efficiencies and cost reductions in the HRA, the use of the borrowing headroom and the review and rephasing of capital investment plans.

The Council's currently approved capital programme for the Council House Growth Programme provides funding of £99.37m. This will deliver around 1,000 homes by the end of 2017/18. The intention is that resources will be aligned to ensure that this Council's priority will be delivered.

The current programme assumes that Housing Associations utilising the Council's right to buy receipts, together with their own resources, will contribute to the delivery of the new homes.

As Housing Association rental streams will be impacted by the Government's proposals of annual rent reductions, this will certainly impact on their ability to deliver across the board. I have huge concerns that while we may deliver our 1,000 properties we will not be delivering anything on top of that and that the Housing Association movement is being pressured clearly away from delivering rented properties at affordable prices to home ownership properties and that means that a lot of our citizens who are not in a position to buy properties will be in dire straits.

I think what we have had is a Government that almost at a whim, and purely to impact on the cost of Housing Benefit to the Treasury, has done something incredibly short-sighted that citizens of this city and others across the land will pay for for many years to come. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Supplementary question, Councillor Bentley?

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Lewis for that very full answer.

Given that the Housing Revenue Account will come under severe pressure, and perhaps no guarantee that the current spending will be delivered and the current programme will be delivered, has the administration considered any alternative ways of financing the building of houses for rent in Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think at least we have warning of where we are going to be and we are going to deliver until 2017/18. We are in discussions with all our partners about what measures we can take and I think that is the Housing Associations, the registered providers who I think are key partners in this.

The whole sector is in a state of – perhaps meltdown is a bit extreme but the clear message that has come across the Local Authorities and Housing Associations is “We are not interested in you delivering rented properties”, so I think we do have to look what models can we come up with that answer the needs of the population of Leeds that might not be ones we have considered up until now, and I think that is difficult and I think it will require a lot of different kinds of thinking. Certainly the models that we have had for many years are no longer possible.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Sobel.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: Will the Executive Member with responsibility for sustainability please update Council on Central Government's cuts to the Green Deal?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Greendale Finance Company has been closed down and will no longer provide finance to those customers who

struggle to access other types of finance. Greendale Finance has been used by about 10% of customers who benefited from the Green Deal Community Funding. The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund is also no longer anticipated to run. This targeted solid wall insulation, a high cost measure. Unless an alternative funding stream becomes available it is very unlikely that solid wall insulation will be a viable measure, due to its high cost.

As well as the changes to Green Deal eco rates have also decreased substantially. In December 2013 eco rates were at £160-£180 per tonne and have now decreased significantly to £20 per tonne. This will significantly reduce the subsidy available for all measures.

If I can just mention a little more on the solid wall insulation. I would advise any Member of Council to go and look at the fantastic work that we have done in the Cross Green area where we have actually addressed a problem of a small portion of our solid wall stock, and it is a huge stock that we have in this city, primarily of properties built around the turn of the 20th Century, many of them back-to-backs. They are the hardest properties in the city to heat because of their poor insulation qualities and one that has been a concern to Members of this Council probably for 40 plus years, and now the potential for a solution has been taken away from us. There are thousands upon thousands of our residents who need an answer in those properties and the Government has again, at a stroke, taken an opportunity away from them.

I am appalled, quite frankly, by where our new Government is going in terms of its commitment to energy efficiency and improving homes. I think desperate times are upon us, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Supplementary question? No. Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Will the Leader of Council agree that no firm decision should be made on any proposals of an Elected Mayor without the agreement of the people of Leeds in a referendum?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you, David. Can I just reassure Council that no decision on change of governance will be made until the housing flexibilities that have been put forward, the asks, if you like, that we have been talking about, we have any understanding of whether they are acceptable to the Government.

We do not know yet, negotiations are ongoing, but you will be aware that we have submitted a set of asks with partner Authorities that make up the Leeds City Region geography.

This clearly is a major change from the 2012 referendum that went out that was soundly rejected by Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford on an individual city basis. The bids going forward into Government are on a combined Authority basis and cannot therefore just be beholden to Leeds on itself.

By way of precedent, the Greater Manchester deal that was made early this year and is now being formalised under the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill - which

is still in draft form and working its way through Parliament – the rules are changing so a Mayor for a combined Authority can be established through an order of the Secretary of State with the consent of the Local Government implemented.

Clearly, any change of governance will be as a result of accepting a deal under those provisions and will not be started until that process has been completed, so I think your question at this stage is premature and clearly we will have to look at what is on offer amongst the other Authorities. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do you have a supplementary? No. Thank you, Councillor Blake. Councillor Urry.

COUNCILLOR URRY: Can the Executive Member for Communities update Council on the impact of the Chancellor's recent welfare and wage changes on people in Leeds?

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Members will be aware, the Chancellor's latest Budget announcement announced a reduction in Welfare spend of a staggering £12bn, with nearly £9bn of these savings coming from the reductions in tax credits and changes to Universal Credit for those who are in work and on low pay.

On a seemingly positive note the Chancellor did also announce what he is calling a new National Living Wage, which we all welcome, but do not be fooled. Firstly, this is not a living wage and it is a cheap trick to claim it is. Second, close analysis of the Budget by an independent organisation, Policy and Practice, clearly shows that most household types will actually be worse off when the tax credit changes are taken into account, even with the new minimum wage rising to £9.35 per hour.

As an example, a couple with two children with at least one adult working 30 hours a week will be £121.16 per annum worse off in 2020 than they are today and that does not take into account the impact of inflationary increases over the next five years. Whatever rhetoric you hear from the Government, the reality is that with these changes a lot of people will be worse off in 2020 than they are today.

If that was not bad enough, the Government has created a timetable which will see those vital tax credit cuts for working families a year before any wage rises are implemented.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar, we are at the end of time. Could you just give your last sentence?

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: One more. What are those people supposed to do for a twelve month period and how are they supposed to pay for their kids' school uniforms? Quite frankly, it is not very good and I find it shameful that this Government should seek to pull the wool over our eyes with promises of a National Living Wage whilst significantly reducing work-related benefits, causing even more hardship for our citizens. Thanks, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Do we have a supplementary to that, Councillor Urry?

COUNCILLOR URRY: What is the Council doing to help support those people affected by these Government policies? I think you have perhaps answered largely.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Coupar.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I did think that once I was answering the question I was allowed to finish the answer.

THE LORD MAYOR: I actually felt the same but unfortunately the lights have flashed in front of me, so my apologies for that.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Can I give my supplementary answer?

THE LORD MAYOR: You may, yes.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: Thank you, Councillor Urry, for raising that important point. We in Leeds recognise that even when our own budget is being squeezed like never before we need to do everything we can to support those on low wages and those who cannot work through no fault of their own.

This Council administration does not believe that children in larger families, or with parents and guardians who are stuck in low paid work, should suffer and see their life chances diminished. That is why we are implementing a range of schemes to assist those people the Government seems to be targeting.

In 2014/15 we used the local Welfare Support Scheme to provide vital short-term assistance to Leeds citizens, totalling more than £1m, and we will see similar awards in the current financial year. Since April this year alone we have already made more than 1,400 separate awards and in addition to this ongoing support we have been developing a number of new initiatives, three of which we launched last Friday with the Leeds Credit Union. For their partnership on this work I would like to give some praise, none of which would be possible without them.

In conjunction with the Credit Union we have launched a new Pay Day Loan Scheme to challenge the frankly dangerous impact that some of those big names have had over recent years. We have estimated that the market for high cost lending in Leeds is in the region of £90m per year. We have also estimated that if Leeds citizens have more affordable forms of credit instead of high cost credit, it would save families in the city a total of £60m a year. That is £60m more money in household budgets.

As well as the Pay Day Schemes we have also launched a General Loan Shop at the Compton Centre providing access to affordable credit and keeping residents away from loan sharks and other uncapped, insecure means of borrowing.

It is not just loans which get people into trouble financially. We all need household appliances and electronic equipment in this modern day and unfortunately some high street stores have sprung up which drag people into long term payment arrangements with incredibly high interest rates. If you miss a payment then the appliance can be removed and no refund is given, making customers lose more and everything that they own. That cannot be right and it is exploiting those on low pay who have no other choice.

The next few years are going to be really tough for some of the poorest people in Leeds and as a Council we will be doing all we can to support them. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: That is now the end of Questions and we turn to page 10, please, and continue with the Minutes.

ITEM 11 – MINUTES

THE LORD MAYOR: We will begin to receive and comment on the Minutes of the Executive Board. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I move that the Minutes be received, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: I will second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

(a) Executive Board

THE LORD MAYOR: Now we are on 11(a), Executive Board. The consideration of Executive Board Minutes will end at 3.50. Comments on the other Minutes will then follow until 4.10. Councillor Cleasby.

(ii) Resources & Strategy

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak to Minute 29 on page 114 but if you would allow me first, Lord Mayor, a few words to our Leader and Council about the proposals for devolution.

It is pretty obvious from the comments that we heard recently when the Prime Minister had not realised that he was wearing a microphone what he thinks about us, so it is also obvious, Leader, that the only person he would consider in the future would be Santa Claus and it would be a perfectly Conservative Government – he works for just a few days a year so he is available to do the job and, of course, he would give the gifts to the wealthiest, which is the wealthier gifts to the wealthiest, so Santa Claus would be perfect in that devolved role for the future. We do not need to worry about it, do we?

Back to this Minute.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, back to this Minute yes. *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you. The Lib Dem Group brought a White Paper to Full Council in November last year, and it was seconded by the administration, supporting Newham Borough Council's Sustainable Communities Act proposals to Government. 92 other Local Authorities supported that. This Act called on the Government to pass powers to Local Authorities that capped the maximum bet from £100 to just £2, as punters can bet every 20 seconds.

In July the Government rejected this proposal, claiming that current safeguards, that is the ability of self exclude as a gambler and needing to speak with a cashier before the first bet over £50, were safe. The Government then criticised us for claiming we already had the powers to curb the proliferation of betting shops but we were not doing it.

Can I suggest that, as the Liberal Democrats were putting forward, we consider cumulative impact policies here. They are working very well in other dimensions to help our neighbourhoods and help our individuals as a consequence and this could be just that case. As each betting shop is allowed to have four machines, it therefore would be a way of controlling the number of machines that could be available in an area and certainly in our city, so that I put to Council and hope that it will be received that we consider in relation to the Statement of Licensing Policy, that we consider cumulative impact policies. Thank you, Lord Mayor. Thank you for your generosity.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I shall be speaking on Minutes 30, Best Council Plan with regard to reducing health inequalities, one of the Council's seven breakthrough projects.

Members may not be aware of plans by Leeds Community Healthcare to reduce services across the city. I shall, as expected, be speaking on these cuts with regard to Otley and Yeadon but also on the wholly inadequate consultation LCH has had in my community with regards to this.

These reductions include services to adult dietetics, newborn hearing, children's speech and language, urology services and podiatry. These are significant changes in a community that continues to grow, not just in house and population numbers but in age, acuity and dependency. LCH in my view should not be removing services but should be looking to better maximise the clinics by increasing services and with co-location.

With regard to consultation, a single email has been sent out but at no time has LCH sought to speak to affected wards nor their elected Members. Even a visit to their website indicates that LCH is not even bothering to promote their consultation on their website.

This should not just be a concern for elected Members in Outer North West Leeds though because we must not forget that LCH propose changes right across the city. Rather fortuitously this is highlighted by Councillors Mark Dobson and McKenna in today's YEP with regard to plans to close Garforth Clinic and whilst the clinic in Otley is not at the moment proposed to close, I cannot help but fear that this is the beginning and I can only agree with Councillor McKenna's view in the YEP when she says, "Stop taking services out and moving them."

I wish to raise with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and with my fellow Councillors my concerns about the lack of meaningful consultation for these reductions. No engagement, no communication, no consultation – not good enough and I am therefore asking the Exec Member and Chair of the Board to be the critical friend to Leeds Community Healthcare and ask them to better speak with the

communities it serves, to listen and to justify these service cuts. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am referring to Minutes 30 and 31 on page 115 which cover the Best Council Plan and Financial Health Monitoring.

It is interesting, actually, because the Best Council Plan talks about how the Council needs to work together. However, unfortunately, the majority of the Front Bench seems to have disappeared and therefore the one who should be listening to this is not perhaps going to.

I am talking specifically around Public Health funding and also our ability in the Council to spend our money on health and social care effectively and the central point to all of this is that social enterprise is a key area which is essential for us to support to enable us to do so.

I am on the Health and Wellbeing Board with several other Members and one of the things that we are very keen is that the Leeds pound, which is the amount of money that we have available to spend, is spent most effectively and that is done so through integrating between different agencies, whether it be the Council and Health and Social Care but, more importantly, we have also been trying to develop our ability to actually retain the money that is spent out of that Leeds pound within the Leeds economy. You can only do that when the organisations that you are commissioning and that you are spending money with actually are based in the city, have their management in the city and, of course, employ people in those management situations from the Leeds population as well.

Unfortunately, because of things like the reduction in general funding but also the in-year cut in funding in the Public Health budget, it means that the Council can have a tendency to draw in on itself and see those social enterprises that are supposedly our partners, according to our Best Council Plan, actually get told “You are the bit that actually has to take the pain because actually the Council might want to do things for themselves and therefore it is goodbye to you.”

I say that would be a retrograde step and we must not be drawn into that temptation. Our future is in social enterprise because if we simply end up engaging private sector organisations which are nationally based and nationally led, we will actually take away our ability to provide services at the best possible value and I do not want to see that happening and I know that there are certain discussions happening at the moment, for instance around our delivery of elderly residential care within communities and I would not like to see that sacrificed on the altar of the Council’s balance sheet. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Jonathan Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am glad to see that the Whips have been sent out to round up the Front Bench. It is ironic that Councillor Coupar criticised us for...

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: I am here, you cannot criticise me.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: I know you are but it is ironic that she, Councillor Coupar, criticised us for not making a contribution but when we start making contributions the Front Bench or her colleagues all move away.

I am speaking on page 115, Minute 30, regarding the Best Council Plan as well. One of the six objectives in the Plan is supporting communities and tackling poverty and one of the key principles of this objective is to provide accessible and integrated services. Last year I visited St George's Centre in Middleton. There is a library there with IT facilities and assistance, a housing enquiry office for face-to-face enquiries, the local PCSOs are based there. It was busy, it was buzzing; a really impressive example of integrated, accessible services for residents in a well planned building.

Unfortunately not all parts of the city are so well provided for. The Council has very helpfully produced a booklet giving a ward by ward breakdown of the facilities and services available to residents. It is called the Guide to Free Services in Your Local Area. Just so that the residents of Weetwood ward are in no doubt to the services available to them, on page 23 under the heading "Weetwood", it says very clearly, "None".

The nearest housing office is a bus ride or a long walk away. The library where there were computers to get online for Council services and get some assistance was closed down. The one major community facility we had, which could have been developed as a community hub, the West Park Centre, was demolished over a year ago.

COUNCILLOR: Shame.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: If we have got ambitions to be the best city and plans and objectives to deliver those ambitions, they have got to apply to the whole of the city and all our citizens. I realise there are priorities and we are not going to get a St George's Centre in every ward, but what I do ask is that that concept of accessible and integrated services is applied to every citizen no matter where they live.

I am glad to say that a local voluntary organisation, OPAL, recognising the need for community facilities in the area and with the support of its members, local residents and financial support from the Inner North West Community Committee, has been able to buy a redundant pub, the Bedford Arms, and it has now been refurbished and launched as the Welcome Inn Community Centre, reflecting the original name of the pub and the aspiration for it to become a community centre for everyone.

I am asking the Council to commit to use this community centre to deliver accessible and integrated services for residents and perhaps at the reprint of this booklet there may actually be an entry for Weetwood. Thank you very much, Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Taylor.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, I am speaking on Minute 30, page 115, about how this Council is addressing inequality and poverty in Leeds through supporting people into work.

As part of this Council vision is for Leeds to be a compassionate, caring city and one which helps every resident feel the benefit from the effect of the city growth, key services in this Council have played a significant role in helping to achieve this vision. To tackle poverty and promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and fundamental priority for this Council is to support people and work with parents to help tackle the challenge of inequality across the city.

An important focus is to support young people and adults to address this challenge and it has been our determination to help people back into work through our offer of key organisations. Some of these programmes include the Leeds Apprentice Hub, the Devolved Young People Contract, community learning and Job Shop. All of these have played a crucial role in supporting more and more people into employment.

Take, for instance, the Leeds Apprenticeship Hub. We have 400 young people have started apprenticeships across a diverse range of industry. Through holding key workshops and events the Hub has helped to provide advice and guidance to young people to enable them to gain the skill, knowledge, confidence and experience to establish careers and not just jobs.

The Devolved Young People Contract has also played a crucial role in particular in helping young people aged 16 to 17 years making a successful transition from NEET to employment, education and training. A key future in this programme is to trail support for each young person, addressing the particular needs through confidence building, learning and employability skills. The success of this scheme is to clearly see and show Leeds can deliver great results, with eight out of ten young people progressing into work or training comparing to three out of ten nationally. Clearly this shows our determination to help as many young people progress into work as effectively as we can.

The Council Employment Skills Service has played crucial role in tackling poverty and addressing inequality, having helped to support over 6,000 people back into work since April 2014, supporting nearly 17,000 to improve their skills as well as engaging businesses in the city to recruit over 500 apprentices.

To conclude, there is still yet more work to do to help people back into work, yet what remains clear is that we can continue to prioritise addressing the challenge of poverty and inequality residents are facing across the city which also ensures no-one is left behind in our vision to achieve a compassionate city. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Heselwood, and may I just point out this is a maiden speech. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR HESELWOOD: My Lord Mayor and Councillors, I wish to speak on Minute 30 of the Executive Board Minutes.

One of the six objectives set out in the Best Council Plan is that of supporting communities and tackling poverty. This objective includes healthy lifestyles and getting people active. In tackling health inequality a key way in which the Council has supported people in becoming more active is through affordable access to leisure centres.

As part of the Leeds Let's Get Active scheme leisure centres are offering free sessions alongside health checks and healthy lifestyle advice aimed at people who do little or no exercise. The project is contributing towards reducing health inequalities by increasing participation in physical activity targeted at those who are presently inactive and doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week. In 2012/15 there were over 162,000 visits to Leeds Let's Get Active sessions, which is a fantastic achievement, and the project recruited over 64,000 participants.

Nationally, unemployed people who participate in sports are 11% more likely than non-participants to have looked for a job in the last four weeks, and the annual value of health benefits from people taking part in sport is estimated at £11.2bn.

In my own ward of Bramley and Stanningley we have the fabulous Bramley Baths, which will be 111 years old this year. The Friends of Bramley Baths are to be congratulated on the work they have undertaken to ensure this facility stays open. Despite being a community asset transfer, Bramley Baths are also part of the Leeds Let's Get Active programme, encouraging people to take part in swimming sessions. They have also run an extensive programme for children over the summer, including a floatable inflatable, walking the plank and swimming like a mermaid. These activities are encouraging children to get active in a fun and enjoyable way.

In addition we are keen to install a skate park or cycle track in the refurbishment of Stanningley Park to broaden the range of activities available in the ward and ensure that people do stay active.

Everybody working on the Leeds Let's Get Active project is to be congratulated on getting so many previously inactive people to participate in these activities. The health benefits of participating in these sessions are obvious and we need to continue to fund the scheme. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: Under this Tory Government - sorry, Conservative - *(laughter)* the value of Council spending has reduced by a third, according to the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy. When inflation is taken into account, expenditure per head of the population has dropped by 32% but the cuts are regional and most specifically are north/south cuts – so in the north they are the worst and in the south obviously they are better. The north-east has the biggest cut but Yorkshire and Humber is the second largest loser, with a 4.7% fall in budgeted expenditure. This is compared to a 1% cut in London and a zero cut in the south-east. What a surprise.

Yesterday the Tory-led Parliament – sorry, Conservative-led Parliament – voted to cut working tax credits by £8.4m in households by at least £750 for each family. I wonder how many of these cuts will affect those in our region compared to those in the leafier Tory/Conservative suburbs.

A September paper from the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute emphasised the huge disparity in funding for projects in Yorkshire and Humber compared to London. It found that London was set to receive six times more funding for major projects per head of population than Yorkshire and Humber, i.e. £850 per head here and £5,305 per head in London. The paper concluded:

“The Conservative Government’s fiscal discipline is being applied unevenly in the English regions and continuing to disproportionately invest in infrastructure in London and risks fuelling the regional imbalances that the Government says it is committed to reducing.”

I think it is clear that up north, where we do not like each other apparently, we are getting shafted and down south, where they only love the Tory/Conservative Government, they are getting well looked after. Things need to change and hopefully they will soon. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you, Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors. I am speaking on Minute 32, page 115 about the pressures of the budget.

I am sure that Tuesday, 21st July and, looking ahead, 25th November, will be dates remembered by all those working in Local Government and also the police and the NHS for years to come, as George Osborne sets out to dismantle and destroy public services.

I do not really think that he cares about Local Government and that is shameful and he certainly does not care about the people who work on the front line. Whilst the announcement of the living wage was welcomed, George Osborne called on the Government departments to plan for £20bn of savings over the next four years. The LGA has highlighted Councils have already made £20bn in savings since 2010 and are warning of huge pressures if the Government does not assess the impact and think about cost pressures that include reducing rents paid by social housing tenants by 1% will actually cost Councils £2.6bn.

On top of this anti-austerity audit states £12.5bn has been cut from Government grants since 2010. We are under attack from every angle and they are taking away money regardless of the consequences. The LGA chairman, Councillor Gary Porter, Conservative, warned that Councils will struggle to provide vital services for the elderly, protecting children, collecting bins, potholes, parks and green spaces on the current level of funding.

I am afraid to say we will have to think about some unpalatable decisions going forward and if Local Government is to survive it will be through our hard work and commitment. It will require some forward thinking strategically how we are going to meet the cost going forward. For example, by 2019 60p of every pound collected will be needed to support vulnerable adults and children, and this is up 41p from 2010.

We will need to pick up pace on how we work. A change of culture is needed and building financial partnerships will be important, whilst focusing on returning our talented workforce. The Leeds pound will only be strong if we involve new financial models that combine funding streams and secure community investment, helping some of our most deprived communities share the success of the city.

The Government are saying spend less and do even more. This is a budget airline strategy that does not work for public services. We can do better. It is simply a lack of respect for the public and for individual dignity.

There must be an ambition by everyone who is elected in Leeds – I will finish my point – to defy austerity and retain Local Government. We are one of the biggest employers in the city and we owe it to every citizen to continue with our ambition. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I just remind Council that when speaking on the Minute they keep within the terms of the Minute. That was broadly within the terms, which is why I did not interrupt you, but you took a little bit of licence there. Councillor Dawson.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I will stick to the topic.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON: Capital expenditure may be seen as a dry topic and having spent many years as a capital accountant calculating capitalised interest and checking conformity with the relevant accounting standard, I can see why many people may lose interest quite quickly. However, capital expenditure can have a real impact on people. Capital expenditure is about investment and improvement – improving the lives of people in this city and ensuring that we meet our ambition and our vision.

Borrowing is pretty cheap at the moment. It is a good time to borrow to invest. Much of the devolution debate is about how controls capital spending for investment in our area. Is it Central Government and the civil servants or is it some form of West Yorkshire body or Mayor?

In this financial year we are spending £400m on capital expenditure, much of this funded by Central Government, the Housing Revenue Account, other third parties, but about £130m is by borrowing. I am currently reviewing our capital programme to ensure we spend wisely, to ensure that we are spending in areas that meet our vision and ambition for the city – that is building a child friendly city, supporting communities, tackling poverty, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, delivering the Better Life Programme, dealing effectively with the city's waste and becoming a more efficient and enterprising Council.

We have some really significant projects, a capital programme that will benefit people in this city and create around 2,000 jobs in the Leeds City Region. We are building 1,000 new homes, new cycle ways, new flood defences, park and ride schemes, new and extended schools, major improvements to the road network, a major spend on regeneration in Leeds city centre, Kirkstall Forge, the Aire Valley, we are revamping Kirkgate Market, we are refurbishing our own property portfolio and investing in a brand new state of the art energy and waste recycling centre.

In total we are spending in excess of £1bn in four years. However, we need to ensure that we deliver and avoid the dreaded word of slippage where projects may drift from one year to another and make sure that we bring real, significant and lasting benefits to the people of Leeds.

I look forward to ensuring that we direct investment to meet the high ambitions we have for the people of Leeds. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: I believe, if my hearing is good, that that was the second mobile phone this afternoon and I take it that the two people concerned will make sure that my charity is added to. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: You can guarantee that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I do not know quite what that means! Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I intend to speak on Minute 34 on page 116 of the Executive Board Minutes. Firstly, my congratulations to Yorkshire Cricket Club on their Division 1 victory, topping off an excellent cricketing summer after England's Ashes success as well. The efforts of our cricket teams within Yorkshire and nationally are only made possible by some of the great work that goes on locally and with young people.

Within the Harewood ward we have spent money through the Community Committee and through our MICE funding on encouraging young people into sport, especially cricket as we have many cricket clubs across the different villages in our ward. We have seen great success with victories for the junior teams and the senior teams.

I noted particularly Councillor Heselwood's comments around the benefits that sport can have on people of all ages as well, especially people seeking to get back into work and that is incredibly encouraging. As well, Councillor Ingham's comments around young people, listening to what they want and that is what we have done in the ward; we have tried to listen to what they want and we have put the money where they want as well.

Sport can have lots and lots of different impacts on people's lives. It does not just teach people about competition...

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me but could I really ask you to talk to that Minute? It is on repayment.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: If you will extend the benefit of your charity to me for a second, Lord Mayor, I will get to it.

THE LORD MAYOR: That is hitting below the belt. Could we please talk to the Minute.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: What I was intending to go on and say is that the £6.5m of this loan, that has had an immense benefit to the Yorkshire Cricket team, many would say, but actually using some of that money and ringfencing some of the money now it has come back into Council coffers to go to sports, to go to cricket clubs and encouraging young people into sport and actually enhancing the benefits of competitive sport for our city and hopefully to produce some brilliant athletes in the future. That was my intention. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Lewis to sum up.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have just been scribbling furiously as people have been speaking. I think although there have been lots of disparate issues raised, I think there are a number of things that I will try and cover in summing up.

I think the first one is the need for all of us to work in the Council and at an administration level and also as Councillor Robinson squeezed in Community Committees on the Executive Board, despite the fact his group did not want to speak on Community Committees earlier, the work we do as Community Committees in actually delivering service and delivering things that matter to people, I think that is increasing and going to be increasingly important.

How we work differently, how we work with partners across the city and again I was reflecting on the comments around social enterprise, both Councillor Golton's encouraging words about social enterprise on which I agree wholeheartedly with him, Councillor Heselwood talking about how it is the Labour Group that does not just talk about social enterprise delivering services in our community but actually with Bramley Baths, which is a great example, makes it happen. I think we would all look at Bramley Baths and so actually we can provide a service to the public and provide it better despite the massive revenue reductions that the Council is facing.

The second thing as well is how we provide services to our communities. I listened very carefully to what Councillor Bentley was saying as well about St George's Centre. Again, another theme that comes through, St George's Centre was one that Labour Councillors in Middleton developed so obviously there is a clear benefit to the areas of the city that have Labour Councillors because we are the ones that get out and deliver services in our community and I would be more than delighted, you have asked us whether the Council support OPAL, I would be more than delighted to come and visit it, Jonathan, I know I am always well received in your ward on the many visits I have made recently.

I think looking at some of the other themes that have come through here, it is not just about how we deliver services differently and, again, it is also how we work with partners. We are not just going to be delivering services on our own as a Council and lots of other Members have talked about that again and Yorkshire County Cricket Club was an example. We were able, using the facilities we have as a Council, to put what is not just a cricket club but also a stadium which really puts this city on the map as a landmark. We are able to support the development of a cricket club and a stadium and really put it on a firm financial footing, which is something that brings a lot back to the city.

There are themes about that. There is also a big theme coming through about however hard we work as a city, and people referred to the Council Plan that shows we have got a clear vision and a clear direction of travel as a Council, and also as Councillor Dawson spoke about the capital programme, one of the most fascinating speeches and interesting speeches I have ever heard on capital spending, and I pay tribute to Councillor Dawson for saying that and saying that actually this is something that supports a lot of our priorities in this city. We are very clear as an administration we have got that vision and leadership through the Council Plan to make these things happen.

Unfortunately the dark cloud that hovered over a lot of the comments that have been made from across the Council Chamber is the massive and deep and unfair cuts to spending, particularly revenue spending, that has been forced on us by the Government. I think we are all dreading the Comprehensive Spending Review to know will it be another - the best case scenario is a 25% cut in Council funding. Some of us have been around the Council Chamber a little bit longer than other and will remember when we were all the other way round, we used to hear about a previous Labour Government only giving us seven to ten per cent increases every year. Doesn't that sound terrible?

Now we are looking at those massive cuts in revenue funding and massive cuts to public services and the impact that it makes on people and I think that is going to be clearly a huge task for us to face going forward and a huge task for us to make sure we can deliver our vision, we can support our vulnerable communities, we can have a growing city.

I think the signs are good, we know we can do it and we will do what we can for the city of Leeds but also people need not rest on our laurels, we will redouble our efforts to make sure that people know actually who is responsible for a lot of the cuts in this city, who it is who sat in Westminster doling out money to places like Tewkesbury and West Oxfordshire and cutting money from Leeds and make sure people are aware where these cuts are coming from and what impact they are having on people. I think that is something that we have got to do. We will work with partners in this city to make it better but we are also going to campaign against those things that the Government are doing to really undermine public services in this city. They talk about devolution, they talk about localism; we are going to talk about fairness and we are going to talk about public services. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

(iii) Regeneration, Transport and Planning

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We now move on to Regeneration, Transport and Planning. Councillor Lay.

COUNCILLOR LAY: It is me again. I must be up for re-election or something!
(laughter)

Thank you, Lord Mayor. I shall be speaking on Minute 16 of the Regeneration, Transport and Planning item within the Board Minutes with regard to Leeds-Bradford airport, for those who do not know.

First of all I would like to welcome Council's continuing commitment to the airport and its siting in my ward. The Airport Master Plan follows the 2014 White Paper brought by my ward colleague here, Councillor Downes, that recognised the long term benefits of Leeds-Bradford airport bringing to the local and regional economy and fully supports the city region's proposed infrastructure improvements to improve both its accessibility and connectivity.

My colleague, Councillor Cleasby, will be speaking on the airport relief road and therefore I would like to concentrate on employability and the importance of Leeds-Bradford airport to my area.

LBA is the area's largest employer, both through direct employment and for those companies and visitors reliant on it. Its future success is our area's, the city's and indeed the City Region's future success.

I do have some reservations about the release of the 36 hectares of land because I need to be assured that this release of land brings real jobs, real diversity of employment with a mixture of new and old industries and technologies. It cannot be allowed, as so much other land around the airport has been allowed to be, to become surface car parking as we are already short of employment land, according to Council officers in the area. It must have the airport relief road and it must have the highways changes not just in the vicinity of the airport but also in the airport's catchment area.

Finally, a vibrant, successful airport enterprise zone will help to bring more jobs, more opportunity, more tourism to this corner of the city. Projected growth in housing in Outer North West Leeds requires this development and therefore I broadly welcome this Airport Master Plan. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak to the same Minute.

Council, some years ago we spent a quarter of a million pounds on a ring road survey and now whilst we are talking about an airport link road it is going to have problems at both ends. It is going to have problems at the ring road end because we are desperate for the three new bridges in the valley that would allow traffic to move speedily and smoothly across the valley. We also need to give some thought to the other end of this link road, which Councillor Anderson has pointed out in my sub-committee, what is going to happen to all the traffic that can suddenly go dashing along this link road and reaches the edge of the Chevin plateau, what does it do then? We need to be thinking about those things now rather than waiting until it happens and then trying to do something about it.

I do hope, Richard, that Council, the Combined Authority, are mindful of the amount of traffic that thrashes through my ward, not just airport traffic but the traffic that has tried to get across the Aire Valley to where the jobs are now, because we have lost the employment land on our side of the valley. I can prove that and your officers can prove that, that clearly shows that since the cameras went up on the A65 the traffic from Rawdon traffic lights to the ring road has gone down by 8%; Bayton Lane and Scotland Lane traffic have both gone up in excess of 240% in the ten years of the cameras. People are avoiding the A65 going through Horsforth, so this road has the potential to be really helpful to local people. I hope that is being considered.

More importantly, Richard, we really do need those three bridges in the valley to really take advantage of the signalisation of the Rodley roundabout, the signalisation of the A65 roundabout and work that will be taking place at Woodside so we have a ring road that is actually brought into the 21st Century. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I refer to Minute 16 and Minute 21.

Can I first of all, like we said earlier, congratulate the ruling administration on the continued support that they have got for the airport. It is vital to us, not just in the north of the city but throughout the whole of the city and also the wider city region etc, so I would totally support that.

What I was looking for today from Richard is if he could give some reassurances. One is on the Surface Access Strategy. As a local ward Councillor I have not a clue what is happening because the airport does not engage with local Councillors in the area in terms of their Master Plan. They do not speak to local Councillors within the area. Can you use your powers to try and get them to consult with us and also probably even with you as well, because I am not even convinced that they even keep you totally up to date with everything that they are planning and doing either. It is a partnership between the Council and between the airport and we can all benefit accordingly. Also, if you could ask Council officers to work with local Councillors, local Parish Councils and residents' groups on what the plans are for the airport as well.

On the issue of the airport relief road, who in their right mind drew that line across the map which has led to upset and misunderstanding, misinterpretation as a result of someone arbitrarily drawing that line on the map? I personally would look forward to seeing where it is actually going to go but it has caused problems.

To move on to the Site Allocations Plan, can he confirm that he will ensure that we have true consultation as outlined by Councillor Blake at Exec Board? Will he look again at the locations that he is having for the consultation? As he is aware I have raised concerns that there is nothing in my ward. Also, to look again at trying to see what he can do to get information out there so the public can understand the education impacts, the highways impacts. I have got a reply from an officer saying, "Oh yes, the highways implications are only at strategic level, not at a site allocation level", so how can people make informed comments in terms of what they are doing?

Can you make sure that the documentation is in clear precise English? Maybe not Scottish but at least English so that people can understand what it is that they are actually being consulted on and what the process is.

Finally, can you try and make sure that the website works because I have had an outline from David Feeney and from Steve Speak and if it works it will be brilliant; if it does not we have another disaster on our hands. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I just at the outset say I am a supporter of the airport and I have been on the Airport Consultative Committee for two years and the Master Plan and Surface Access Strategy has been on that agenda at every single meeting. When I first went on I thought oh, gosh, Surface Access Strategy, that will be something interesting, we will get into that, and we had an excuse (I will not tell you what it is because I cannot remember so far back). We have had so many excuses. I can remember one excuse just prior to the

election was they were waiting for the outcome of the general election before they could bring it forward. I am not really sure where that came into it.

I was at the Airport Consultative Committee last week and they did say that they would consult in October and it did say 2015, because I did make particular notice. We maybe are getting somewhere.

The airport needs to consult because they have moved on so far from when they last brought forward a strategy and local residents have an opinion. Whether they are pro or against the airport they have an opinion around it and it is about how it affects their local lives. Businesses have a view and with the new business park that is likely to be created, I have similar views to Councillor Lay as to how that will work, but businesses have a view, businesses want to take up and take a role in that. Airport users have a view because they come and use the airport and they need to see how the airport has developed since then.

With regard to the Surface Access Strategy, the car parking and drop-off area and the drop-off charge is something that never seems to go away and they constantly come back. Most recently they removed the taxi permits so that taxis now have to pay the same charge as any individual does, so it adds £3 to taxi fares. Whether you think that is right or wrong it is something that needs to be discussed.

Most importantly as well, the suggested road link. You have heard other Members talk about the road link. What is not being mentioned at the moment is the road cum rail. There is a proposal which is supported by the Harrogate Chamber of Trade for a parkway station off the Horsforth line near the Bramhall Tunnel and it really needs to be that we run those two things in tandem with each other and do not just put a road in, because a road will have implications for drawing traffic in but we need to look at how a parkway station might work.

I know that Councillor Paulene Grahame is taking a keen interest in this because she came to the last Airport Consultative Committee and really enjoyed herself so I am sure she is taking a keen interest! *(laughter)*

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: I don't think we should go into that!

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Very quickly on Minute 21 on Site Allocations, I do hope, Councillor Blake, it will be a genuine consultation because we had a consultation about the numbers and a lot of people went away and thought we have started with 70,000 and we have finished with 70,000 and they did not think that was genuine consultation. A lot of individuals and local groups in my area are doing a lot of evidence-based work on this consultation and I hope that that will be taken notice of and I hope that you can come forward and confirm that it will be taken notice of because if not they might as well just pack it in and go home but if it is going to be genuine consultation I will continue to encourage them. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR COULSON: Lord Mayor, may I just make a comment, please? In the last half hour when people have been speaking there has been more than one microphone on. It is affecting the reproduction of the speaker and I am struggling – there were two mics on then all the time that Paul was speaking, the last speaker, whoever it was.

THE LORD MAYOR: I do not know how that can happen. Is that possible? I am no electrician here or anything to do with speakers.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: It is the people on the control.

THE LORD MAYOR: On the control there cannot be two speakers on, can there? We will get that checked out now. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: I am in trouble; I might as well stop in it!

THE LORD MAYOR: You are not in trouble over that, I should not worry.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: I am not bothered either way.

THE LORD MAYOR: I do not suppose you are. Councillor Venner.

COUNCILLOR VENNER: My Lord Mayor, I am also speaking on Minute 16, page 105. I am speaking in my Support Executive Member role for Sustainable Communities. Communities are sustainable when people can live, work and play in their local area without having to travel long distances. Sustainable communities have a range of different occupations, different types of housing and a mix of individuals, families and older people. It is the Council's vision that this mix continues to exist in Outer North West Leeds.

As Councillor Lay referred to, the proposals put forward in the paper allow a section of land to be allocated for employment use. This is intended to help deliver high quality facilities that will bring jobs to the Outer North West and help reduce the number of people having long commutes to work.

The 2011 census data shows that in Otley and Yeadon wards 65% of working age adults who travel to work do so by driving and many of these may be driving for long periods to get into Leeds. Researchers from the University of Montreal have looked into the impact of commuting in a paper published earlier this year. They have confirmed that commuting regularly for more than 20 minutes can lead to significant increases in stress and risk of burnout. It is therefore highly desirable and in line with the Council's commitment to Health and Wellbeing that we create opportunities for people to work nearer home.

The Council is clear that there is a need for public transport to deliver people both to the site and the airport and that this level of clarity and consistency is also needed from the airport in order for this development to be a success.

At Executive Board Councillor Richard Lewis stated that employment sites were needed in the area of the airport in order to achieve a better mix of job opportunities. He also said that the paper shows the commitment the Council has made and expressed his desire for the airport to act in the same spirit.

The Outer North West of Leeds has a clear need for employment land, for high quality sites for industries seeking to expand and grow. Without these sites employers could choose to live elsewhere in the country or region, forcing employers to either commute further or have to move out of the area.

Having employment sites in this area means there can be a real mix of different employees living nearby. Having a good mix of employment in the area can stop the Outer North West of Leeds from becoming dormitory towns where people live but do not work.

Having this as an employment site may help provide a business case for better transport links by road and rail to the airport and the surrounding area. To have a sustainable community there needs to be alternatives to car travel both for people going to the airport for work or leisure and for those employed in the land around it. Allowing this site for employment means this can become a reality. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Sue Bentley.

COUNCILLOR S BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 17 page 105 on Elland Road Park and Ride scheme.

As a keen proponent of park and rides schemes dotted strategically around the ring road, I am delighted that the Elland Road Park and Ride scheme has been so successful that it has been expanded to allow more residents to use it. I am equally pleased that the East Leeds Enterprise Zone will be getting the park and ride at Temple Green. However, I am very disappointed – I am extremely disappointed, actually – that the A660, one of the busiest roads in the city, is still waiting for a park and ride.

Weetwood residents and Councillors are fed up with hearing that we will have one at Boddington when the NGT is given the green light. There is no guarantee that that will happen, especially with the Government launching its Air Quality Consultation seeking to improve the air quality, because evidence at the NGT public enquiry said it would be worse.

Interestingly, the consultation document even suggests introducing expanding park and ride schemes along with low emission buses and taxis, or converting fleets. We are told how London is leading the way by embracing new technology and will have 300 electric and 3,000 hybrid buses by 2020. I wonder what Leeds will have then? Nothing, I suspect, as there is no official Plan B if NGT is rejected.

Weetwood desperately needs a park and ride at Boddington to reduce congestion, improve air quality the general environment and to stop all the unofficial park and ride that occurs in our local streets and upsets our residents.

If NGT gets the go-ahead all of these issues could be addressed early on if the project of the park and ride at Boddington was installed at the very beginning of that project. This not only has the support of the majority of Weetwood residents and all the Councillors, but also Leeds Beckett University. The University is keen to play its part in reducing congestion and parking problems on residential streets by its staff and students.

If the Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is really serious about reducing traffic into the city centre they would do something now and not wait for at least five years, as is their current plan. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Sobel.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: Lord Mayor, I wish to speak on Minute 17, page 105. The Elland Road Park and Ride, much to many doubters' surprise, has been an unqualified success. It was opened to deal with the world coming to our city of Leeds for the Tour. We should not underestimate our own popularity since, with over 50,000 people having used the park and ride. Alongside the Temple Green Park and Ride it can provide a real alternative travel to Leeds city centre for areas with poor public transport connections, reducing congestion and vehicle emissions. The benefits should be clear with improved air quality, faster travel times and improving the quality of life for people using the park and ride and for those who live on the bus route to and from the park.

The buses operate on the green route, providing express service into Leeds City Centre creating an entirely new way for people to arrive in our city. The users are clearly delighted, with satisfaction rates averaging over nine out of ten and 99.5% saying they would recommend the scheme to others. With this sort of word of mouth marketing, how can extension not prove successful? Leeds businesses are already wanting to buy annual passes for staff – a great example of the Council's civic enterprise policy bedding in.

This is just one of a range of methods to improve integration and support the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan. I hope that we can see further growth in park and ride alongside other public transport investments when we get a devolution settlement and can direct more investment in an integrated way around the city region. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Walker.

COUNCILLOR WALKER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on Minute 17, page 105, the Elland Road Park and Ride.

It is become clear that the park and ride at Elland Road has been a great success not only in attracting people to use the facility but also in getting such great feedback for their users. There are few services that can claim 99.5% of customers would recommend the service to others so there is something for the Council, the Combined Authority and our partners to be proud about. We have shown that park and ride can work in Leeds as long as you put it in the right location, make it attractive for people to use and ensure that there is a quick and efficient service for where people want to go.

Moving on to Temple Green next also seems like a sensible move. This is an area we all know will be very busy and it offers a great route into the city centre, but once these are completed we do need to see where we can go next.

Will there be more demand for park and ride? I really think there will be and we know that the north and the west of the city may also need to be included in any future schemes. This is, of course, not as simple as buying a car park and a bus or two. The right site needs to be found with an appropriate size to accommodate the number of cars that will want to use it. A good route into the city centre is also necessary to

allow for a smooth journey. There is no point getting on a bus and being stuck in that same traffic jam. The site must also allow for car and pedestrian movement whilst coping with buses coming in and out of that facility, so the service of these schemes should be heartening for all of us; certainly we can see that solutions have been found for the sites that have been put forward. As we get more experienced in delivering park and ride in the city when we will hopefully hone skills that will make more challenging routes possible.

In Leeds we want to maintain our strong economy, which can only happen if our travel network works whilst cutting congestion. It is great that we have the success so far of park and ride and I hope that we will be able to continue looking to expand this scheme across the city. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Hayden. May I just remark that this is also a maiden speech. *(Applause)*

COUNCILLOR HAYDEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wish to speak on Minute 18, page 106, the Temple Green Park and Ride.

Following the success of the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme, the planned development at Temple Green is the next logical step. The scheme is intended to provide 1,000 car parking spaces with a quick and regular bus into the city centre. The bus route will include stops along Pontefract Lane which will provide easy access to the sites in the employment zone.

Having learned the lessons of the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme, it is intended that the site at Temple Park will have high quality facilities from the outset. This will include excellent waiting facilities, customer toilets and ticket stations which will help to create a comfortable and efficient experience. The planned landscaping will improve the outlook of the whole area.

As well as the long term benefits for the users of the park and ride scheme, the reduction of traffic in the city centre, of carbon emissions and potential improvement in air quality, this scheme will provide employment both in the construction of and day to day running of the service.

Additional facilities such as electric car charging stations will make this site a convenient option for those drivers looking to reduce their carbon usage. This will add to the overall reduction in carbon emissions and subsequently lead to improvements in air quality.

The success of the Elland Road scheme demonstrates that park and ride is an option that many people will use if they have the opportunity. The Temple Park site is ideally located as it is close to the M1 junction, with a clear route into the city centre. This will not only benefit people coming into Leeds from other areas but, more importantly, it will be of benefit to those people living in the Outer East areas of the city.

As the employment zone starts to come to life, with work starting on sites and business including John Lewis, who are bringing their customer delivery hub, announcing that they will come to the area, it is imperative that there is a suitable public transport network. The employment zone has the potential to bring up to 7,000

jobs which will mean many opportunities for people living in the neighbouring wards, such as my own of Temple Newsam.

People need to be able to access these opportunities, to travel to the employment zone as well as access the city centre. We know that park and ride can work in Leeds, it is working in Elland Road. Hopefully this new site at Temple Green will ensure yet more safe, swift and relaxed journeys to the city centre and employment zone. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Jim McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on Minute 19, page 109, South Bank Regeneration.

The South Bank Regeneration is a massive opportunity for the city. We know that, developed to its full potential, the South Bank can deliver 4,000 new homes and up to 35,000 new jobs. We need to ensure that development that takes place maximises these opportunities for the current and future residents of South Leeds. It is not about stuffing houses or offices willy nilly into the area. We know that that does not work. Master planning will be required at each stage, no matter who the landowners are, in order to ensure that there are good open spaces and ways for people to get about and across the South Bank from South Leeds.

A number of existing buildings on the South Bank will be familiar to everyone – Temple Works, the Round Foundry, the Engine House, Marshall’s Mills. As we move through the regeneration process it is hoped that there may be some new names to join this list of important historical buildings on the South Bank. Green space has to be at the heart of the plans and the report rightly identifies a new decent sized green park to be delivered.

To get the regeneration right we need to work with landowners and developers. We cannot accept an approach whereby each developer does their own thing. A master plan is required clearly indicating areas that can be developed, what will be reserved for housing, offices, education, transport, infrastructure and communal green spaces. This will allow the Council to really get to grips with regenerating the whole area.

Getting a good mix of housing, including homes for families, will be key to the South Bank being a success. We need to move away from the city centre living being only for young professionals and instead have it as a choice that people can make at any times in their life. As Chair of the City Plans Panel, my Panel and me will, of course, be able to confirm that each development conforms to the master plan and will be decided on planning grounds. However, the work being done at this stage will be a fundamental part of making the South Bank meet its full potential and help regenerate this area. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I too am speaking on Minute 19, page 106, and I am looking round thinking how many of you feel lucky to live in Leeds.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: All of us.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: You all feel lucky to live in Leeds? What a fantastic opportunity the South Bank regeneration is. It is a thriving and successful city and it is part of what will be one of the largest city centre regenerations in Europe. How fantastic is that for the city of Leeds?

Jim has spoken about the housing developments and potential for more a joined up and vibrant area of the city, the job opportunities and the infrastructure improvements. It is no secret that the key to our continuing success is how we attract families to the city centre, and a fundamental part of that is our education offer and that is what I would like to focus on now.

I am very excited, as I am sure you all are, by the education proposals for this area and I think they will offer a real choice for the families and young people moving into that area of the city. The provision in this area includes Leeds City College at the Printworks Campus, the largest free school and will benefit from having the College of Building right alongside a new Universal Technical College and that will specialise in advanced manufacturing and engineering, the first in the country. It is offering real specialisms in giving students the opportunity to fully develop their knowledge and experience and expertise in what will be one of the growing areas of business within the city.

All of these institutions will be located within five minutes' walk of one another. Imaging the feeling, it will be like a university campus, an education village within Leeds. These education developments represent a real belief in what we are trying to achieve, a belief that our young people are worth the investment and a belief that Leeds will become the hub of a successful devolved region.

The report talks about major residential developments, making the area and the waterfront welcoming to students and families. We cannot afford to get this wrong. If we are serious about attracting businesses to Leeds, attracting families to Leeds, attracting students to Leeds and giving them the skills they will need for employment and then keeping them here, in employment, we need to have our offer absolutely right.

I am looking forward to seeing this development and, of course, working in partnership with the educational providers as we ensure that every child and every young person in Leeds has the best education and the very best opportunities to develop to their full potential. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. More good news. Speaking today on Minute 20 page 108, regarding the regeneration project works which are taking place at the Leeds Kirkgate Market.

I would like to update Members on the progress of the project. The work to develop the market is well under way, having commenced earlier this year. Our main contractors carry out many work packages in accordance with the project programme and they are well ahead of their six week schedule for Part 1 of this programme.

There have been unforeseen additional costs and additional funding has been agreed by the Executive Board. This will be used to ensure that the building work meets the requirements set out by English Heritage; as we all know the market is a listed building. Further additional costs have been caused by the market staying open whilst the work is being carried out and also partly due to increased prices of materials. We have also had to carry out additional works, such as the replacement of the Victorian drains which run down the centre of the Fish aisle, and to enable this work to be carried out the current Fish Row is now on Butchers Row and the drainage and asbestos surveys have now been completed.

The clearance of all the Fish and Game Row materials have also been cleared and all the stalls in the 1976 hall have been demolished and the removal of the asbestos carried out.

Environmental work to the Yorkshire stone paving in the Fish and Game Row is now complete and the information centre and contractor entrance on the eastern side of 76 hall is in place. Work has also been carried out on a sprinkler system and a full contractor compound facility has been established. Surveys have also been done on the 76 and 81 roofs which have been complete and will start soon, and will take approximately four weeks.

As you are aware, this is clearly a significant regeneration scheme which, when complete, will be a massive boost to our market and it will be ready approximately one month before the Victoria Gate John Lewis development opens in September next year.

It has been a very difficult time for all our traders, who have seen a drop in footfall in the market and this has affected their takings significantly. We have reduced rents by 20% for the indoor and outdoor markets to help the traders get through this difficult time. The reduction was due to expire at the end of September but I can now announce that this will be extended until further notice.

The management of the markets have worked under very difficult circumstances to assist the traders in every way possible and a long list of events has been planned for the six weeks running up to the Christmas period to help boost the footfall.

Finally, I would like to thank the traders and the people of Leeds for their patience during this much needed regeneration work. However, when the market is fully reopened and the new Victoria Gate John Lewis stores are also opened, millions of people will flock to the area and hundreds of new jobs will be created, and footfall in the market will receive a massive boost.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I ask you to finish now, the red light came on.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: The people of Leeds will once again have a market to be proud of and I cannot wait for next September. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Iqbal.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: My Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors, I am also speaking today on Minute 20 page 108, the Leeds Kirkgate Market.

When people ask me what I am proud about in this city, the market must be one of those things. The market buildings, particularly the older halls, are stunning; the businesses contained both inside and outside serve local people and visitors with their typical charm and wit alongside low prices. Lord Mayor, the market is a gem in the city, renowned for high quality produce and attention to customer service. Having a market working closely with building works was always going to be a challenge and I think that keeping the market open, vibrant and active throughout this period was the best thing to do for both the traders and the people who come into the market to do their shopping.

As a city we have to look after our treasures. One way to do this is for the market to make sure it is refurbished but another way is to make sure that people know what the market is, visit and buy what they need from there and that it is cheaper and better than other locations.

Great local services such as home delivery for market produce makes that more possible for people. I also feel we should be able to shout more for the market and say what a great thing it is. We want local people to use the market especially when the savings can be greater compared to other stalls, so I feel we need to get out and make sure everyone knows the market is open, it is still the place for great purchases and with these works it will be able to keep on offering the same great choices for a long time to come. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. This is the last one coming up, Councillor Andrew Carter. Can I also remind you in general to try and keep your papers from on top of your microphone because we cannot record in some cases. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I refer to Minute 21 on page 108 but in particular I want to refer Members to page 109 and the key points that were discussed according to the Minutes. If you look at number 4 down there, it indicates “A Member noted...” and goes on about brown field sites. The Member in question was me and I remain extremely concerned and I would hope, as Councillor Anderson said, that Councillor Lewis will give some firm reassurance today and that Councillor Blake in her winding up, will do similar because the answers given to me by the Planning Officers were dismissive and indicated in point of fact that as far as they were concerned the Site Allocations consultation was a rubber stamping exercise and that the Council were going to be consulting effectively 750,000 people about the Site Allocations Plan, but then propose to take little or no notice of the comments that came back. I cannot think, Lord Mayor, of anything more likely to do further damage to the planning process and confidence in the planning process in this city than that approach and it is not acceptable.

If we are consulting the residents of this city they will rightly expect that the result of that consultation will mean some changes. It is not about changing your Core Strategy; it is not about changing the findings of the Inspector of the Core Strategy. It is about what is included in the Site Selection process. We know what your numbers are and we have all argued our differences on that and I am not going to go into it again now. What we are doing here is consulting the people of this city and they deserve to have some reassurance that their efforts are not going to be disregarded by this Local Authority. *(Applause)*

(c) Regulatory Committees

(i) North and East Plans Panel

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We now move to page 13, to the Regulatory Committees. Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking today on Minute 24 page 280, and Minute 34 page 187, Two Hoots Farm photovoltaic panels. Perhaps I should call them PV panels, it may save some time.

I was at the first Panel meeting in June but sadly absent for the second discussion on this subject. I would like to thank Councillor Peter Gruen for substituting for me at that meeting. I did, however, want to put forward a few thoughts, especially as whilst we have had some medium sized applications in the city, this is the first large one I know in Leeds.

Of course as a Plans Panel we were only able to look at the relevant planning matters and I think we did that very thoroughly between the two meetings, but there are wider issues that perhaps we should dwell on for a couple of minutes as a Council.

I think it is quite clear that the way we produce energy does need to change. Using non-renewables will reduce either by us choosing to move to better options or simply because they will eventually run out. They are, after all, not renewable. Historically the environment of our area has suffered due to energy creation and we need to be careful not to recreate this. I feel that where possible we should be keen for modern, clean energy production needs to take place in suitable sites.

I think we do want to ensure that as a planning authority we are willing to look at ways that will help us meet our energy needs and consider that balanced against the other issues when we make decisions. I believe this is exactly what the Panel did over the two meetings before coming to a decision on planning grounds.

It is great that individuals and smaller companies are putting PV panels on properties. Indeed, we as a Council are making sure that we can help put PV panels on buildings, including some of our own Council homes. This is a great start but we also need to be thinking about how we can meet more of our energy needs.

The planning permission granted has allowed for a site of 654 panels, which is expected to yield 150,000kw of power a year. If this is accurate then it will power 33 homes, whereas we know that most home PV schemes only cover the energy use of that one property. I do hope that more applications for renewable sources of energy are made for Leeds. We will, of course, have to look at each one on its own merits, based on the location and all other planning grounds but I am sure that many people would prefer solar panels to fracking. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Stuart McKenna.

COUNCILLOR S McKENNA: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, I am speaking on page 184 Minute 41, the Maggie Centre.

Lord Mayor, we are a compassionate city and there are few times that people need support more than when them or a family member or a friend is unwell. Many people

will not be aware of the work that Maggie's do so last night I went on to their website and I will just give you a brief description of what Maggie's Centres are about.

Maggie's Centres are a network of drop-in centres in Great Britain which aim to help anyone who has been affected by cancer. They are not intended as a replacement for conventional cancer therapy, but as a caring environment that can provide support, information and practical advice. They are located near, but are separate from, existing NHS hospitals.

They are a Scottish registered charity which promotes, builds and runs the centres formally named the Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Trust, but refers to itself simply as Maggie's. It was founded by and named after the late Maggie Keswick Jencks, who died of cancer in 1995. Like her husband, architectural writer and critic Charles Jencks, she believed in the ability of buildings to uplift people. The buildings that house the centres have been designed by leading architects.

Patrons of the charity include Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and former Prime Minister's wife, Sarah Brown.

Clearly having a Maggie's Centre in Leeds is very important, especially given the internationally recognised cancer centre at St James's Hospital. As Plans Panel of course we needed to make a decision on planning grounds alone, which is why I am delighted that Maggie's had clearly put so much thought into their design and quality.

Hospital buildings are not always known for their attractiveness, especially from the outside, but I have to agree with the opinion of the Panel that the design and architecture is excellent. In fact, I would say the design is stunning. Worked up by Heatherwick Studio, the building looks like a series of plant pots clustered together. I really do suggest that you have a look at pictures available on the internet. You will get a real sense of what they are trying to achieve. In fact, I described it on the pre-app and the full application as looking like something out of Star Wars, which me and Councillor Walshaw are huge fans of so we went on and spoke about how much we admired them.

Having an oasis of quiet calm will no doubt be very important for the people who use this centre. Hospital wards are often not (*inaudible*) does not have to spill on to the area of support, relaxation and practical guidance. The uses of centres allows people to get away from everything and will hopefully aid people who need just this kind of support.

On Plans Panel we are used to seeing a range of designs from the every day to the frankly poor, which is worth looking at applications like the Maggie Centre for what can be achieved and I want to pay tribute to all the Members on Plans Panel from all parties who, after I moved it, all voted in favour of recommending this application and also to the officers and David Newbury and his team who always come to Plans Panel prepared and are very helpful towards all Members.

Not every application will be able to hire prestigious architects and not every application should look like a collection of plant pots, but if everyone, especially high volume house builders, put a little bit of effort and thought into their application, then we would be able to leave a much more interesting legacy for the future. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Yes, thank you, Lord Mayor. I am prompted to speak because of Councillor Harland's contribution to I speak on Minute 24 on page 180.

Renewable energy is indeed a worthwhile cause and laudable and, indeed, I had a financial interest in a renewable company at one point in time. However, it is the right thing in the right place.

My contention would be that putting photovoltaic panels in the green belt. In open rural countryside, in a site that is designated as special landscape interest, is not the right place.

There are many places around the city that undoubtedly are the right place; there are many buildings in the city which would afford a far easier and far cheaper option in actual fact, but putting panels such as this in this area, in the Harewood ward, was wrong.

What was further wrong – and again, it is the passage of time, isn't it – those who were around quite a number of years ago will remember in relation to this particular site, a small site, a farm of 43 acres, will know that it was not a farm at all, it was simply open field, open countryside. However, because of a planning quirk, planning policies, the creation of a supposed pig unit, living in a caravan on site for two years, you can then trigger an application for a permanent house in the green belt, in open countryside, in an area of special landscape interest, and that is what happened here.

What unfortunately this application did not detail was the conjoined element of this supposed farm and the large acreage next door, which is nothing other than a planning disgrace with numerous outstanding enforcement cases against it that have been dragging on for, what, ten, fifteen plus years, in actual fact, back to when I used to represent part of this area.

Whilst I can sympathise with the sentiment that Councillor Harland has in terms of renewable energy, photovoltaic cells in open countryside in this area was the wrong decision. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Walshaw to sum up.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I was making some notes for this and I was about to suggest and say how friendly and collegiate Members had been and then we had Councillor Procter's intervention, so excuse me while I change things around.

First of all, when I was asked to be Chair of North and East Plans I got a few looks from people, "Oh, you poor soul, North and East Plans" and instead I found Members and officers helpful and hard working and collegiate and detailed, as you have seen from the two contributions from Councillor Harland and Councillor McKenna and I would like to thank you all for your contributions, including you, Councillor Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Wait till the next meeting.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Indeed, I can hardly wait. I am literally crossing the days off on my calendar. *(laughter)*

Let us look at those applications and let us look at PV first because our first speaker and our last speaker touched on those, solar voltaics. As Councillor Harland pointed out, there are some big issues that we have to address here. Of course we have to take each application on its merits and we have to get those details right, but we also have to think about those big issues and the Chamber is a good place to speak about that.

We have talked about the details and they are important and I take issue with Councillor Procter's assertion that this is a PV farm in open country. This PV farm will be shielded, there will be planting, there will be trees, there will be shrubbery and I will tell you what affects green belt – climate change. If you do not want it to be parched brown belt, semi arid belt, then we need to think about renewable energy. This city has to play its part in reducing its carbon footprint, we absolutely have to do that. That is a societal imperative and I think most people in this Chamber know that.

Perhaps it is a generational thing, and I am not referring to age here but I think it is perhaps a mindset. When I look at PV I think of free energy and I think of the future and I do not think of it as an eyesore, I do not think it is something that is derogatory to the countryside. Certainly what is derogatory to the countryside was the enormous medieval fortress earth berm that is currently in front of that farm and that looked terrible and that will be got rid of and that will be landscaped, and that is to the good. This application was full of improvements and I welcome these kind of applications.

Like I said, as a Panel we have got to keep an open mind and we have got to take each one on its merits. I think PV, we are going to see a lot of these are we have got to be ready for it as Planning Councillors, as Members on those Panels we have to prepare for it and we have to get our heads round the big issues as well as the details of policy. There is a challenge for us all there.

Turning to the Maggie Centre, when I was making notes about this in the Panel I wrote, "Just amazing" on it, because this application is just amazing. All our families perhaps have been touched by someone who has suffered from cancer and I cannot help but think that if one of my relatives was suffering, I would want them to have the chance to use these centres, to come to terms with these centres. They absolutely are fantastic. Stuart, there is always a good time for a Star Wars reference when we are talking about planning. I just want to put it on the public record that is Parts 4, 5 and 6, not Parts 1, 2, and 3. I just want to make that clear. If anyone is a Star Wars film person you will know what that all means.

Moving, moving, moving on I think it is a really great example of how the Third Sector, the voluntary sector and the NHS can work together to improve care. My parents have recently moved to Leeds and I did tell them, if such a thing can be said to be good then Leeds is a good place to be ill, and I think this just adds to that. It is fantastic.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: It is a good place to be well!

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: It shows how we are coming forward as a city.

One last thing, colleagues, one thing I have noticed is since becoming Chair, one of the things I have had in my email inbox is a succession of successful appeal defences, of dismissed appeals upon the judgments that previous Members of this Panel have made and the current Panel has made, and I think that is testament to the hard work we have put in and the attention to detail.

Just one final, final thing then, one observation. There is something a little bit joyous about, if you are on City Plans or if you are on South and West or North and East, there is something more than a little joyous when you see people's face light up when they get permission for their extension or they get permission to build their homes, and when we also are granting permission for large developments, because we know that is about making homes and about making communities. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

(g) Scrutiny Boards

(vi) Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health & NHS)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to speak on Minute 22, pages 136 to 138, Children and Young People's Oral Health Plan.

Whilst I agree that we need to use all available channels we can to raise awareness of the levels of tooth decay and relative poor health amongst children and young people in Leeds, we need to obviously address this problem but I do not think fluoride is the answer.

Yes, there is fluoride in toothpaste and there is a choice there, whether you use it or not, but I am amazed in this draft plan that it is recommending that all – all – three to 16 years olds should have fluoride varnish applied twice yearly by their dentist. It does not say whether the parents will be asked if they wish this applying or not. If this ever came to be, which I hope it does not but if it did, I would hope at least that they would ask the parents, because some people are allergic to fluoride and not only that, of course, this plan makes out that fluoride is wonderful. Anybody can well give you the pros of doing something but they should also give you the cons of it as well.

I do not intend to go on, I could go on ages about this but I will not, but what I will say to you is that fluoride is a poison. Yes, you look into it, I have got loads of stuff. Countries have taken fluoride out of the water because of this. It is linked to a wide range of medical problems from irritable bowel syndrome to cancer. Chemicals used in fluoridation are banned by prescription by the 1972 Poisons Act. An amazing number of countries have stopped using water fluoridation because of concerns about its effectiveness, potential health risk and the environmental pollution involved.

This goes back to May 2003, the last Swiss city to fluoridate ceased the practice after 31 years and also in the same year Korea came out against the practice, but not only that, I know many States in the USA, because there was concern that...

THE LORD MAYOR: OK, we are at the end.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Well, there we are, yes. *(Applause)*

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

COUNCILLOR P GRUEN: Well, Councillor Blackburn, I need to start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity of making my maiden speech! *(laughter)* I hope colleagues will listen in silence and reverence!

I also think that Councillor Blackburn continues to make the same unique and meaningful contributions to subject matters as she always has done. Fluoridisation is probably above my pay grade, I have to say. There was a long debate and the Director of Public Health was very clear that this fluoridisation was a very complex issue and actually not at the heart of what his report was about. His report, and Scrutiny Board noted it with real concern, to find that children in our city are far below the standards or oral health to others and that the level of tooth decay was quite as pronounced as it is came as a shock, I think, to people on the Scrutiny Board and should concern all of us.

Since then, our efforts have been to write back to the appropriate people, including the Director of Children's Services, as it says here, to say can we all raise awareness together, can we use the school clusters, can we use the governing boards, can we use ourselves and other people, Community Committees to actually raise the subject and the awareness of tooth decay? I think that is what we should be engaging on – raising awareness not with blame but simply to say this is not where we ought to be and as a city that wants to be the best city in all issues, then we need to do better and we need to educate people better to actually achieve a different outcome altogether.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Gruen. Councillor Blake, would you like to sum up? You have ten minutes.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think from your comments you were referring to the sheer breadth that the Minutes have actually covered today, extraordinary areas of business that the Council is responsible for and I pay tribute to each and every one of you who has made a contribution to today's events, and particularly the maiden speeches. I never fail to be impressed by people making maiden speeches. It is a great contribution to us and we are delighted that you are here to contribute in the way that you have today.

There are several themes running through today. I think one of the main ones is actually one that we need to take note of and that is the impact of Members working in their wards. I think that has been a very strong thing coming through today, as Councillor Coupar said at the outset, that the work reflected through the Annual Report and then through the Community Committee updates and the Chairs that have spoken today I think demonstrates the richness of the work that we do in this Council.

Very often we talk about the big high profile issues but actually when we go out on the door talking to residents, it is that day after day work that Councillor Heselwood was describing in terms of being active, but it is also about being active as ward Members and I think as Councillor Lewis said, making sure that the activity on the ground leads to first class facilities and activities through the work that we pull together through our Community Committees.

If I could just make some specific comments on the matters raised today, I want to go straight to, if I can, the comments about the Site Allocation Process. Councillor Lewis and I have got a meeting in the diary with you fixed, Councillor Carter, and I know that we would both be more than happy to pick up the specific issues about the brown field sites. I can honestly say I am very surprised to hear the comments you made about officers making certain observations. I want to assure you on behalf of the whole Council that the consultation on the Site Allocations process will be genuine, will be meaningful and will pick up, Councillor Anderson, the comments that I know people will make about local amenities. That is absolutely essential. I do not know if it is you personally who is struggling with the website but I think.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: It is not on the website.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: The comments about the website, it is the way forward and the most accessible way that we can engage with the widest number of – I might be misattributing that comment, sorry if I am, Barry.

Moving on to the other parts of the Minutes, the Minutes on the Regeneration and Transport and Planning Minutes are absolutely extraordinary this time, and the sheer breadth of areas of work that are covered is quite phenomenal. Again, the themes behind this are about employment, are about jobs, are about growth in the city in terms of GDP and output and how that reflects on the value of the Leeds economy, which is valued at an extraordinary £20.4bn. It is quite staggering. We have seen really strong business growth in the city and we honestly can say that we have probably the fastest growing scale-up firms in the country based in Leeds, outside of London and Cambridge, which I think is a phenomenal reputation for us to have and the most important thing then is linking that to how we create opportunities for the people that live and work in our city.

To be specific, there were quite a number of comments on the airport. Sandy, I think it was, you were concerned about the employment side and making sure that is paramount. That absolutely runs through it. This is about providing much needed employment land in an area of the city where there is a lack, and there has been a diminishing amount in the wider area.

I also agree entirely with the comments that have been made about the surface access. It is absolutely crucial in terms of making sure that we get the road in the right place to the airport so that people want to use the airport to bring tourists in, to bring people in for the employment opportunities that we are creating.

Comments on the Elland Road Park and Ride and Temple Green Park and Ride. Councillor Sobel and Councillor Walker really picking up on something that I think has been something of a surprise just how successful the Elland Road scheme has been. Certainly people who live in our ward, in Middleton and Belle Isle, have told us repeatedly how much they welcome having the scheme there.

I do have to pick up, Councillor Bentley, on your comments about the A660. I reflect that both Elland Road and Temple Green have come together as a result of locally based partnerships that have come through but I do not understand if you are so keen to get park and ride into Boddington Hall as was and on to the fields there, why did the Liberal Democrats hold up NGT for two years? *(Applause)* I just think you just cannot have it all ways.

We would love to have the ability to put park and ride exactly where we want, that is why we are arguing for devolved resources and powers through the transport discussions we are having centrally.

Fantastic contributions from Councillor McKenna and Councillor Dowson about South Bank. Probably the biggest regeneration opportunity in this country if not beyond, the South Bank gives us such a phenomenal opportunity to move forward and, of course, the market – and I do want to pay tribute to the work that Councillor Gerry Harper has put into the market. He has stuck in there and done a phenomenal job and we will see the results of your efforts very soon indeed, I am sure.

That brings me on to the last part, and all of the opportunities that we have created in the schemes highlighted through the Minutes today will be meaningless if we do not crack the issue of getting people that we represent into those jobs, creating those opportunities, as we have heard from Councillor Taylor and so many other contributions today, and it is absolutely crucial that we make sure to our planning assessment and all of that that we make the best opportunity to make sure that the businesses coming into Leeds who are benefiting from the success of the city bring that benefit to share with all the people in the city.

Councillor Lowe and Councillor Groves touched on such a key point for us. The cuts that the Government are bringing down to Local Government are having a serious impact on our ability to deliver the work that we know we need to do and there are increasing pressures on our budgets from the business rate appeals and reduced social housing rents as well. These are things we have to take incredibly seriously. I would draw Council's attention to the words of the LGA Chair, Councillor Gary Porter:

“Enormous pressure will be heaped on already overstretched services if the Government fails to fully assess the impact of these unfunded cost burdens when making spending decisions for the next five years”

and he goes on to talk about the particular vital services that will be affected. Councillor Gary Porter is the Tory Leader of the LGA. Please can we have cross party agreement that we all join together on behalf of the people of Leeds and start a serious lobby against the cuts and against the increased cuts that we expect to come through the autumn statement in November. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Blake. I would now like to call for a vote on the motion to receive the Minutes. *(A vote was taken)* The motion is CARRIED.

We will now have a tea break to be back in here to start definitely at 4.45, and may I ask our visitors to join us in the Banqueting Suite. Thank you.

(Short break)

ITEM 12 – REPORT ON DEVOLVED MATTERS

THE LORD MAYOR: We have got 30 minutes now to look at the Report on Devolved Matters, so if I could ask Councillor Blake, please, to start the discussion.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I hope you have all had the opportunity to look at the end of your Minute pack and you will see the various Minutes from the Combined Authority meetings and other information there. I just want to use the brief time I have got at the beginning of this report to give Council an update on where we actually are in moving forward, and particularly relating to the current and proposed matters that are in front of us.

Just a brief recap. You will remember that in March the Combined Authority, including ourselves, signed a devolution deal with the Government which gave us a number of functional powers connected to transport, skills, business support and housing and I am very pleased that both Councillor Wakefield and Councillor Groves are going to speak on these issues in terms of where we are with this.

This signing of the deal in March was always seen as a first step deal – first step in a process, the start of a process. Clearly we moved forward to the election in May and I think it is fair to say the unexpected outcome for the majority of people, a majority Conservative Government. As a result of George Osborne coming in, he made it clear to all Local Authorities that to move forward to realise the significant changes that we want to see locally, both in terms of powers and resources, the only way that we could achieve that would be to agree to a directly elected Mayor not for Leeds but for the agreed geographic area based on a Combined Authority.

The deadline that the Chancellor gave us to submit proposals – and remember this is a national ask out to different Local Authority areas, different combinations – was September 4th – a very, very tight timetable. He clearly has put it in with the requests that he has put out to all Whitehall departments to submit proposals for their spending that will have a major influence on his autumn statement.

We have attached the list of proposals, the list of asks to the paper and I have circulated them to all Members. We want this to be as open and transparent as we possibly can and we have put these out into as wide an arena as we possibly can. I want to just reiterate the really key part for us will be fiscal devolution. That means real control over resource and powers coming down locally to achieve our ambition. I can assure you that there will not be a change in governance until we have the answers to the proposals and until we agree across the area that they are significant enough for us to consider a change in governance going forward. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am aware of the White Paper coming up later on so I will avoid some of the discussion about the computed configuration or some of the options for a future occasion because I really want to focus on some of the asks and some of the agreement that will actually make a difference to the lives of people who live in Yorkshire, make a difference to businesses and make a difference to transport. Too often we get caught up in structures and governance. If those resources that are promised come, we can start addressing the inequality of transport funding in this country.

I have mentioned it before but the latest statistic reveals the inequality in a very sharp way. For everybody in London, £5,600 per person spent; for everybody in the north,

£603. That is nine or ten times more funding. I think if we start to get the resources to equalise that we can do the things we need to do.

For instance, in road and rail we know the road across the Trans-Pennine is just congested from morning to night, particularly at peak times. The average speed of a train going across the Trans-Pennines is 40 miles an hour. Even if it was electrified, as Mick Lyons will know, it would only be 60, which is the same speed as when Mick was driving in the Great Western in the 1870s! *(laughter)* He nodded to that one! The point being, people in the north, actually our economy of £249bn, seven million jobs, fifteen million people, are actually being held up by poor connectivity.

We can start to address some of that congestion on the road and rail, we can start looking at the Oyster cards, integration, we can start looking locally at the social isolation and unemployment that we have because we will shape the buses that we need. Two-thirds of people who are unemployed, surprise, surprise, do not have a car. It is time that we actually did something and let me just say that my predecessor James Lewis, whose birthday it is today, and his colleagues, (don't clap too long, I want to speak, he will buy us a pint after!) the important thing is they have already started this. Last year the Transport Committee made a decision that from October/November this year all young people from 16 to 19 will get a concessionary fare. Not just college, not just university but all young people 16 to 19. That will make a vast difference to young people who are looking for jobs, looking for apprenticeships and I applaud that Committee's decision. *(Applause)*

I really want to say that it will only work, the agreement, if we get those resources. What we urgently need is the Trans-Pennine pause to stop and start the money coming in and start bringing the money into the City Region area. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. All along when we have been talking about devolution I and my Group have tried to go along with it because actually we do believe in devolution, and proper devolution, and that is that decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level. We will do anything to try and deliver on that.

I have got to say, I am disappointed with what is there. I understand why we are at that situation but I have got to say, governance has got to be part of it. There is no point in taking powers from Whitehall and giving it to one person who is elected. It has got to have a proper – similar to what London has at the base point. Clearly, as a Party we believe in an Assembly to Yorkshire, which we will be discussing later, but the fact is we need proper governance there that is democratic and related to the people and I do not see that within this.

I am not going to say we will vote against the motion because we will not because we still support devolution but the fact is we are not going to be what Mr Cameron says we are all falling out – we are not all falling out, actually I think we are all on the same side but slightly different opinions. *(laughter)*

The issue is, we are the most centralised country in Western Europe and we have got to get power down to lower levels and that is what we want to see, but we do not think at the moment this delivers on that. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Like Keith I am going to try and avoid repeating what I am going to say in a few moments' time with reference to the geographic boundaries.

I do appreciate, I serve on the Combined Authority and I have to say particularly the work in transport is moving forward extremely well, but it is limited because of our geographical boundaries at the moment and it does not recognise how the Leeds sub-regional economy works. That is why I am so determined to do my part in making sure that the devolved Authority has the right boundaries for an ambitious Leeds city region sub-economic area.

What concerns me is that I do not think enough people realise how important this really is. You might not like the way the Government has gone about introducing devolution of powers to Local Authorities but they are the Government, obviously I am delighted they have a majority, you now know what the name of the game is. If you want devolved powers and you want significant devolved powers – and I think they are available to us – the agenda is there and you have to work your way through that agenda, and part of it is an elected Mayor – not for cities, you all know my view about city elected Mayors. I have a completely different view for what is now being proposed and I think it is absolutely right.

It is interesting, David, that in Manchester, where they are considerably in front of us (and that in itself is a concern but they are) they are already building into the arrangements very robust checks and balances on the elected Mayor yet to come, because they would, wouldn't they, because there are a lot of senior Councillors from all the Local Authorities that are in that area and they are going to make sure that Mayor is held to account and delivers what everybody wants and not just what he or she might happen to want.

My biggest concern is that we are behind the curve. I appreciate that both Keith previously and Judith now are doing what they can to get the West Yorkshire Leaders to understand the seriousness of the situation and the timeframe that we are working in. I appreciate that but it is not enough and it is not working. We must not miss this wonderful opportunity. civil servants in Whitehall in various departments are rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of Authorities in Yorkshire, yes, falling out with each other over boundaries, because take it from me, there are civil servants at a very high level in London who do not want to see devolution and want to see the Chancellor's plans fail. We all of us should want the Chancellor's plans to succeed if that means the sort of devolution we want to see including fiscal powers to an area based on our economy. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Groves.

COUNCILLOR GROVES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think I should start by welcoming the ongoing work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Leeds City Region Local Investment Partnership in relation to how they are

improving the skills of young people and business growth. However, we think if the Government agrees with our bid submission for further devolution we can do so much more.

In terms of skills we have got a proven track record through the Devolved Youth Contract for Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield; we have helped over 2,000 people move into education and employment. That is an 81% success rate; that is a stark contrast the 30% success rate of the work programme which is managed from Whitehall.

However, we still do have low pay and low skills and in terms of real unemployment in Leeds, it is 8.9% with a claimant rate of 3.9%. It has decreased over the past two years but remains above the national average with over 70,000 workers in Leeds earning less than the living wage of £7.85 an hour.

The current skills provision hampers our ability to address this. It is complex, confusing and needs centralising. There are too many different agencies and initiatives and targets. What we need is a skills programme and careers advice that is locally tailored and in tune with local economies.

As Members can see in the ask document that accompanied the bid letter, we are calling for further devolution of skills powers and budgets so we can reshape our skills provision to be responsive to the needs of local employers and local communities and help equip young people in Leeds to get better jobs.

In terms of business growth Leeds City Region, Local Enterprise last year secured the £537m and that was a real game changer. It has been steadily working to deliver a balanced programme of strategic investment across the region. Under that deal local business grant programmes have delivered three times faster with at least double the impact of national programmes helping businesses create thousands of jobs.

We have already shown how locally led schemes deliver better, faster, more cost effective results rather than a one size fits all national approach. The LEPS grant funding, for example, has created jobs at an average cost of £7,142 versus jobs at £33,000 per job for the National Regional Growth Fund. This shows we can deliver what we need now is Government to agree with our proposals in the submitted ask document. This includes giving us responsibility for European and structured investment funds in the same way that London already has, as well as further responsibilities over business support budgets. Only then will we have a real shot at growing the economy in Leeds to provide the good quality jobs that our young people desperately need and desperately deserve. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The devolution debate. It has been going on for a very long time and unfortunately far too much of the debate has concentrated on politicians and the political makeup of what a devolved structure will look like.

Devolution is not about politics, really. Devolution is about our better ability as a nation to respond to an ever faster world economy, an ever greater number of nations which compete with us economically but also that we might want to connect with more effectively economically, and the ability of the wealth generating part of our

economy, i.e. generally businesses, to actually be enabled to engage with that environment and to create the benefits for us as citizens whether we are employees or whether we are consumers of public services which are far more sustainably resourced with an economy in growth.

Unfortunately in the past it has always been centralised as whether Labour Governments or Conservative Governments decided centralisation was the best way to actually control economic retreat, but actually in a period of growth that very centralisation is holding us back.

We have had a headline recently about how there was more growth in Yorkshire than there was in the entire French economy or whatever. Actually, if we take the timescale a little bit longer, over the past ten years this country has grown slower than every other European country except Greece, so take it in that longer term period and during that ten year period we have always been talking about how can we devolve, and the Labour Party tried it with John Prescott and his devolution agenda. It failed immediately because there was too much emphasis on Regional Assemblies. Now Regional Assemblies are something that the Liberal Democrats believe in and we want, but what we want more wholeheartedly is devolution and devolution has to come quicker so we should not be spending all of our time talking about political structures. We should be spending our time talking about our ability to deliver much better than Central Government in the economic performance.

I have to say, for us we will leave the debate around the boundaries and whatever to the next debate but we really do need to come together and talk about that issue around subsidiarity and how we are better to deliver. We need to talk about our results and then take that back to Government and say, “What have you delivered? Actually at the moment all you have done is paused our transport infrastructure investment” which all the business community in whether it is Leeds City Region or Greater Yorkshire agree is the main priority for deliver for us to make a difference and the Government has not delivered. We need to point out to them that we are in a much better position to do it. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blake to sum up.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think just picking up on Councillor Golton’s points, whilst I understand your frustration about dealing with the bureaucracy, if you like, I think the points that Councillor Blackburn made are really important. The governance actually does really matter, it is really important and I just want to reassure everyone, Manchester obviously went out of the stocks early and they established a model where the elected Mayor is supported by a Cabinet of the Leaders of the Authorities within the area and they have a veto over most of the decisions that they will make. Now, if that is good enough for Manchester I believe it has to be good enough for us and I think that will deal with the issues of accountability and transparency that are so important to this going forward.

I just want to say, there is a real reason for moving down the devolved powers route. Not only have we heard just how important it is for skills, for transport and the shocking differences between spending around the country, but all the evidence shows that the most centralised countries have the lowest engagement with their population, with their public, and the turn out in this country particularly at Local Government elections is absolutely abysmal. That is tracked right through Europe. We are about

the most centralised country in Europe and we have got to do something about this. The people of this country, the people of this city are getting really fed up with decisions about a whole manner of things being made remotely in London and particularly about the money that we raise in this city going back to London and then being top sliced and brought back to us.

We have an incredible amount of work to do to move it forward. We obviously have the White Paper debate but we can go to Government and show the difference we make. Look at the progress we made on the Devolved Youth Contract. We got seven out of [ten] people through into sustainable outcomes compared to a measly three out of ten for the DWP and I cannot think of a starker reason for us to go out and really claim that we can do things a lot better. Give us the resource, give us the powers and give us the ability to move forward.

I think it is such an irony that the Government is imposing so much of this upon us. It should be coming up from the grass roots and really we should be able to shape the future to suit our best needs. I am conscious we are moving on to continue the debate in a very short time. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

Before we move on to White Papers I had meant to say something at the beginning of the second half but I was so eager to get on with it I forgot. It came to my attention via Councillor Wakefield, so thank you, Councillor Wakefield for informing me. I would like to wish Councillor Graham Hyde a swift recovery. Apparently he fell of a ladder and fractured his skull and is now recuperating. If you pass on the best wishes and I will also write to him tomorrow, now that I am aware of that. Thank you.

ITEM 13 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – DEVOLUTION

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now go on to the three White Papers. We have got three for debate, 45 minutes each maximum and we have got one White Paper that is not for debate.

Without further ado we will go back to Devolution. The first White Paper proposed by Andrew Carter. Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think a new word is entering the political lexicon – it is devofatigue. However, as I said only a couple of moments ago, this is a really important time for Local Government. We will have disagreements about the size of the budget, the cuts or not the cuts but the simple fact is that Local Government as it is currently constituted is not working anymore because it does not deal with cross-border issues, major cross-Council issues, infrastructure, transport in particular, yes housing, certainly skills and we have no argument with the asks that have been put forward.

Indeed, the one area we hope to cheer you up, Stewart, where there seems to have been little or no argument is about the areas that all the different Councils in Yorkshire are seeking to have devolved. There is an interesting unity in all that. Unfortunately, we have to deal with the boundaries first, that is just the way it is. It is

no good going on about it, it has got to be resolved and it has got to be resolved before the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November, so time is not on our side.

All the Councils of North Yorkshire, including those which are in the Leeds City Region, all the Conservative Leaders in West Yorkshire, the East Riding and Hull have all jointly submitted to the Government our proposal, and that is what it is. In terms of asks it varies very little and really is no basis for any argument. It varies considerably in geography because the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, now they say with the agreement of York, Harrogate, Craven and Selby, have lodged a bid for the Devolved Authority to be based on the Leeds City Region Area. I have no great objection to that I am quite prepared to say, but there is a problem because North Yorkshire County Council will not agree to it, and in their shoes you would not agree to it because it effectively takes the three, four – three and a bit – most populous areas out of North Yorkshire and they have to agree to the devolving of powers from themselves to the new Combined Authority and they ain't going to do it and they have made it very clear they ain't going to do it.

Meetings have gone on *ad nauseum* and I have to say this, that I think the way the West Yorkshire Combined Authority initially dealt with the negotiations was nothing short of cack-handed and incompetent. They actually told the Government they were going to go for the Leeds City Region bid and they had not even got the agreement of three of the Local Authorities in the City Region. They have now, so they say. Judith knows as well as I do, we have got politicians riding three different horses at once, which is a very peculiar sight indeed.

What concerns me, as I said before, is that we are missing this opportunity. We have an opportunity and if Leeds leads, it will come about that the boundaries I have put in this White Paper will be the ones that are accepted by the Government because if Leeds were to say that they agreed with the boundaries down here, as sure as night follows day Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale would fall into line and agree, and Wakefield would be left with a choice; they can sit on the fence and have no devolution or they can join South Yorkshire. I would rather they just said they would join with the rest of us. We could have a Devolved Authority running from the Pennines to the sea – two-thirds of the M62, two-thirds of the Trans-Pennine rail route and a port. It makes absolute economic sense and is agreed to not just by Conservative Leaders but by Labour Leaders in the Authorities I have mentioned as well, including a City Council Labour Leader, so it is not political.

All it needs is for Leeds to say, "Yes, that is the ambition we should have, that is the sort of northern powerhouse we really need" with all those economic imperatives in there. Keith, we could really talk to the Government about the Trans-Pennine route then and electrification. I am staggered you have not done so. I would have been saying to them, "I want that on the table" because I want to know how we can put something in place across those Local Authorities that actually takes in hand the electrification where Network Rail has singularly failed.

I move, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter to second.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Moving the amendment in my name I just want to pick up the issues that we have put in our amendment.

Let us be under no illusion, this is an opportunity to unlock game changing powers to boost local economies, bringing important decisions down to local people and their communities. However, as I said repeatedly, we will not allow Government to impose a Mayor if real powers and resources are not brought down.

We have put in an Expression of Interest based on the Leeds City Region – a footprint that is recognised by Government. It was Government that set up the Leeds Enterprise Partnership. Businesses and Councils see the Leeds City Region as a successful functioning economic area with an economy worth £57.7bn, a population of 2.8 million, a strategic economic plan which has meant that the Government has backed us to deliver the largest growth deal in the country. I would like to know exactly who you have been talking to, Andrew, because you sound very certain about support down in London. I am not so sure that that is the case.

Our extraordinary ambition for growth is best achieved by working with functional economic areas, not being hidebound by the administrative hurdles that the Government is putting in our way. We actually sat down with the Leaders of Craven, Harrogate, Selby and York and they approved us putting our submission in. We did not sit down with all the Leaders of the Greater Yorkshire area as you have described and give our permission for you to put in a submission on our behalf. That speaks volumes to me.

There is such logic behind the proposal. 50,000 commute from the Craven, Harrogate, Selby, York and West Yorkshire area in all directions. We have to focus on what is deliverable and it is absolutely crucial to us to understand that the City Regions are the drivers of growth.

We have talked a great deal about the asks and you say there is not a much difference but, Andrew, I am afraid you have not been looking at the comparison. The fiscal asks that we think are absolutely paramount for us to agree to the deals that are going forward are not included in either of the Great Yorkshire model or the York, North York and East Riding model. As you have said there are two models covering those areas. That to me is a significant weakness and one that we cannot deny.

What I want to stress is that collaboration with all areas across the North – Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Hull, Newcastle – is absolutely paramount and we must continue to drive that agenda forward, to talk about the North, to talk about the North's economy so that we can get the powers coming down to the whole of the North and collaboration needs to be the model going forward. If we spend too much time on the bureaucracy that this Government seems determined to keep in its place, then we are in trouble. For Heaven's sake, surely they can get over the fact that our suggestion would cross two Police and Crime Commissioner boundaries. That is some of the discussions that are going on.

I move my amendment, Lord Mayor, on the basis of ambition for Leeds within its City Region. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor James Lewis to second.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and in seconding Councillor Blake's amendment I think it is important to really get to grips on this debate. I think the geography of it is a part of the matter which Councillor Blake has covered but I think the crucial matter we have to understand on this is about what we are seeking to achieve from devolution. We know that if the economy in this part of the world had performed at the national average it would be worth £5bn a year more and this is the impact of the infrastructure and other spending that has been poured into London and the south-east could have on our economy. It is a real impact on people in jobs, on businesses and what could happen.

This is why we need to seek devolution and this is why I think it is important that we have all been engaged in this debate over the months and years that have led up to this point. Some of us have been involved in it for quite a long time. I even remember having a meeting with Nick Clegg - I do not know if anybody ever remembers Nick Clegg but I met with Nick Clegg to discuss devolution with all the parties, certainly worked with the Labour Front Bench in the run up to the last election to seek a commitment to devolution.

One of the things that has come out of it, one of the things that has changed since the last election, I think it is very clear about who is imposing this. Before the last election nobody was setting the precondition of an elected Mayor for devolution. It is the election of a majority Conservative Government that has brought in that precondition of an elected Mayor despite the fact that every city in West Yorkshire that had a referendum on it rejected it.

I think that is something we need to be very, very clear about and we need to go into these negotiations with the Government open eyed. Councillor Carter says there is lots on offer from devolution and, frankly, we have heard offers from the Conservatives before. Before the election we had an offer of Trans-Pennine electrification. That has been whisked away from us. We had an offer of devolved public health finance. We will talk about that later, some of that has been whisked away from us. There are some of us here who perhaps are not as starry eyed in front of the Chancellor as some of the Conservatives are who believe that anything that is on offer will be automatically granted and we can all go to sleep safely tonight knowing it is there.

That is why Councillor Blake is absolutely clear in speaking about it. I think it is worth expanding on this point a little bit longer. If we need to see absolute fiscal devolution it is no good handing us over a load of promises and a load of problems. We need to see, in the famous words, we need the Government to show us the money. Not just promises, we have had that and we have seen what happened. We actually need to see a solid fiscal package that will give us access to the resources we need. Things like if we could change all our business rates, for example, we could have a billion pounds a year to spend. That would go a long way to closing the infrastructure deficit that Councillor Wakefield has talked about. That might not be where we end up but that is just an example of how in this country so much taxation that is raised locally is spent nationally. We have got to end that and that has got to be central to us.

That in my mind is a very, very clear dividing line between not just on the geography of what is being offered by the Conservatives but also on what we are actually asking for.

I do not think this Council is going to sign up for a second rate devolution deal imposed on us by the Conservatives that does not recognise our need to see the money behind all the things we want to deliver, all the projects we have talked about in transport, all the investment we have talked about for supporting business growth, access to ports, access to the internet, access to airports. Leave the things that will get our economy growing and we need to see the money there if we are to consider the devolution deal that the Government is saying is honest. Show us the money, George – we might take you seriously. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anderson to move a second amendment.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move the amendment in the terms set out in the order paper and reserve the right to speak.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty to second.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I formally second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. We have just had James up talking about second class devolution. I think that is actually what we are talking about with what we have gone with the Chancellor. It is not what most of us want. It is not, I understand, what the Leader of this Council wanted a few weeks ago. It was the Yorkshire option we wanted and I think what we have to do as a Council is say what we think we should have, not what the Chancellor wants us to have.

When you are negotiating, you put your asks and who you are negotiating with says what you can have, and you come together. If you go in at what they are telling you then you have got no negotiation there and that is what we are doing. What we have got to do is, as well as doing what we have done with the City Region thing, is make it clear that that is our aim, an Assembly for Yorkshire. We want Yorkshire to be like Wales and Scotland. We do not want it to be what is being offered. We are not even being offered what they have got in London.

That is what we need, we need a proper devolution here, we need proper decentralisation and a federated state, effectively. What we are negotiating with Government is not that and as far as I am concerned it sells out the whole basis of devolution and I am not sure that what we are going to end up with will be anything other than you can do this and you can do cuts and that is it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Richard Lewis.

COUNCILLOR R LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I wonder, listening to a debate like this, quite how people out there think about this because I think we are all tied into this debate, it matters a huge amount to us and we can see the potential benefits.

I have huge worries that out there it does not have that impact on people and we have got a big selling job to do, and I think the elected Mayor is probably the biggest part of that.

I think that this is where Osborne has actually created complete and utter confusion in things because instead of just talking about the economy it all becomes about an elected Mayor. That becomes the whole basis on which we are talking and that goes back to Heseltine and probably beyond because there is that obsession with the silver bullet that solves all our problems. The silver bullet of an elected Mayor does not solve our problems. Devolution is what can solve our problems.

What you see with Osborne and his civil servants is that they have got into this total mess because actually they want the elected Mayor to be a passport out for their Police Commissioners, who they realise are completely redundant and they want to give them some kind of job as an interim Mayor. You see these bits of negotiation going on where, what is the purpose of this? Clearly they are throwing things into the debate that really should not be there.

I have to look at what the Treasury has done and what George Osborne has done and it is all about driving things to a timetable that suits him, suits his power-hungriness, his ambition, his desire to go to certain places and say how wonderful he is, rather than about solving the problem because I think the timetable that has been given to us has been absolutely ridiculous.

It is all about the economy, it is all about not just what can happen within the City Region, it is about what happens across the North and we have got to concentrate on the big issues which are about the economy, which are about devolution in a big way. It is about rail, it is about transport. It is not just even about working with Yorkshire. It is about working with the North-East, it is about real northern powerhouses. What Osborne has done has actually been to limit that debate.

There are just a couple of things that Andrew said that I honestly did not understand. Having dealt with other Authorities in West Yorkshire over some considerable time, his expectation that they will just fall into line in agreement with whatever we want, I just think that is absolutely unrealistic because I find that they change their mind almost as frequently as they change their underwear with some of them. They are not necessarily as committed to the things that you would suggest in terms of "Well, Leeds says it, yes, let's go along with that." No, that is not the way they think, I do not believe anybody thinks that.

Look this is all, "It is about the economy, stupid." That is the main thing, that is what we have got to concentrate on. I think there will be challenges actually for the Treasury, for all the civil servants and for Osborne to actually make this work.

We have come up with a reasonable proposal, I think it is workable. The key thing is to get it moving but it is the asks – it all comes down to the asks and that is what matters far more than talking about boundaries, because we could sit here talking till the cows come home about different boundaries – it will not make any difference. What matters is getting the power back into the region, back into the North. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Councillor Lewis, the most important thing you said today was that it is about the people out there, and the one thing that emphasises this debate and makes it different from the previous discussion just after tea is we are talking about vision more than anything else.

Devolution itself, decisions being taken at the lowest possible level because that is where they are most accountable and you have the greatest knowledge to ensure that the delivery is maximised. It is one of the things that we believe in as a Party. We have always been big on devolution and the other Councillor Lewis was also correct in that, because there was a part of Coalition Government that believed in it, actually there was a bit of enthusiasm behind it, whereas now you have got a Government which does not actually believe in devolution of power but does believe in devolution in terms of expansion of the economy into other areas like economic colonialism.

They are not quite approaching it in the same way and they are trying to put their own level of control on to it, and I think this is one of the really unfortunate aspects of this point in the devolution debate because, as you have pointed out, it is all about political advantage. Do we have a Combined Authority but based on Leeds? Do we make it bigger or whatever? Most of it is dependent upon which Party, either Labour or the Conservatives, think how best can we win an election, actually, out of that group of Local Authorities? Who would be in the ascendancy there? Actually the debate today has shown that sometimes it takes a small Party to think big, so we have got Councillor Blackburn talking about Yorkshire and now you have got the Liberal Democrats talking about Yorkshire as well because one of the really important things about devolution and one of the things that has developed over the past ten years is that actually it has been shown to get into people's souls and to actually give them a new understanding of politics and a new engagement with it.

Originally devolution was all about the travel to work area and that is why we have got the Leeds City Region and, as Councillor Lewis pointed out, it is a reasonable proposal but, do you know what, it has not got vision. It has not actually thought, how can we catch up? We are already behind economically and to get to where we want to be to those that we are comparing ourselves against we need to work twice as fast and that means bringing as many people as possible. The people that are most important about bringing in are the people themselves, because they have to believe in the institutions that we are setting up.

If we are talking about believability, there is a cultural resonance to Yorkshire. There is actually a geographical association for Yorkshire which is agreed by lots of different communities, however diverse they are and David Cameron was right, we do scrap like rats in a sack sometimes but at the end of the day we have so much more in common.

It is a shame that actually we have not been able to achieve and catch up to that same level of vision that the Scots have to overtake the advantage that Manchester has gained over the past few years, and that is to say we can trump you because they do not have a Yorkshire and we do and we should be maximising it as much as possible. It is a real shame that the alternative proposal put forward did not include South Yorkshire – they need a little bit of encouragement because as Liberal Democrats we believe in a Greater Yorkshire and, as I said, a Yorkshire Assembly eventually.

The important thing is to just get that devolution first because as soon as we can demonstrate, as I said in the last debate, that we can deliver, the better it is because remember we have got to go twice as fast as the others that we are catching up to and we need to do it now.

We will go with the Yorkshire light version, I think, that Councillor Carter is going with but actually we would have preferred something a little bit bigger, but devolution is an evolution and if you start with that I am sure that we can add on the southern bit later on. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: I can tell you something, Stewart, on the Labour Group we have always had vision and we have always had ambition for Leeds and the North. It is actually wrong to say that we do not have this absolute desire to create something really special. I am sure we all have that desire and we will all work together to achieve it across the North.

There are all the jokes, aren't there – Watford Gap, that nothing exists north of Watford Gap; it's cold up north; dark satanic mills. The statistics came out – you live eight years longer apparently if you live down south than you do up north. It is all absolutely geared to the south. We need to make this big decision where the north takes the power that it so rightly deserves.

I am really here to talk about the skills agenda. Councillor Blake has already pointed out that under the Devolved Youth Contract we can deliver locally. Seven out of ten young people into jobs from the Devolved Youth Contract when we delivered it here in Leeds. Nationally that was three out of ten. That is a big difference, a huge difference and it shows the passion that we have got in Leeds for getting young people into jobs here.

75% of NEETS moving into education or employment once they have undertaken that programme. It is a real success story for Leeds and it shows our determination here to help the children and young people that, to be quite honest, have been let down for years by the Government in London.

We are also calling for devolved funding to the LA to commission all of Employment and Skills services for 16 to 24 year olds and that includes responsibilities for information, advice and guidance, Job Centre Plus delivered services, Skills Funding Education and Education Funding Agency devolved responsibilities and budgets for Department of Works and Pension commissioned main programmes to support the long-term unemployed to re-enter work. You will have seen some of research that has gone on around young people who are unemployed for six months or more. It is those long-term unemployed people that we actually have to work really hard with and it is something we have proved that we can achieve here in Leeds.

We are also asking for the devolution of national Department of Works and Pensions programmes and budgets which are targeted at addressing worklessness. We know that not only could we use money more effectively but we have already shown we are far more effective in actually seeing people into work. Further, we are asking for devolved budgets for employer led skills investments so we can help more employers to offer apprenticeships and in addition to that we would like to control further the

Education Capital and Revenue Budgets and powers to reshape and restructure local skills provision that is responsive to the needs of employers and communities here, including giving approval for and development of specialist technical and vocational educational facilities to match the skills and the jobs that are needed in this region.

The benefits of a Leeds City Region deal taking into account these skills related asks would be significant, the proposals would accelerate and deliver the full extent of the ambition contained within our strategic economic plan, including 62,000 jobs for the Leeds City Region and £5.1bn additional economic output.

Lord Mayor, it is clear that a more successful future for devolving skills lies in further devolution of powers and budgets here, locally, up north. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am slightly disappointed, actually, that there is something missing from Andrew's resolution. That is the term "Yarm, Saddleworth and Sedbergh" – for those of us who remember the old West Riding, the lost lands, as we call them.

We are in a slightly anomalous position here because I can remember when we first discussed it a Regional Assembly, what would it be, in the early 1980s, and at that time there was a Liberal Democrat resolution that we support the principle of a Yorkshire Regional Assembly and actually at the time the Labour Party, because of John Prescott's comments (if you remember him) was very supportive, but the Conservative Group at that time were violently opposed to it.

Of course times change and I suppose it is one of those examples that if you wait long enough for a good idea it comes around, and I am happy that we are now more or less all singing off the same song sheet, but I think there are limitations to simply having a devolved Leeds City Region. I think we all know the benefits of Regional Government – in the end we know what is best for us, we know how best to organise our lives, we know how best to manage the area. Regional Government works. If you look at the whole of Western Europe where they have Regional Government it has been a very positive contribution to the expansion of regional economies throughout the whole of continental Europe. Go to Germany, look at North Rhine, Westphalia, go to the Pas de Calais, go to the Catalan region. All those regions have the ability to invest, to promote and drive their economy and that is what we want. Part of the issue in relation to centralisation has always been that it stifled that economic creativity, that economic growth that in the past, in the Victorian days, the North of England was famous for.

I actually do believe that a Yorkshire region would be a more positive asset because, one, it covers a larger area. I suppose it is fair to say that it would be a much more powerful economic unit than a group of smaller devolved North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire etc. It is a much more powerful economic unit. As far as we are concerned in Leeds, I think if you link us out to the M62 and down the Aire corridor down to the port, then you have actually got a very powerful economic driver in that and we are linked into that rather than crossing these boundaries and we can create a unified system which deals with that.

It appears to me, anyway, that petty jealousy has really stood in the way of devolution for our area. Manchester, as we keep saying – we do not like Manchester I know but quite frankly they get their act together much better than we do, they do not have this bickering, they do not have this argument about “Wakefield does not like it so we want it”, etc, etc. They get their act together, they sing off the same song sheet. It is time we did the same. It is time we thought big and it is time we had a bit more ambition. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Andrew Carter to sum up.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I shall avoid the Saddleworth question. *(laughter)*

Richard Lewis first. Richard, eight months before the General Election Manchester signed up to a deal including an elected Mayor – eight months before the General Election. I do not know where you have been during this devolution debate but clearly you have not kept up with it.

My concern is this. If we finished up with the City Region as the Devolved Authority I would be reasonably happy. The problem you have got is I do not think it is deliverable and I do not think it is deliverable for the reasons I gave before, so what is the default position? The default position is the worst of all worlds. We end up with a third rate, third class Devolved Authority based on five West Yorkshire Authorities. You might like going back in time on the Labour Benches, as we have all seen over the past couple of weeks, but we do not want to go back to a glorified West Yorkshire County Council and that is all it would be, and we would be the worst and the poorest Combined Authority in the country as everybody else marched further on in front of us.

I believe there is a chance, there is a vast future for Local Government if we play this right. It will take a number of years and I would say to you that most of you in this Council Chamber, me included, will not see it – we might see it come to fruition but we will not be sitting on these benches when it does. That should not dissuade us from going for it because there is this great opportunity.

It was Shakespeare who wrote, “There are tides in the affairs of men if not taken at the flood will be lost” di-dah, di-dah, di-dah. On such a full sea are we now afloat and we must take the opportunity whilst it serves. I apologise – anyway! *(laughter)*

You go on about politics, I have a letter here from the Leader of Hull City Council. The last I knew he was Labour. It is countersigned by the Right Honourable Diana Johnson (I think she is Labour), the Right Honourable Karl Turner, the Right Honourable Alan Johnson, all supporting exactly what my White Paper says. The reason, by the way, Councillor Charlwood, that we have amended our own resolution is to make you lot vote on it. If you had not worked it out I am sure you will now because if we had not amended it ourselves you would not have voted on our resolution and now you have got to do. We want to know where you stand.

Do not lose the opportunity, do not condemn us to a Devolved Authority that is West Yorkshire. It is, as I have said, third class, third rate and going back to the past. We have a big opportunity here. We can sort out all the differences in the asks, everybody who signed up to what we have put to the Government is absolutely

prepared to do that, that is not the issue. We can deal with that and move forward to the sort of thing that Stewart has been talking about, which I entirely agree with, but we have got to get these boundaries done first.

Please, do not just have big city ideas but when it comes down to it just have a small town mentality. We have got to go for it and Leeds can lead and, yes, Richard, I do think Bradford would follow and I do think Kirklees would follow and I do think Calderdale would follow because in their heart of hearts they all know that this bigger area would be a real Northern Powerhouse and that is what we want. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, I call for the vote. *(recorded vote)* What a surprise!

*(A recorded vote was held on the amendment
in the name of Councillor Blake)*

THE LORD MAYOR: We have got 86 present, 59 “Yes”, six abstentions and 21 “No”, so the amendment is CARRIED in the name of Councillor Blake. Now we go on to the second one.

*(A recorded vote was held on the amendment
in the name of Councillor B Anderson)*

THE LORD MAYOR: 88 present, 29 “Yes”, no abstentions, 59 “No”, so the amendment is LOST.

Now we will vote on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Blake.

(A vote was taken on the substantive motion)

THE LORD MAYOR: The motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 14 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – HEALTH FUNDING

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to our second White Paper of the evening, which is Health Funding, and I will ask Councillor Mulherin, please, to begin.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In-year cuts to the Public Health Youth Offending Service along with the failure to implement the electrification of the Trans-Pennine rail link and the promise to introduce care cap costs are a disgraceful attack on front line services for the public in Leeds.

In Leeds, the amount that will be cut from the proposed Public Health funding cuts is likely to be about £2.8m although we are, of course, still awaiting confirmation of that, having heard nothing back from the Department of Health since the consultation closed.

In our formal consultation response we opposed the cuts in principle and explained its likely impact on our city. We have been absolutely clear that this will hit front line services directly – services which are mostly an investment upstream offering more cost-effective early intervention and prevention, saving greater costs to our health and social care system downstream in acute services. Over 85% of the Public Health

budget in Leeds is spent directly on front line services commissioned from a range of providers, predominantly the NHS and Third Sector.

In Leeds, £21m – more than half of the Council’s Public Health budget – is currently spent on services provided by the NHS, which include preventative services such as smoking cessation and school nursing, assessing and treatment services, e.g. to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and infection prevention and control.

There is a great deal of evidence that focusing on prevention saves the public purse money by reducing the need for more acute services downstream, which makes this cut short-sighted and economically nonsensical.

This comes on top of the £6m, or 14.4% shortfall Leeds already has in its Public Health funding allocation from Central Government. The Government promised to raise this funding to bring us and other under-funded Local Authorities up to the Government’s own target of where we should be to meet the needs of our population and now they are threatening to make the gap between under-funded and over-funded Local Authorities even wider.

Having to make such a cut more than half way through the financial year with contracts in place and commissioned services already half way through their provision will wreak havoc and the later a final announcement is made by the Government about how they will implement those cuts, the more difficult it will be for us and the service providers to implement.

Our other huge concern has been the fact that the consultation was only undertaken over four weeks in August, in the summer holidays, giving the distinct impression that the consultation was nothing more than a token gesture. The Government clearly is not interested in hearing our views or doing anything to mitigate the impact of their irresponsible and ill-considered cuts. Add this to the unjustifiable in-year cuts of the Youth Offending budget of around 14% and the broken promises of the Trans-Pennine rail electrification and care costs cap, and we have a clear indication that this Government’s claims to be promoting a Northern Powerhouse and maximising the potential of large Northern cities is nothing more than rhetoric. They have failed spectacularly to follow through with meaningful policy.

In relation to the amendments from Opposition groups which we will be considering in a moment, Councillor Buckley and his Tory colleagues have finally come out to recognise the challenge of their Government’s in-year funding cuts. They offer no criticism of the cuts themselves and seem only to be interested in the likely impact of those cuts on Council’s Children Centres and Neighbourhood Networks. There is no mention in the White Paper amendment of the vital health services we commission from the NHS and Third Sector to provide, or of the impact on the Youth Offending Services.

Furthermore, whilst I welcome the Lib Dems’ support for our objections to these cuts in principle, why on earth does Councillor Lay and his group want to remove the call on Council officers to make representations to Government to take heed of our warnings about the impact of those cuts and the impact they will have on front line services, and I call on them to reconsider their approach.

Both of the main Opposition Parties in Leeds seem to think that these cuts can be easily absorbed, and I use that word directly from Councillor Lay's amendment. They ignore the fact that we have been short-changed from the start with Public Health funding and that this Council has had its core funding through their previous Coalition and the new Conservative Government slashed for five consecutive years.

In the past elected Members across this Chamber have joined together cross-party to oppose indefensible funding cuts that would lead directly to cuts to front line public services for people in Leeds and I call upon Members opposite to join with this Labour administration to oppose these indefensible in-year cuts, to put aside blind Party loyalty and to stand together with us and the people of Leeds. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Yeadon to second.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am pleased to second the White Paper in the name of Councillor Mulherin. One of the great things about changing your portfolio, which I have now done three times - making my way round...

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Just like Dr Who, reincarnated!

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: A moving target.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: I am reincarnated. One of the great things about a starting a new portfolio is you actually get to go out, go and visit places and really get to know the department.

On one of my visits recently I went to the Youth Justice Centre in Hunslet and I would recommend you all to visit, if you can. There they do absolutely fantastic work, working with young people who may have offended or who are at risk of offending and working with them to get their lives back on the straight and narrow and to show them that they have got a future and to support them to work their way to their aspirations.

I was really impressed by the work that they do and the difference that they make to the lives of vulnerable people in that community. I was especially privileged to meet some of the young people who go to the centre and I sat down with them and spoke to them about what was important and why the centre was important to them. There was one young man that I spoke to who talked to me about how truly supported he was by the staff there and about how he really did feel that people cared about him and that there was somebody there who cared about what happened to him and wanted to support him getting there.

I think the greatest compliment came when I asked him, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" He was taller than me, it was not really when he grew up but I said, "What do you want to do when you leave school, when you get older?" and he said, "I want to do what they do. I want to become a Youth Offending Officer and I want to make a positive difference to the lives of young people like they have made to mine." He is no longer offending and with the work of the Centre he is engaged with a number of volunteering opportunities and courses to get him to that goal.

I think this young man personifies the life changing differences that the Youth Offending Team makes in our city and I feel very passionately that we need to protect that. I do think that it is a shame that the Government does not value this in the same way that we do.

The Youth Offending Service is now facing an in-year cut of 14%. Where it may not be the same in monetary terms as to Public Health, it is just over £200,000 in Leeds and we know that to the service that will be devastating.

As Councillor Robinson mentioned in his question earlier to me, when you are faced with an in-year cut you have no time to plan how you are going to make those savings. It also shows a complete lack of consideration for the future. What will be the long-term impact of such a cut? Will this abandon young people at a time when meaningful intervention could really impact the direction of their lives? This Government cut increases the risk of repeated offending, something which will cost society more in the long run. It makes no long-term economic and, most importantly, moral sense.

It is also completely at odds with the Families First Initiative which proved to be so successful in Leeds. Indeed, David Cameron himself visited only last week and where he may not have been too fond of the Yorkshire temperament, he did compliment the impact of our early intervention work – work that is endangered because of these cuts.

I think what I feel does come across as hypocrisy is that David Cameron is very happy to have a press opportunity at one of these projects that has turned lives around but, at the same time, is implementing cuts which will destroy a service that makes a real tangible difference to the life of young people and their families.

There are so many points to make about this subject.

THE LORD MAYOR: Your time is up.

COUNCILLOR YEADON: OK, so I will not make them but I will just say to our colleagues across the Chamber, these are vital services that make a real impact to the lives of people in our city and we must protect them. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lay to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR LAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I shall, I hope, show why I think that it is not up to officers to argue the case.

When I was asked by my Group for an opinion on this White Paper, my initial response was that I was broadly supportive of the concerns raised with regards to the in-year cuts to the Public Health budget but as I read further I once again began to become dispirited to the purpose of this White Paper.

Why can't this administration act like its new national Leader by putting residents first and represent them? Leeds residents need Members of Blake's Seven to show political will, greater leadership and to deal with the science fact and not the science fiction.

I therefore bring this amendment because I believe Councillor Mulherin needs to show that science fact. She needs to be part of the process, to argue that it is a political decision and therefore it needs a political response. It should not be for Dr Cameron to go to Downing Street and Parliament but for our Exec Board Member to do so. After all, we know the good doctor does not make house calls. *(laughter)*

So, Councillor Mulherin, go to London, tell them that the in-year cuts will affect our Children's Centres, our Neighbourhood Networks and all of our voluntary sector. Tell them directly that it will affect the continuing work of Public Health in this city, which we are led to believe by NHS England is a priority for the NHS. Tell them that the Five Year Forward Plan speaks of a radical upgrade of Public Health. Cutting funding will now only downgrade Public Health. Tell them that you need to be clear that this sort of shenanigans do not bode well for devolution. We will not stand by and accept cuts to devolved budgets and then allow this or any other Government to blame Local Authorities.

Finally, in the new Corbyn-led spirit of openness, transparency and democracy within the Labour Party, you should outline any potential plans now so that elected Members, stakeholders and residents have the opportunity to engage in debate about local priorities. Such delays also deny our service providers the opportunity to prepare for cuts. I commend the amendment to the Council. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Campbell to second.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Initially I was just going to formally second this but I am somewhat concerned that if we look at the first paragraph in Lisa Mulherin's name, I was going to say I thought actually throughout the Council we would all agree with that first paragraph, which is we do not think that in-year cuts to health expenditure is a good thing because it creates a terrible situation for the people who are trying to deal with health problems in the city.

Unfortunately, looking at the amendment, it would appear that actually Councillor Buckley does not believe it is a problem because the amendment has no reference whatsoever to what actually I think is probably Lisa's main point, which is that the Health Service will be cut in this city, the facilities, the response that we can give to people who are ill or unwell or in danger is being reduced and what do we end up talking about? The railway line.

Really it is about priorities, isn't it? Though we may actually have a slight disagreement about who we send down to Westminster to talk about this, actually what we want to talk about is the fact that people in this city will be fundamentally affected by a reduction in the quality of their healthcare and the Conservatives, unfortunately, seem to have ignored that fact and it absolutely amazes me that they seem happy to do that. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Buckley to move a second amendment.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Let us get back to the real world, shall we? In moving this amendment I would like to be entirely constructive but I have to say that the slight mish-mash of separate items reads as if it has been put together by the new Labour Leader in Westminster and Mr Corbyn's friends. However, I want to be as helpful as possible.

The White Paper motion as usual complains about savings which the Government has had to make. It mentions in particular the savings in Public Health and in the electrification of the Trans-Pennine railway, and I want to return to both of those important issues in a few moments.

We do need to remind ourselves, I referred to the real world, of the mess that was left behind that we had to pick up following 2010. We had to operate in the real world. They don't like the real world, not the world inhabited by some Labour Party politicians.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: It has gone stale now.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: Two and two equals four, not five or six as Gordon Brown seemed to think...

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Gordon Brown saved the financial world

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: ...and the present lot think even more.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: You are not even convincing your own Group.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: As a result of the crisis inherited the Government had to make major savings. Returning to Public Health, we on this side are very mindful of the outstanding works carried out by the Neighbourhood Networks, the Children's Centres, sexual health projects and others and we urge the administration to protect these from a possible 6% cut.

On the electrification programme, we also urge and implore the administration to engage in constructive dialogue with the Government about this and about the whole devolution agenda, as we heard before.

Manchester has a £6bn devolved power over health and social care but we do not seem to know yet whether Leeds even wants that responsibility.

The White Paper motion says that they support people to stay health. Obviously we all agree with that. Let us see some more evidence of it. The motion also calls for help for vulnerable people and we have heard all sorts of comments about how people are going to suffer. Let us just remind ourselves of some of the good things that have happened since 2010.

Firstly, unemployment in Leeds has fallen dramatically in those years. The income tax allowance increase means that many people do not have to pay income tax at all. The living wage, the new living wage, means an increase of, from the old system, 38% over five years and wage increases in the city are now running at 3% and inflation is zero. This is help for the poor and vulnerable, never mind anything else.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: No it is not, don't kid yourself.

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: We are now the party of the working man and woman (*laughter*) so let us be clear, in an ideal world there would be no Network Rail and we

could have electrification tomorrow and in an ideal world 6% savings would not have to have been made to the Health budget...

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Do you do stand up? I could have you in Armley! Armley Conservative Club, we have our meetings there!

COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY: ...but the administration has to choose. Neighbourhood Networks and Children's Centres must be protected from any cuts the Council chooses to make and the administration must properly engage with the Government, which will be in place for a very long time, believe me. They must grasp the devolution nettle and I have not even mentioned the underspend, nobody has mentioned that of course. Let us hear a little bit less of blaming everybody else for these problems and more about taking responsibility and taking the opportunity of devolution and showing some Leadership on these matters. I move. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Robinson.

COUNCILLOR ROBINSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In seconding Councillor Buckley's amendment I would just like to comment on the original White Paper which seemed a little convoluted and confused by both mentioning transport and health in there and maybe it should have focused on one of them rather than both. Also within the wording of the amendment calling on officers to potentially take political action is something that we should definitely hold back from. It should be Councillors as elected Members who should be taking political action and making representations to Government.

We have just heard a little from Councillor Buckley. We all know what the Government's line is going to be when we are going to trot out about the deficit and we are going to trot out about if you vote Labour potentially you are putting debt up in the future. I used to know what the Opposition's line was on this; I am not really sure any more, given events over the weekend. Specifically mentioning on transport, I know that the new Labour Leader has said that he is against HS2; I hope that Members opposite will be not siding with their Leader and ruling that out for the benefit of the Northern Powerhouse.

If we turn to things on healthcare – I am still obsessed with Education, Councillor Yeadon – if we turn to healthcare, this is an incredibly serious matter and we have just been talking in the devolution debate about big ideas and what big ideas the city might have looking forward and Manchester potentially taking responsibility for far more devolved healthcare.

On the Order Paper today I had a question in about tobacco companies and the investment in tobacco companies and I am going to dwell on that for a second because Councillor Yeadon mentioned the potential hypocrisy between what David Cameron was saying and what was happening. There is a potential hypocrisy that is here in Leeds that could be dealt with very, very swiftly.

At the last full Council meeting I asked the question about what the West Yorkshire Pension Fund's investment was in tobacco firms; for the year 2013/14 that was £180.5m. Councillor Mulherin when she stood up recently just said, £21m to the NHS including smoking cessation and that was money that was invested in that. It is a drop in the ocean compared to what Members, what officers and others are investing

in their pension pot through tobacco firms. If you really want to make a difference to healthcare, if you really want to do something big you go and cut it off at the source. It is all right talking about plain packaging, it is all right talking about smoking products and tobacco products not being on display. Actually by not investing in the tobacco firms in the first place you are cutting that money off and you are saving lives.

It has gone up since the year 2013 because it was £125m previously; it has massively gone up.

I wrote to Councillor Mulherin on 14th August asking if she would take it to the Health and Wellbeing Board to look more into this matter further and actually say to other Councils, which are potentially in a devolved area, that we are taking a stand on this matter and doing something for healthcare and doing something for the people we represent and the people of West Yorkshire and beyond.

It is 1.76% is that £180.5m. It is nothing in the West Yorkshire Pension Fund pot. It is a massive amount that can contribute to other areas and that we can make investments in and they would be moral investments, but we can also cut off the money from the tobacco firms from there.

If you want a big idea, you want something to take up on healthcare and you want something to do tomorrow, it is people above profits, I am sure we can all get in favour of that, and it is actually doing something that will really benefit individuals and their healthcare across this city and across West Yorkshire. Thank you very much, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Macniven.

COUNCILLOR MACNIVEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. In a debate about broken promises made to Leeds residents, it is imperative that the issue of care cap costs is covered. In his Budget Statement in 2013, George Osborne announced the care cap increase to £72,000 and a new upper allowance for personal capital of £118,000, saying triumphantly:

“For decades politicians have talked about doing something for savers and for those who have to sell their homes to pay for care and yet nothing has been done until this week.”

In addition in April this year David Cameron said in his Party manifesto:

“We will look after you as you grow older, we will cap charges for residential social care from April 2016 so no-one has to sell their home. For the first time individual liabilities will be limited, giving everyone the peace of mind that they will receive the care they need.”

Well, these pledges were soon abandoned. On 17th July the Right Honourable Alistair Burt, Minister for Community and Social Care, wrote to the Local Government Association saying:

“At a time of consolidation it is not the right moment to be implementing expensive new commitments such as this. I can

therefore confirm that we have taken the difficult decision to delay the introduction of the cap on the care costs system and this will now be introduced from April 2020.”

What a shameful broken promise the care cap turned out to be. At the time it was announced that we had our concerns, as did the Local Government Association, but the Government was adamant that the care cap would be introduced. Is it possible that this policy was introduced simply to win election votes? Did the Conservatives really not know when they made these important promises to elderly voters that they were so unworkable that they would have to put them on hold within a matter of twelve weeks, or were they fully aware that their manifesto promises were undeliverable but they went ahead with them anyway badged as a tempting package to play on the anxieties of people approaching older age with fears of selling family homes to pay for care.

In addition to this and alongside further blows and broken promises, including the promise to introduce the more generous means test, also heralded to be introduced in April next year, being deferred for four years, the Government has ignored calls for the £145m that had been set aside to fund the care cap cost measures to be put into the social care system. In fact instead, Health Department officials have said that no decisions on additional funding for social care would be made ahead of the spending review at the end of this year.

Do we need to prepare ourselves for more disappointments then for the residents of Leeds? The care system is in dire need of extra funding, funding cuts are being grappled with right across the sector. People deserve the reassurance that they will be helped to meet their care needs as they get older. They do not need any more care con broken promises. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks, Lord Mayor. I do love Councillor Macniven but we have just been talking about how the problem with this proposal before us is that it is very confused. It could have been a great opportunity to have a debate around health and concentrate on the in-year cuts to the Public Health budget. Instead it was formulated primarily just to point out what an awful bunch of people the Tories are because they have gone back on some promises.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Fortunately the majority of the country do not agree with you.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: That might make you feel good but the whole point about White Paper motions is that we are supposed to be debating the lives of Leeds citizens, so actually all that you have pointed out is, “Oh, we have been let down on this, oh we have been let down on that.”

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: No they have, they have.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: What we should be doing is debating in greater detail some of the issues that are there and you saying, “Do you know what, now that we are in charge and we are responsible for all this, what we are going to do about it is this”, or you can say, “The choice we have got is this or this” but instead all that this

particular motion does is say, “Do you know what, we will do all the rhetoric and then we will let the officers sort out all the detail.”

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: No it is not, you have not read it well enough.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: It is not good enough and given that the in-year cuts were announced several months ago we should at least have something on the paper right now to say, “Do you know what, we have had a look at this, we did not know exactly how much we were going to get cut but we have put some things in place where we did some kind of calculation to find out how we could afford it, how we could do something about it and now we have to bring it to you because the Government has not backed down and we are going to have to make a decision because you have put us in charge.”

You have not done that and this is what really irritates me because it could actually work much better for you politically to actually say to people, “Do you know what, Tories cut things.” It is not a surprise to them – in fact the majority of people actually voted for it and that is why they are in majority Government right now. What they did not vote for is for the Tories to get into Government and then start cutting the NHS.

The problem with this motion is, you started talking about the NHS and then you went on to Youth Offending and then you went on to the railways and by that point you had sort of lost it.

We need to show people that cuts to the NHS are not just a series of statistics. When it comes to Public Health and the way that this city spends Public Health money in partnership with Children’s Centres and with Neighbourhood Networks, when those cuts come in it actually means that something is going to happen in someone’s community because unless they can see it happening they do not feel it and what we should be doing right now is pointing out what those Public Health cuts actually mean because, do you know what, there are quite a few Tory areas in this city that are really grateful for the fact that this administration has managed to keep open all of the Children’s Centres, no matter what the cuts have been they have kept all the Children’s Centres open and made a commitment. If you get to the point where you find that it is the straw that broke the camel’s back, the fact the Public Health funding, which was filling some of the gaps that were missing out of general funding, if that is gone all of a sudden and that Children’s Centre closes in Shadwell or in Bramham, then do you know what, that message gets rammed home.

We do not want that to happen but you need to point out that you are fighting to avoid that happening in those communities and that you are putting alternatives in place, and to merely put in a resolution that you are going to leave it to the officers just is not good enough. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors, in a debate about the outrageous decision by Central Government to cut Public Health funding, I believe it is vital that we all realise just what the impact of this ill thought through action will have on the people of Leeds. Our share of the £2m national figures of cuts could be in the region of £3m out of the £40.5m annual budget. This is a phenomenal

amount to cut midway through the financial year and it is the people of Leeds who will suffer directly as a result.

Public Health funding pays for vital services across our city through the commissioning of work from the Third Sector and the NHS. The claim by the Government that the NHS will not be affected by these cuts is quite frankly ridiculous.

Public Health money currently covers a huge range of services, Councillor Buckley, to list but a few – Children’s Services, Neighbourhood Network, Healthy School, Substance Misuse Service, smoking cessation work, suicide, domestic violence prevention and sexual health support. There is a very real possibility that all of these could all be hit by the cuts, Councillor Golton, and many of these services provide irreplaceable prevention based support to our residents. There is a huge amount of evidence that focusing on prevention saves public money by reducing the need for more services downstream. This simply makes the proposed action by the Government short-sighted and economically unsound.

While health inequalities in Leeds are reducing, we know that there are areas that we still need to focus on and we do this largely through commissioning targeted services, such as those I have outlined above. We want to create a more equal healthy city but the continued pressure of financial uncertainty and threats of yet more cuts is making this more and more difficult. We have to therefore ask why, when there is an alternative to getting the money the Government wants. Yet again, it is Local Authorities and therefore local communities who have to bear the brunt of this Government’s aggressive financial policy.

The people of Leeds deserve access to the best healthcare provision and despite the ongoing onslaught to Public Health funding from this Government and the last, we are committed to ensuring that Leeds is a healthy and caring city for everyone.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think we saw over the weekend that nationally Labour have learned nothing and we see in this White Paper that locally Labour have learned nothing.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: We are not taking lessons off you.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: If you want to have – earlier in her summing up Councillor Blake urged all parties to come together to work on making representations to the Government and Councillor Mulherin has said the same thing but there is a general way in this place of approaching things if you want a consensus on a White Paper. The first and most sensible thing is, you go and talk to the other parties to see if there is a form of words you can agree on. Councillor Mulherin, can you tell us who in our side you came to talk to to put that form of words to? I do not think there was anyone. You have put down an inflammatory form of words that you knew we would never be able to support and actually on this subject, on the issue of in-year cuts, I think you would have got a sympathetic hearing on this side. Councillor Carter has spoken passionately against our own party before on this very issue and I think you

could have got a sympathetic hearing and potentially we could have found a form of words, but you did not do that.

Not only that, given the mish-mash of issues you have chosen to go on, your resolution, as has been pointed out, is to send officers to make representations. What does that mean? Are we going to send an email? Send them a tweet? They must be quaking in their boots. They will be rushing to change their policies with that kind of approach. The whole thing is a mess. You had no intention of getting cross-party support on this, you just wanted to play the same old blame games looking for other people to blame rather than taking responsibility for yourself. It is the same locally as it is nationally.

We are fascinated to know who in this Chamber voted for Jeremy Corbyn as the Leader of the Labour Party? (*interruption*)

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: What has that got to do with you?

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: That did not get a very good response!

COUNCILLOR LAMB: It did not, there was more hands up on this side than there were on that side! As one Labour MP has put it very publicly, the lunatics really have taken over the asylum! Their solution is, and I do not know if you heard the announcement from John McDonnell, the new Shadow Chancellor, this afternoon, when they have run out of money they are going to legalise Monopoly money! That is the new solution, just print some more. Just open your Monopoly sets. They have gone mad.

The real tragedy of all of this is while we are messing about with these silly White Papers in this place where we could have had something meaningful, we could have had something that came from all parties, they have messed about with this silly resolution and the real tragedy of what has happened nationally is the danger now of having Government with no effective Opposition. I have genuinely been torn between glee at the fact that it is almost certainly going to be a Conservative Government for a long time to come...

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: You wish.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: ...but in terms of our democratic process this is a disaster, because this country will never vote for a republican supporting, terrorist support, deficit denying...

THE LORD MAYOR: Could we stick to the White Paper, please.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor, I am sorry, I am sticking exactly.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: On come on, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I stopped them as well.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor, I am sticking exactly to the White Paper.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: He is not sticking exactly to the resolution. .

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: They deserve all they get.

THE LORD MAYOR: Just hang on a minute, can we try and finish this amicably.
(*interruption*)

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Can I carry on?

THE LORD MAYOR: Have you all finished now? Councillor Mulherin, would you like to sum up?

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Can I finish?

THE LORD MAYOR: I thought you sat down.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor, I have always been taught...

THE LORD MAYOR: OK, I will take that, my apologies. Councillor Lamb, will you finish what you are saying.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor, as I have always been taught it is courteous to sing the National Anthem when appropriate, I have also been taught that it is courteous to sit down when the Lord Mayor is speaking. (*interruption*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Please.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Lord Mayor, I fully intend...

THE LORD MAYOR: Can you just let him finish, please.

COUNCILLOR COUPAR: No.

THE LORD MAYOR: All right, we will wait then.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR: Let him finish his White Paper, not talk about the Leader. He is now talking about leadership. This is not the White Paper motion.

THE LORD MAYOR: Excuse me but I have just asked him to stick to the topic of the White Paper. Please can we at least let him finish and then Councillor Mulherin will have her opportunity when she sums up to respond.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I just roughly know how long is left?

THE LORD MAYOR: Just get a move on, otherwise I will turn the microphone off.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: I will draw to a conclusion, Lord Mayor. It is a mess and a dog's dinner of a White Paper. If you wanted support on an issue that you could have had if you had approached it the right way, you have gone about it entirely the wrong way and you have only got yourselves to blame for not getting it. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, if we could have a bit of calm. Councillor Mulherin, would you like to sum up, please?

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to start by thanking Councillor Yeadon, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Macniven, Councillor Hamilton and to an extent Councillor Golton for their sensible comments on this White Paper. Councillor Yeadon spoke powerfully of the fantastic work done by the Youth Justice Service in Leeds with young people and the difference that they make to their lives. 14% cuts to the service, she said, would be devastating.

Councillor Campbell, I would like to thank you for your support for our White Paper and Councillor Macniven, I would like to say you summed it up very nicely in terms of broken promises and the care cap being merely an election grabbing gimmick.

The speech made by Councillor Hamilton was absolutely superb. The fact she said we need to think about what the impact of these cuts will be on people in Leeds. People in Leeds will suffer. Tackling health inequalities in the city will be undermined and the people of Leeds deserve better.

Councillor Lay, you asked why this administration cannot put residents first. Well, we are doing. I would like to ask what you have done, other than standing up in this Chamber today to oppose the Public Health funding cuts, the Youth Offending Service cuts to this city. We have worked all the way through our budget spend to try to find the money we are expected to save. It cannot be absorbed, as you suggest in your amendment.

COUNCILLOR LAY: I said you need to show political leadership.

COUNCILLOR MULHERIN: Councillor Buckley says he wants to be constructive and then was anything but. He talks about savings this Government has had to make and he reiterates the broken record of his national party and ignoring the call to put the needs of Leeds' residents first. He makes his interesting and patronising comments about the references to the working man in Leeds and asks us to contemplate the real world. Perhaps in the real world Councillor Buckley might like to know that his Government has already recouped twice the amount they are seeking from Public Health and the Youth offending Service combined by a change to the business rates they are applying to medical centres, so the Council has already sent £6m back this year on that alone.

Councillor Robinson, you talk about tobacco companies and investment for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund without, of course, making reference to the fact that the West Yorkshire Pension Fund is not run by Leeds City Council but by a Board of Trustees and you may, I hope you are also taking up your concerns with the Conservative Members who sit on that Board of Trustees.

Councillor Golton, you ask specifically what we are doing to identify cuts that we can make in light of the Government's intentions around Public Health. You obviously have not yet looked at or seen the Executive Board papers for next week where we have identified the areas that we have been able to look at to date. You have got them because you have got them in front of you there, so if you do look carefully you will see we have set out our first attempt to find the money. We cannot find it all because it is almost impossible to find it all in-year.

They do not include, I want to say to you, Children's Centres or Neighbourhood Networks, which we have fought to keep in the face of your Government cuts for the last five years.

Finally, Councillor Lamb. Councillor Lamb and Councillor Buckley both missed the opportunity to back our position on Public Health funding and Youth Offending Service cuts today. They could have opposed the cuts in their amendments and they chose not to. Their attitude on this subject should tell the public in Leeds all they need to know about the Tories' approach locally as well as nationally to cutting vital public services, and on that note, Lord Mayor, I urge Members across this Chamber to think about the people of Leeds and back our White Paper. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I shall now call for the vote.

The first vote is the amendment in the name of Councillor Lay. *(A vote was taken)*
The motion fails. LOST

The second amendment in the name of Councillor Buckley. *(A vote was taken)* I am afraid that was not carried either. LOST

Now we will have a vote on the motion in the name of Councillor Mulherin. *(A vote was taken)* The motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 15 – WHITE PAPER MOTION - PASSIVHOUSE STANDARD

THE LORD MAYOR: We go to the next White Paper, please, and I will ask Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on the White Paper Motion on Passivhouse Standard.

Passivhouse buildings provide a high level of occupant comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooling. To achieve the Passivhouse Standard in the UK typically involves very high levels of insulation, extremely high performance windows with insulated frames, airtight building fabric, thermal bridge free, a construction and mechanical ventilation system with highly efficient heat recovery and accurate design using the Passivhouse planning package.

Passivhouse buildings achieve a 75% reduction in space heating requirements compared to standard practice for the UK build. Evidence and feedback to date shows that Passivhouse buildings are performing to standards which is crucial, given that the discrepancies between design aspiration and as build performance for many new buildings in the UK can be as much as 50%-100%.

Although it is reasonable to expect a high quality Passivhouse to cost more than a basic building, a number of projects are being delivered within standard budgets. This is because the cost of a building depends on many factors. Quality Passivhouse windows, whole house mechanical ventilation and thicker insulation all cost more. The savings are that a simplified building form reduces build cost and saves energy. A thermally stable envelope remains at a steady even temperature, eliminating the

need for complex controls, expensive underfloor heating, radiators under windows etc, and significant carbon reductions are possible without expensive on-site renewables.

There are various Passivhouse buildings in the UK. Not all of them are private sector developments. There is a social housing development of 14 new houses and flats near Saffron Walden, 23 social housing bungalows in Tyne and Wear and 18 flats and five houses which is a social housing scheme in the Midlands. There is also two Passivhouse primary schools in Wolverhampton. Both those schools were delivered in time, beating the Wolverhampton's proviso that they cost no more than standard schools.

These are just examples, these are not the only ones, these are just some examples I gave, but I think this is something we need to do in Leeds. In Leeds, I like to think that in Leeds we have led on a lot of things and that is why I am saying that I think in Leeds we should specify Passivhouse standards on all new buildings on Council owned land. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Can I ask Councillor Wilford to second.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am speaking on the White Paper Passivhouse Standards and I second the motion because of the benefits of building to Passivhouse standards.

For example, the savings on utility bills and low energy demands from having high levels of insulation, ventilation and air tightness. A Passivhouse is more than just a low energy building. They make efficient use of the sun, internal heat sources and heat recovery rendering conventional heating systems unnecessary throughout even the coldest of winters. During warmer months Passivhouses make use of passive cooling techniques, such as strategic shading, to keep comfortably cool. A ventilation system imperceptibly supplies constant fresh air, making for superior air quality without unpleasant draughts. A highly efficient heat recovery unit allows for the heat contained in the exhaust air to be reused.

Passivhouses are praised for the high level of comfort they offer. Internal surface temperatures vary little from indoor air temperatures, even in the face of extreme outdoor temperatures. Special windows and a building envelope consisting of a highly insulated roof and floor slab, as well as highly insulated exterior walls, keep the desired warmth in the house, or undesirable heat out.

A Passivhouse is a building standard that is truly energy efficient, comfortable and affordable at the same time. This is the way forward of improving local and global environments and as a Council it is as viable and innovative initiative. I urge you as elected Members to support. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Sobel to move an amendment.

COUNCILLOR SOBEL: Lord Mayor, I am moving an amendment to Councillor Blackburn's White Paper. I do want to thank Councillor Blackburn for considering this topic. As you know, it is one close to my heart and the hearts of many Members, not to mention residents in the city. Councillor Blackburn is right to identify there is now clear movement away from energy issues and a clear abandonment as the

greenest Government ever. The UN Climate Change Conference starts in November and the withdrawal of support domestically is a real danger that the UK will be pushing us faster towards cataclysmic climate change, not getting historic agreements broken by Yorkshire politicians John Prescott in Kyoto or Ed Miliband in Copenhagen.

Councillor Blackburn is right that we should note these points but I think we also need to add in the current proposals on Feed-In Tariffs. I know the Green Group are acutely aware of this issue and put up a question earlier today on it, so it simply puts another example of Central Government moving the goalposts to make energy efficiency harder when building or renovating houses.

The other changes we seek to make to Councillor Blackburn's points and apply them more widely than just Council land and property. We need to have a clear and consistent approach that Government or their Inspectors cannot overturn so making sure that we get this watertight is the right way forward.

I will leave the housing and planning matters to my Group colleagues speaking later and focus the remainder of my speech on the energy issues.

Leeds has, as far as we have been able to, taken exemplary steps around improving existing and new build housing. We instigated a large scale programme of external wall insulation and were unable to complete the programme due to the cut in the Green Deal funding, as we heard earlier. This week I visited the Sugarwells and saw the progress being made and the installation of photovoltaics on Council properties. We are installing a thousand photovoltaic roofs on Council properties. If the Feed-In Tariff rate had been higher, the Council could have delivered many more households free of fuel poverty as well as greater reductions in emissions.

Against this background the need for Passivhouse proposed in the motion is understandable and welcome as Passivhouse standard means a maximum of 15kw per hour per square metre per year for heating, hugely reducing emissions and fuel poverty.

Passivhouse is used fairly widely in Northern Europe but we have to be realistic, less than 50,000 Passivhouses have ever been built and, as has been pointed out, they are generally more expensive to construct.

I believe my amendment seeks to give the Council a broader set of options so we can consider zero emission buildings, energy plus houses which use similar principles to Passivhouse. I would like to see pilot projects on Passivhouse as well as on zero emission buildings and energy plus houses on Council land, whether that be built by the Council or self-builders or community builders or registered social landlords.

We are also making huge strides around prefabricated houses, including ones built here in Yorkshire, meeting codes for sustainable homes levels 5 and 6, meaning that Leeds City Council needs to explore the widest range of options with the limited funds available for new Council house building.

The amendment also seeks to highlight the need for improving standards in private housing and the Leeds Housing Standard brings in a standard which it is regrettable the national Government has sought not to introduce around energy efficiency and

low carbon. I would make a plea to all the Members here that this amendment is an addition, this is about bringing forward a whole range of proposals around zero low carbon homes on Council land and in the private sector. I feel the amendment makes the motion stronger, wider and is entirely sympathetic with the original motion. All Members here can support the need for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions across both social and private housing but we cannot tie ourselves to one single standard that every single new council house built will be a single standard. We need to have a broad range of options.

Although I support the original motion I believe this amendment is the right way forward. Lord Mayor, I move the amendment in my name. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen to second.

COUNCILLOR C GRUEN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to second this amendment and in doing so I am going to concentrate on the connectivity of the planning issues associated with the agenda.

Firstly, the intention of the amendment is to add value to the sentiments expressed rather than to change or oppose its central message of upping our game on energy efficient homes through the principle of localism. There is common ground and hopefully it will be appreciated that we are adding more vision and ambition to this challenging agenda.

My first key point is to set out the planning perspective regarding the Leeds Housing Standard. This is something we have developed here in Leeds for the past two years through workshops, including developers, and which we are now implementing. We know we can do so on our own land. However, the vision should be much bolder than this and we need to use our influence, persuasion and frankly just good common sense to bring enlightened and modern developers on board.

Our Plans Panels have a clear duty to scrutinise and challenge the quality of buildings, materials and finishing when coming to a decision and in my view we should become increasingly uncompromising with all developers when judging this against the housing standard, regarding it as a policy in the making rather than peripheral advice.

Why indeed should private home owners, 58.6% at the last census, not have access to the same benefits of energy efficiency as those moving into new Council homes?

Secondly, even this Government acknowledges that there is a national housing crisis, especially on the supply side. They say they are committed to building 200,000 starter homes and more of what they call affordable housing, so the time is absolutely right to elevate our standards and aspirations and ensure we build energy efficient homes that will be fit for purpose beyond just one generation.

We should not build cheap and small; we should future proof these homes so that we can be proud of the legacy we will leave the next generation of home owners and tenants.

Here in Leeds too we are on the threshold of building unprecedented numbers of Council properties to stimulate the social housing supply. We are developing on brown field land, as we said we would, and we are instrumental in self-build and in

other schemes. Now is the time to set this example and challenge the private sector to match our ambitions.

If as it appears Central Government is walking away from its commitments to energy efficiency, then there has to be a local response. It is clear from both this White Paper and from Councillor Sobel's amendment that there is a desire – indeed a passion – to see strong local leadership on this issue.

I understand the inevitable constraints of Central Government cuts to Councils and to others, the hurdles of time, competing priorities, targets and resources, but there is now a clear call for leadership, determination, vision and action and I hope, Lord Mayor and Members of the Council, that we can reach consensus across our political groups to take this important and urgent issue forward. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Anderson.

COUNCILLOR B ANDERSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I think we have got a bit of a curate's egg here in both the motion and also the amendment. There are some good bits in it and there are things that we on this side can agree with, but unfortunately there are parts that we cannot agree with and it is for that reason that we cannot support it.

If, as Councillor Lamb said earlier on, you had come to us we might have been able to come up with a form of words that we could have worked with. As you well know, there are a number of people on this side who are only too happy to talk about energy efficiency. Anybody who knows some of the issues that have been close to my heart, and reducing fuel poverty has certainly been one, I would have been only too happy to have tried to talk and try and reach a way forward so that we can do something. I think we have missed an opportunity yet again to get unanimity across the Council.

Yes, we do need standards. Unless we have standards you then have people building houses that are not really fit for people to live in and that leads to social problems and also health problems as well and so we have got to be careful in what we are doing there.

One of the unintended consequences, I think, of the standard that Councillor Blackburn puts forward is that it would make already 'affordable housing' potentially unaffordable because the developers would probably put it on to the price of that particular house and it makes it more difficult to meet the needs which we all agree with, the need to get housing which is affordable for people to move into.

What we are really saying is that it is going to be quite expensive to introduce this. You have not really set out how that would be, what the cost of that would be. You have put what the saving is but you have not explained where the particular saving is going to be, or what level of subsidy is going to be required in order to make this attractive, because Councillor Sobel in his amendment is criticising the Government for removing the subsidy, so there has always got to be something in this market as to what we are trying to do.

What we are really saying is unfortunately we are unable to support Councillor Sobel's amendment and as a result of that that will then become the substantive

motion, so we will not be able to support that either. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Wadsworth.

COUNCILLOR WADSWORTH: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have some sympathy with Councillor Blackburn. She is trying her best – I have a lot of sympathy with David but I have some sympathy with Councillor Ann Blackburn. (*laughter*) She is trying to produce a high standard of housing but she is trying to produce a zero energy house and I have worries about not using any energy at all because if that is replicated on a mass scale, then obviously energy for everybody else would become more expensive. It is a grand design house and we know how few and far between they are, but on the up side we do need to have local standards and the administration do need to lead on that. There is no point in saying Governments have reduced this and reduced that because we could go into why Governments have had to reduce things, where did we come in 2010. I do not want to make it political, I do not want to go down that route and I think the administration in September 2014 did bring some proposals to Exec Board that started to address it but it is not really enough. I have to agree with Councillor Gruen there in the sense that it does need to spread beyond just Council land because some of the Council land is some of the most difficult and most expensive to develop, and to add these very high standards to that would probably make it unviable to develop and then we would not have brown field land coming through first, which is what we all want, and we would have more green field sites. I think it does need to be spread across.

I think some of it is self-financing. I think if developers can be persuaded to put solar panels on as standard on new build people will buy that, people will add that to the mortgage because it makes no difference at all really to a 25 year loan but they get the benefits from it. I think maybe the high quality windows and high quality insulation could also be added but it needs to be working with developers to provide that. Rather than a top-down approach it needs to be a bottom-up approach and I think if the administration want help with that and want cross-party help with that, perhaps they could set up a cross-party working group and we could all work together to come up with a standard that we are all happy with. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Walshaw.

COUNCILLOR WALSHAW: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I really, really welcome this White Paper and I welcome Councillor Sobel's amendment. I think what we have taken from a very well intentioned White Paper, I think we have added some breadth and some depth and somewhat supercharged it a bit. I think that is based on our experience as an administration and our work across the housing sector with developers to producers of the actual components of these things. Let us talk about that for a minute.

We have developed the Leeds Standard and the Leeds Standard is something that we are very pleased with and it is an evolving developing beast. I think at the heart of Councillor Sobel's amendment is a challenge to us, Members and officers within Planning and Development, a challenge to us, how can we make these standards better, how can we get to standards that are effectively like the Passivhouse standard?

I would rather see us develop an awful lot of social housing that was 80%, 90% of a Passivhouse standard than a smaller amount that absolutely met that Passivhouse standard, but I think we have got a lot of options there and I think there is a need for breadth and give ourselves some wiggle room, as the saying goes. We have seen it, David, on City Plans many times where we need to be flexible and pragmatic to get the number of houses we need in the location we need.

I think as an Authority we need to be particularly firm with developers when we talk about viability. Viability is a key question. Developers, God bless them, are always trying to, shall we say, back away from commitments that involve Passivhouse standards or that involve providing social housing and we have to be very, very firm with them as an Authority. I think some of the work, if you sit on City Plans or the other two Plans Panels you will see the work we have done over the last couple of years has meant that developers are finally listening to us.

As Councillor Gruen pointed out, we have done an awful lot of patient relationship building and patient development work with them and we are seeing now, you will see some developments over the next couple of years where houses are Passivhouses, or there or thereabouts. Our Council house programme is Passivhousing or there or thereabouts. I do not think we should get totally hung up on these particular standards because we are going to get there.

What does all this mean? It means providing an awful lot better quality of life for the people who buy those houses or the people who rent those houses from wherever their economic class, background, what have you. What does a Passivhouse do? It means really low energy bills and there is something that perhaps is a little bit under thought of but Headingley Councillors, we come into contact with noise nuisance an awful lot and what a Passivhouse or there or thereabouts standard has is excellent sound performance. If we are building high density developments, they have got to have excellent sound performance because we do not want to be always getting phoned at 3.00am in the morning about noisy parties. We would like those parties to go on without waking everybody up.

I do not want to sound flippant but it is important, it is important for liveability – that lived experience for people moving into those properties.

Just finally, just a couple of points on why we are actually here and why we think this should be devised locally. Localism is good, we know Leeds best, we can develop our standards best. We know the developers who operate in Leeds best and we can deploy our resources to build Council houses cost-effectively. I think that is really important and I do not think we should lose sight of that.

I would make just one last point really, I think one of the things that concerns me at the moment is Central Government is moving rapidly away from sensible commitments that have existed for quite a few years with regards to energy efficiency, micro generation, photovoltaics, and I think that deeply concerns me because we have enormous pressure on us as society to reduce our carbon emissions and to reduce fuel poverty and to diversify how we generate electricity. We need Central Government to be a helping hand in that process. We do not need Central Government to be holding us back. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Jonathan Bentley.

COUNCILLOR J BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. When I first saw Councillor Blackburn's White Paper we were wholly supporting it but I think there are some elements in Councillor Sobel's amendment as well.

I think that both motion and amendment perhaps lack certain ambition in different ways. Councillor Blackburn wants the Passivhouse standard to apply to houses built on Council land. Well, if you are going to apply a standard, let us apply it across the board, let us apply it to everyone.

Councillor Sobel wants the standard to apply to new builds but wants the standard set locally and not only set locally but designed locally, and I think sometimes you could get dilution of that from a very vigorous international standard, which Passivhouse is, something which is diluted. If we are bringing developers into this and bringing them on board, we say we are going to be rigorous and robust with them but we do not have a particularly good track record of holding developers to account. They can normally wriggle out of stuff. An external international standard is perhaps the way to go.

The Coalition Government, we talked about Government intervention, the Coalition Government inherited from the previous Labour Government the zero carbon homes standard which would have required all new homes to have a zero net carbon contribution from late 2016 onwards, and the Lib Dems in Government were strongly supportive of that standard and ensured that it was enacted.

However, one of the first acts of the Conservative Government, once it was wholly owned by the Conservatives, was to scrap the zero carbon homes standard as being too costly, saying it would prevent new homes being built, and that is so short-sighted. That is really lacking in ambition. We can all talk about the expense of putting in good standards and we can all build cheap houses, there is nothing difficult about building cheap houses and the history of house building since the war is about that. Mass building of sub-standard housing that was cheap to build and cost a fortune to run. Single skinned, single glazed houses that were cold and damp, heated with expensive, inefficient heating, houses that are now having to be retro fitted with double glazing, external wall insulation and efficient boilers. We must not fall into that trap again. We must be future proofing our building because back in the 1950s and 1960s there were installation standards, there were fuel conservation standards but it was always thought too expensive to build to those standards. Tenants and residents are still suffering the consequences of that short-sightedness today. We must not have that same short-sightedness with today's standards.

We have to stop looking at the cost of a house simply of how much it costs to build and think of it as a whole life cost in terms of how much it costs to run. Higher bill costs can be offset by lower running costs.

As a standard like Passivhouse it significantly reduces running costs by the means that Councillor Blackburn was telling us earlier. It has a very low demand for primary energy, it uses techniques such as positioning the house to maximise the heating effect of the sun, applying super thick insulation, making it airtight, using ambient sources of heat like body heat of the occupants. This is not just theoretical, there are already examples in Leeds – Richmond Hill Primary School, Leeds Becket Carnegie Village, the Greenhouse Flats development in Beeston – so overcoming fuel poverty is not just about the price of fuel but about reducing the demand for fuel and the Passivhouse

standard does that. We must not adopt a short term approach to this, we must be far-sighted and ambitious. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In this country we have traditionally built poor quality housing and that is usually because the major builders who have been involved have always claimed about the cost of providing the housing and they have always attempted to in effect reduce that cost as much as possible and by reducing it, reduce the standard.

I think fuel poverty, as we know, is related to the ability to heat a house and if we perhaps had been more far-sighted 20, 30, 40 years ago a number of the issues that we are facing at the moment would not be here because obviously we would not have allowed people to build houses of such poor quality.

Barry has reiterated it, he has fallen into the trap that lots of politicians currently have and that is this argument that volume house builders have about the price of a house and about saying to people, or saying to Government in particular, “We will build you a cheap house” – an affordable house I think is the word. The argument always is that a house of a Passivhouse standard is very expensive. If you want to build one, yes it is, but the economies of scale in the building trade mean that if you built them all like that, they would not be.

I will use the example, and I trot it out on a regular basis because I happen to remember that when a previous Labour Government actually changed the building regulations and insisted that houses were built with double glazed windows, there may be people here who do not remember the time before there were double glazed windows and those older ones among us will wax lyrical about the ice patterns on the window, but I do not want to go back to it. At the time the Wimpeys and the Ashtons as they were in those days said, “If you make us put double glazing in our houses, we will just stop building them because they will just be too expensive to buy.” Suddenly, once the legislation came in, they found that actually, if they standardised the production and standardised the window size, actually it was no more expensive but it was actually a very good selling point if you were selling a house saying, “This house has got double glazing.”

I think the argument about price is spurious because actually if you look at the lifetime cost of a Passivhouse, it is very, very low so it may actually be slightly more to put the bricks on for the wall and the roof on, but the lifetime running costs are low, which was why I was quite bemused by Paul’s comment which is that he is very worried about the fact that we might actually get houses that are really heat efficient and do not use much power because it might mean he would have to pay more for his. I think you have missed the point there. The whole point is we are trying to reduce that use across the board.

As I have said, the life time cost of a Passivhouse is much, much lower so the cost, Barry, actually, if you look at it, you say what will be the extra cost – there is not an extra cost. It is a minus figure but actually we never count it like that. It is a sensible way forward of us saying to people, “We will build houses for you that are reasonable, that are warm, that you can live in for the rest of your life and not have to worry about keeping warm.” Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Blackburn to sum up.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I thank Councillor Sobel for the comments he has made where he does, I think, see where we are coming from about wanting Passivhouse standards, though he stated that he would prefer a mix. What I would say to him is that I would like to be involved in talks and maybe we could have a working group to see at least if we can do a scheme on this. I throw that out to him.

Councillor Gruen mentioned about future proofing houses for future generations. Well, yes, if you did Passivhouse that covers that. Councillor Anderson says he wants good social housing. Again, with Passivhouse you get that and also it means that the people in them will have very low fuel bills. Councillor Wadsworth mentions about all buildings. Why we said just Council buildings was because I put it as a motion to what this Council can decide and I do not believe this Council can believe on what is done on private land, I think that would have to be the Government. I am not saying that we would not like to see it done on private land as well and in fact a lot of private house builders have built already Passivhouse standards and a lot of them that have not are certainly becoming interested in it.

Councillor Walshaw mentions about soundproofing. I do not see why you could not do soundproofing in a Passivhouse. As far as Councillor Bentley and Councillor Campbell go, I welcome their comments and it is very true what Councillor Campbell says, do not believe that it is going to cost a vast amount of money. Actually the lifetime cost of them, it is just worth doing them and I think we have got to be a bit forward thinking. It is all very well saying yes we are doing this so this is all right and this is going towards that so that will do – it will not. Let us be forward thinking, let us at least have a scheme. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. The first vote on the amendment in the name of Councillor Sobel. *(A vote was taken)* The amendment is CARRIED.

Now we are voting on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Sobel. *(A vote was taken)* The motion is CARRIED.

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES/LEAVE OF COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move on to the next item, Suspension of Council Procedure Rules. Councillor Charlwood.

COUNCILLOR CHARLWOOD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move that the Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow the introduction of a fourth White Paper in terms of the Notice and seek leave of Council for Councillor Blake to alter the wording.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.

ITEM 16 – WHITE PAPER MOTION – LEEDS RHINOS CHALLENGE CUP
SUCCESS

THE LORD MAYOR: White Paper Motion 16, Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: It gives me enormous pleasure to move the White Paper motion as in the paper. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter to formally second.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: With particular pleasure I second. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell, Councillor Gettings, Councillor Blackburn to formally support. *(Applause)*

I am going to call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED.
(Applause)

Thank you all very much for attending and have a pleasant day, what is left of it.

(The meeting closed at 7.15pm)