

**COUNCIL MEETING – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A1 to WP1	15/1/19	15/1/19

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Submitted by:	Councillor Jonathan Bentley
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Regeneration, Transport and Planning)
Relevant Director	Directors of City Development/Communities and Environment

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After fourth paragraph insert a new paragraph 5:

“Additionally Council supports a radical reform of Business Rates to ensure that high street businesses are not unfairly disadvantaged by competition from the on-line economy.”

The white paper will then read:

This Council welcomes the Government commitment to high streets both in Leeds and nationally. Key announcements such as the £675m Future High Streets Fund, the Open Doors Project and business rate reductions for small businesses are welcome measures that will help the UK high street to thrive and businesses to grow.

Council notes that apprenticeships can play an important role in supporting both the public sector and private sector businesses. Council welcomes the recent decision to commit £3.2m of apprenticeship levy funding but notes that £0.6m remains unspent. Council believes this money should be put to use as a matter of urgency either working proactively with private sector organisations to deliver new skills and new employment opportunities to Leeds residents or delivering more apprenticeships within the Council.

Council also sees significant potential in the Apprenticeship Levy to close the gender pay gap by working with the Third Sector to encourage women into engineering and the digital sector.

This Council believes that more can be done in Leeds to support local businesses particularly as potentially difficult issues such as the Clean Air Zone are very much on the horizon. Council should consider extending sunset clauses where appropriate to support businesses that could be affected by the CAZ, particularly HGV operators, and look to provide more support, in addition to the local centres programme, for small businesses operating in town and district centres across the city.

Additionally Council supports a radical reform of Business Rates to ensure that high street businesses are not unfairly disadvantaged by competition from the on-line economy.

Finally Council notes with concern the proposals contained in the Initial Budget Proposals 2019/20 to introduce car parking charges in town and district centres. As the Government introduces measures to support businesses and high streets the ruling administration in

Leeds is introducing measures that will stymie those efforts and could have a real impact on businesses in Garforth, Wetherby and Guiseley.

This Council calls for the proposed parking charges to be removed from the initial budget proposals and for a city wide 'High Street Review' to be initiated to identify what additional measures can be introduced to support the High Street, with a report to be brought back to Executive Board no later than Spring 2019 announcing further details. Supporting our local high streets must be something we do all year round, not just for Christmas.

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#### Deadlines for submission

White Papers	- 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions	- 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments (including references back)	- 10.00 am on the day before the meeting

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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