

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Leeds City Council held
Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 16th November, 2022

PRESENT: The Lord Mayor Councillor Robert Gettings MBE JP in the Chair.

WARD

ADEL & WHARFEDALE

Barry John Anderson
Caroline Anderson
Billy Flynn

ALWOODLEY

Dan Cohen
Neil Buckley
Peter Mervyn Harrand

ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD

Karen Renshaw
Mike Foster
Lisa Mulherin

ARMLEY

Alice Smart
James McKenna
Lou Cunningham

BEESTON & HOLBECK

Annie Maloney
Gohar Almas
Andrew Scopes

BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY

Kevin Ritchie
Caroline Gruen
Julie Heselwood

BURMANTOFTS & RICHMOND HILL

Luke Farley
Asghar Khan
Denise Ragan

WARD

CALVERLEY & FARSLEY

Amanda Carter
Peter Carlill
Andrew Carter

CHAPEL ALLERTON

Mohammed Rafique
Jane Dowson

CROSS GATES & WHINMOOR

Pauleen Grahame
James Gibson
Jessica Lennox

FARNLEY & WORTLEY

Mark Sowards
David Blackburn
Ann Forsaith

GARFORTH & SWILLINGTON

Mark Dobson
Sarah Field
Suzanne McCormack

GIPTON & HAREHILLS

Salma Arif
Arif Hussain
Kamila Maqsood

GUISELEY & RAWDON

Eleanor Thomson
Paul Alderson
Paul John Spencer Wadsworth

HAREWOOD

Matthew James Robinson
Sam Firth
Ryan Stephenson

HEADINGLEY & HYDE PARK

Jonathon Pryor
Alison Garthwaite
Neil Walshaw

HORSFORTH

Emmie Bromley
John Garvani
Jackie Shemilt

HUNSLET & RIVERSIDE

Ed Carlisle
Mohammed Iqbal
Paul Wray

KILLINGBECK & SEACROFT

John Tudor
David Jenkins
Katie Dye

KIPPAX & METHLEY

Mary Elizabeth Harland
James Lewis
Mirelle Midgley

KIRKSTALL

Hannah Bithell
Fiona Elizabeth Venner
John Anthony Illingworth

LITTLE LONDON & WOODHOUSE

Kayleigh Brooks
Javaid Akhtar
Abigail Marshall-Katung

MIDDLETON PARK

Wayne Dixon
Sharon Burke
Paul Anthony Truswell

MOORTOWN

Mahalia France-Mir
Sharon Hamilton
Mohammed Shahzad

MORLEY NORTH

Robert Gettings MBE JP

Andy Hutchison

MORLEY SOUTH

Oliver Newton
Jane Senior
Wyn Kidger

OTLEY & YEADON

Colin Campbell

Ryk Downes

PUDSEY

Simon Seary
Dawn Seary
Trish Smith

ROTHWELL

Barry Stewart Golton
Conrad Hart-Brooke
Diane Chapman

ROUNDHAY

Jordan Bowden
Zara Hussain
Lisa Martin

TEMPLE NEWSAM

Debra Coupar
Helen Hayden
Nicole Sharp

WEETWOOD

Izaak Wilson
Emma Flint
Chris Howley
WETHERBY
Norma Harrington

Linda Richards

48 Announcements

(a) The Lord Mayor welcomed members to this meeting of Full Council and also any members of the public who were joining the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was to be streamed live.

(b) The Lord Mayor informed Council of the recent death of Honorary Alderman Bernard Atha CBE who had served as a Councillor for 57 years and invited Councillor James Lewis to pay tribute.

Council stood in silent tribute.

49 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was moved by Councillor Lennox, seconded by Councillor Cohen and

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 20 July, 14 September and 19 October 2022 be approved.

50 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

51 Communications

The Chief Executive informed Council that since the last Full Council meeting responses had been received from ministers to 3 Council resolutions, from Marcus Jones MP, in respect of a White Paper Resolution relating to Housing, from Baroness Vere of Norbiton, in respect of a White Paper Resolution relating to Highways and from David Rutley MP, in respect of a White Paper Resolution relating to the Household Support Fund copies of which had previously been circulated to all Members of Council.

52 Deputations

Three deputations were admitted to the meeting and addressed Council, as follows:-

- 1) Leeds Children's Mayor
- 2) Residents of Inner North-West Leeds
- 3) Queensway School

RESOLVED – That the subject matter in respect of deputation 1 and 3 be referred to the Director of Children and Families for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member, that the subject matter in respect of deputation 2 be referred to the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

53 Report on Appointments

It was moved by Councillor Lennox, seconded by Councillor Flint and

RESOLVED – That the report of the City Solicitor on appointments be approved, namely;

- Julie Longworth replacing Sal Tariq on the Health and Wellbeing Board following the appointment of Julie Longworth as the Interim Director of Children & Families.
- That Councillor Pryor replace Councillor Coupar as the substitute on the LEP Board.

- 54 Report on Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report 2021-22**
It was moved by Councillor Hayden, seconded by Councillor Gruen and

RESOLVED – That the report of the Chief Planning Officer presenting to Council the 2021-22 Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report be received and noted.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 14.15 to 14.25.

- 55 Report on Community Committees Annual Report 2021/22**
It was moved by Councillor Harland, seconded by Councillor Shahzad and

RESOLVED – That the report of the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment presenting to Council the Community Committees' Annual report for 2020/21 be received and that the work now being progressed to further improve the effectiveness, community engagement role and improvement work of Community Committees be noted.

56 Executive Questions

- Q1 Councillor Flynn to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education):-

Could the Executive Member please provide me with the number of initial applications for EHCPs awaiting assessment and the total number of EHCPs in existence?

The Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education) replied.

- Q2 Councillor Howley to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate):-

Given recent news of mis-reporting of night time flight data from Leeds Bradford Airport to the Council would the Member for Infrastructure and Climate explain what the Council proposes to do to ensure the validity of the information submitted and agree to bring a report to the relevant Council Panel/Board?

The Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate) replied.

- Q3 Councillor Dowson to the Leader of Council:-

Please can the Leader update council on what he would like to see in the Government's Autumn Statement tomorrow?

The Leader of Council replied.

- Q4 Councillor Blackburn to the Executive Member Environment and Housing):-

Could the Executive Member for Environment and Housing tell me what steps are being taken to make sure those households with wheel out refuse collections, which are constantly being missed, receive the service they are offered?

The Executive Member (Environment and Housing) replied.

Q5 Councillor Garthwaite to the Executive Member (Resources):-

Can the Executive Member please update Council on what is happening with the White Ribbon campaign this year?

The Executive Member (Resources) replied.

Q6 Councillor Smith to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate):-

Will the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate please outline the process through which utility companies must adhere in order to complete works on the highway?

The Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate) replied.

At the conclusion of question time, the following questions remained unanswered and it was noted that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.6, written answers would be sent to each Member of Council:-

Q7 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources):-

Q8 Councillor Flint to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education):-

Q9 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles):-

Q10 Councillor Jenkins to the Executive Member (Children and Adult's Social Care and Health Partnerships).

Q11 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).

Q12 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Communities).

Q13 Councillor Khan to the Executive Member (Communities).

Q14 Councillor Wadsworth to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).

Q15 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles).

Q16 Councillor Stephenson to the Leader of Council

Q17 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).

Q18 Councillor Buckley to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).

Q19 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles).

Q20 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Resources).

Q21 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles).

Q22 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).

- Q23 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q24 Councillor Firth to the Leader of Council.
- Q25 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q26 Councillor Robinson to the Leader of Council.
- Q27 Councillor Downes to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q28 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q29 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles).
- Q30 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q31 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q32 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Economy, Culture and Education).
- Q33 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Environment and Housing).
- Q34 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q35 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles).
- Q36 Councillor Stephenson to the Executive Member (Communities).
- Q37 Councillor Firth to the Leader of Council.
- Q38 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Infrastructure and Climate).
- Q39 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q40 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Resources).

57 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Lennox that the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

RESOLVED – That the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

Council Procedure Rule 4, providing for the winding up of business, was applied prior to all notified comments on the minutes having been debated.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 16.19 to 16.47.

58 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Buckley) - Bus Services in Leeds

It was moved by Councillor Buckley, seconded by Councillor Andrew Carter that this Council is concerned at the current state of bus services in Leeds.

Council notes that public transport was hit hard by the pandemic, with passenger numbers not yet fully recovered, and Council welcomes the substantial and

continuing government funding that has been paid to operators and local transport authorities to keep services running. Between April and December this year alone, West Yorkshire Combined Authority is expected to receive £3,043,632 to help operators maintain vital routes.

Council regrets that despite this investment the performance of some services has worsened. Passenger satisfaction has declined on key measures such as punctuality, reliability and the provision of information during the journey, whilst concerns have been raised about the accuracy of the real time information system that displays the predicted time of the next bus. Meanwhile many outer areas of the city still suffer from poor public transport connectivity and service reliability issues, with investment largely focused on the city centre.

Council notes that the Combined Authority has been awarded an indicative settlement of £69,974,070 in government funding over three financial years to support delivery of a Bus Service Improvement Plan, and believes the public will expect the Mayor of West Yorkshire to be held accountable for addressing current problems with services now, as well as delivering a longer term step change in performance in Leeds.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Mayor of West Yorkshire asking that she outlines her detailed plans to tackle the immediate concerns with the city's bus services, and inviting her to take questions in an appropriate forum from elected members in Leeds.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Golton, seconded by Councillor Chapman

Delete all after the first paragraph and replace with:

"Elected members share the frustration of bus passengers at the unacceptable level of cancelled bus journeys throughout the network, and the reduced frequency imposed on some bus services. This has a significant impact on Leeds workers getting to their place of employment, students attending classes on time, and people accessing hospital appointments. The cancelling or reduction of evening services in particular is having a significant impact on many people's mental health as they are effectively curfewed from social activity after dark.

This Council regrets that the recently extended Covid support funding from government, handed over to private bus companies, contains no binding agreements on customer delivery.

This Council further considers the West Yorkshire Mayor's Enhanced Bus Partnership a failure, as this arrangement has failed to leverage any appreciable improvements for West Yorkshire Bus passengers from private bus companies in exchange for the taxpayer funded subsidy they receive.

Members are dismayed that despite handing over £80 million for cleaner, cheaper new buses, and £35 million to subsidise cheaper 'Mayors Fares', Leeds bus users are experiencing a worsening service under the Mayor's transport stewardship.

This Council believes that the accountability and performance of private bus companies will only be improved when the voluntary Enhanced Bus Partnership is replaced by a franchise arrangement similar to that in Greater Manchester.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to inform Mayor Brabin that this Council has no confidence in her Enhanced Bus Partnership. It further requests that the West Yorkshire Mayor informs the Minister for Transport of the failure of the

current voluntary arrangements, and requests an acceleration of the process to allow the franchising of buses in West Yorkshire."

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Forsaith

Delete all after the first sentence and insert:

"This Council welcomes the continued support from Central Government for our local bus services and the introduction of the £2 minimum fare introduced by the Mayor of West Yorkshire, but recognises that this will not resolve the problems of bus services in Leeds and the rest of West Yorkshire.

Council believes the problems go much deeper and have only been made worse by the Covid pandemic. Council believes the model for delivery of bus services is broken and was already in that position prior to the pandemic.

Council believes these problems can only be resolved by the introduction of franchising across West Yorkshire and the setting up of a publicly owned operator of last resort by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Mayor of West Yorkshire expressing these views and to the Prime Minister requesting that the Mayor of West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Combined Authority be given the appropriate powers to carry this out."

A third amendment was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Carlill

Remove all after "This Council" and replace with:

".....is concerned that, despite action by the West Yorkshire Mayor to push Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant, private bus operators First and Arriva have still proceeded to implement cuts to some bus services and failed to improve employment conditions for their staff to address their driver recruitment and retention issues.

Council believes this situation where private operators in receipt of Government subsidy can choose to shrink the bus network, including routes crucial for our communities, is unacceptable and confirms that the current deregulated, privatised bus model introduced by the Conservatives has been a resounding failure. Council is concerned by the damage this model has inflicted over many years on the everyday lives of residents across Leeds who rely on buses to access jobs, education, family, crucial services, shops and entertainment.

Council further believes questions about the delivery of the Bus Recovery Grant directly to private operators by the Government need to be independently investigated by an agency such as the National Audit Office.

Council welcomes action taken by this council and the West Yorkshire Mayor to improve buses for passengers in Leeds, including more bus lanes and Park and Ride sites, as well as cheaper tickets through the £2 Mayors Fares scheme.

Council calls for legislation that currently prevents the creation of new municipal publicly owned bus companies to be overturned. Council reiterates again its support for the West Yorkshire Mayor's pledge to bring in franchising of the bus network but notes the Government's timetable blocks this until at least 2024. Council also supports the West Yorkshire Mayor's calls for Government to provide sustainable, long-term funding for buses to enable the bus network to grow. In the meantime Council will continue to support the West Yorkshire Mayor in holding First and Arriva to account and supports the West Yorkshire Mayor's calls for the Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant beyond its current end date of March to prevent any further cuts to services."

The amendments in the name of Councillor Golton and Councillor Blackburn were declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Lewis was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council is concerned that, despite action by the West Yorkshire Mayor to push Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant, private bus operators First and Arriva have still proceeded to implement cuts to some bus services and failed to improve employment conditions for their staff to address their driver recruitment and retention issues.

Council believes this situation where private operators in receipt of Government subsidy can choose to shrink the bus network, including routes crucial for our communities, is unacceptable and confirms that the current deregulated, privatised bus model introduced by the Conservatives has been a resounding failure. Council is concerned by the damage this model has inflicted over many years on the everyday lives of residents across Leeds who rely on buses to access jobs, education, family, crucial services, shops and entertainment.

Council further believes questions about the delivery of the Bus Recovery Grant directly to private operators by the Government need to be independently investigated by an agency such as the National Audit Office.

Council welcomes action taken by this council and the West Yorkshire Mayor to improve buses for passengers in Leeds, including more bus lanes and Park and Ride sites, as well as cheaper tickets through the £2 Mayors Fares scheme.

Council calls for legislation that currently prevents the creation of new municipal publicly owned bus companies to be overturned. Council reiterates again its support for the West Yorkshire Mayor's pledge to bring in franchising of the bus network but notes the Government's timetable blocks this until at least 2024. Council also supports the West Yorkshire Mayor's calls for Government to provide sustainable, long-term funding for buses to enable the bus network to grow. In the meantime Council will continue to support the West Yorkshire Mayor in holding First and Arriva to account and supports the West Yorkshire Mayor's calls for the Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant beyond its current end date of March to prevent any further cuts to services.

On the requisition of Councillor Lennox and Councillor Lewis the voting on the third amendment in the name of Councillor Lewis was recorded as follows;

YES – 57

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Sowards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson, Wray, Blackburn, Carlisle and Forsaith.

NO – 19

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Buckley, Amanda Carter, Andrew Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Harrand, Harrington, Richards, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson and Wadsworth.

ABSTAIN – 10

Kidger, Hutchison, Newton, Senior, Downes, Golton, Campbell, Chapman, Hart-Brooke, and Howley.

- 59 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Downes) - Queensway School**
It was moved by Councillor Downes, seconded by Councillor Campbell that this council is concerned that the proposed closure of Queensway School in Yeadon will only partially address the challenge of low pupil numbers in Aireborough and that the current problem is an Aireborough wide issue, that should be dealt with holistically. Closure of Queensway would seriously impact on SEND pupils and disrupt the education and mental health of pupils. This will have an additional impact on the JCC and future provision for the whole of Aireborough.

Council calls on officers to halt the process of Queensway's closure and look for a full solution for Aireborough instead.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Wadsworth, seconded by Councillor Alderson

After “disrupt the education and mental health of pupils”, insert: “including pupils and schools in Guiseley and Rawdon Ward.”

After “Aireborough instead”, insert: “which, following comprehensive consultation, can command the confidence and support of all affected local schools, families, and councillors of the wards affected.”

Motion would read:

This Council is concerned that the proposed closure of Queensway School in Yeadon will only partially address the challenge of low pupil numbers in Aireborough and that the current problem is an Aireborough wide issue, that should be dealt with holistically. Closure of Queensway would seriously impact on SEND pupils and disrupt the education and mental health of pupils including pupils and schools in Guiseley and Rawdon Ward. This will have an additional impact on the JCC and future provision for the whole of Aireborough.

Council calls on officers to halt the process of Queensway's closure and look for a full solution for Aireborough instead which, following comprehensive consultation, can command the confidence and support of all affected local schools, families, and councillors of the wards affected.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor Flint

Remove all after "This Council" and replace with:

"is concerned at the systematic removal of both powers and funding from Local Authorities related to education provision and the subsequent impact of those removals on local people in situations such as Queensway School in Yeadon.

Council is frustrated at the Governments' removing of powers from councils to control admission numbers across the city, meaning that when populations fall, options are extremely limited.

Council acknowledges the current 22% surplus of school places in the Aireborough area, moving to a 36% surplus by 2026, and understands that schools cannot operate without the funding that is attached to pupil numbers coming in, particularly given the significant cuts to education over the past 12 years.

Council further acknowledges that the Governing bodies of the schools in the Aireborough area each independently control their own admission numbers and have indicated that they are not willing to reduce their admission numbers.

While it is important to note that no decision has been made on the future of Queensway School and we cannot pre-empt that decision, Council would continue to support children, families, teachers and school staff throughout any statutory processes that may be followed.

Council remains dismayed at the continued failure of the Conservative Government to adequately fund education and in particular the failure to provide suitable funding for SEND provision.

Council calls on Government to reverse years of real terms underinvestment in education, return education powers to local authorities and give schools and pupils the guarantee of proper funding to ensure every child gets the education they deserve."

The amendment in the name of Councillor Wadsworth was declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Pryor was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council is concerned at the systematic removal of both powers and funding from Local Authorities related to education provision and the subsequent impact of those removals on local people in situations such as Queensway School in Yeadon.

Council is frustrated at the Governments' removing of powers from councils to control admission numbers across the city, meaning that when populations fall, options are extremely limited.

Council acknowledges the current 22% surplus of school places in the Aireborough area, moving to a 36% surplus by 2026, and understands that schools cannot

operate without the funding that is attached to pupil numbers coming in, particularly given the significant cuts to education over the past 12 years.

Council further acknowledges that the Governing bodies of the schools in the Aireborough area each independently control their own admission numbers and have indicated that they are not willing to reduce their admission numbers.

While it is important to note that no decision has been made on the future of Queensway School and we cannot pre-empt that decision, Council would continue to support children, families, teachers and school staff throughout any statutory processes that may be followed.

Council remains dismayed at the continued failure of the Conservative Government to adequately fund education and in particular the failure to provide suitable funding for SEND provision.

Council calls on Government to reverse years of real terms underinvestment in education, return education powers to local authorities and give schools and pupils the guarantee of proper funding to ensure every child gets the education they deserve.

On the requisition of Councillor Wadsworth and Councillor Alderson the voting on the amendment in the name of Councillor Wadsworth and the second amendment in the name of Councillor Pryor was recorded as follows;

Amendment in the name of Councillor Wadsworth

YES – 30

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Buckley, Amanda Carter, Andrew Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Harrington, Richards, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson, Wadsworth, Kidger, Hutchison, Newton, Senior, Downes, Golton, Campbell, Chapman, Hart-Brooke, Blackburn, Forsaith and Dixon.

NO – 55

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Swards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Smart, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson and Wray.

ABSTAIN – 1

Carlisle

Second amendment in the name of Councillor Pryor

YES – 55

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Swards,

Shahzad, Sharpe, Smart, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson and Wray.

NO – 27

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Buckley, Amanda Carter, Andrew Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Harrington, Richards, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson, Wadsworth, Kidger, Newton, Downes, Golton, Campbell, Chapman, Hart-Brooke, Blackburn and Dixon.

ABSTAIN – 4

Carlisle, Forsaith, Hutchison and Senior

60 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Carlill) - River Pollution

It was moved by Councillor Carlill, seconded by Councillor Sharpe that this Council is very concerned the Government continues to allow raw sewage to be dumped into rivers flowing through Leeds.

Council is shocked Environment Agency figures show raw sewage has been pumped into Yorkshire's natural environment once every 18.75 minutes since 2016 and the number of spills has increased by over 100,000% in that time.

Council notes that the Government's failure to implement effective regulation, as well as Government cuts to the Environment Agency budget since 2010 have reduced the amount of surveillance of water companies aimed at stopping pollution in rivers and caused an increase in raw sewage dumping.

Council calls on the Government to end this disgraceful practice by allowing unlimited fines, holding water company bosses legally and financially accountable for their negligence, and by toughening up regulations that currently allow the system to be abused.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Amanda Carter, seconded by Councillor Richards

Delete all after "This Council" and replace with the following:

acknowledges the work already undertaken by this Government on environmental matters.

This includes the recent Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan published in August 2022 which places obligations and penalties on water companies to actually comply with regulations and permits issued by the Environment Agency, and the expectation that year on year, there will be reductions in the amount of surface water going into the sewer network.

Council also notes and endorses the local work started by the Wetherby Ward Members to significantly improve water quality in the River Wharfe, including facilitating a deputation to Council in November 2019 and subsequently convening a 'sewage summit' at Civic Hall with Council Officers and stakeholders from Yorkshire Water and rivers groups. Meetings have taken place with Government Ministers and the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board has undertaken an investigation into this issue at the request of the Wetherby Members.

Work is currently underway in the Wetherby Ward to achieve Bathing Water Status for the River Wharfe at Wetherby and Boston Spa. When successful, this will become one of only a handful of river locations in the country with this formal designation.

Given the clear action from Government, this Council believes it is now time action is taken in Leeds. This Council commits to actively supporting citizen groups and Wards to achieve Bathing Water Status on rivers within the Council boundary.

Council calls for a report to be brought to Executive Board before the end of March 2023, detailing the timescales and constructive actions Leeds residents can expect as a minimum the Council will deliver in supporting Bathing Water Status applications."

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hart-Brooke, seconded by Councillor Campbell

Add a further paragraph at the end of the original motion:

"This Council further believes that Ofwat is completely discredited as a regulator. It calls on the government to make arrangements for its abolition and replacement with a new regulator focussed on prioritising the protection of waterways and beaches, and ensuring that more water company profits are invested in fixing our broken sewage system."

The amendments in the name of Councillor Amanda Carter and Councillor Hart-Brooke were declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council is very concerned the Government continues to allow raw sewage to be dumped into rivers flowing through Leeds.

Council is shocked Environment Agency figures show raw sewage has been pumped into Yorkshire's natural environment once every 18.75 minutes since 2016 and the number of spills has increased by over 100,000% in that time.

Council notes that the Government's failure to implement effective regulation, as well as Government cuts to the Environment Agency budget since 2010 have reduced the amount of surveillance of water companies aimed at stopping pollution in rivers and caused an increase in raw sewage dumping.

Council calls on the Government to end this disgraceful practice by allowing unlimited fines, holding water company bosses legally and financially accountable for their negligence, and by toughening up regulations that currently allow the system to be abused.

On the requisition of Councillor Lennox and Councillor Lewis the voting on the motion in the name of Councillor Carlill was recorded as follows;

YES – 65

Akhtar, Almass, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Burke, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Garthwaite, Garvani, Gibson, Grahame, Gruen, Hamilton, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, A Hussain, Z Hussain, Illingworth, Iqbal, Jenkins, Khan, Lennox, Lewis, Maloney, Marshall-Katung, Martin, McKenna, Midgley, Mulherin, Pryor, Rafique, Ragan, Renshaw, Ritchie, Scopes, Swards, Shahzad, Sharpe, Thomson, Truswell, Tudor, Venner, Walshaw, Wilson, Wray,

Blackburn, Carlisle, Forsaith, Hutchison, Newton, Downes, Golton, Campbell, Chapman, Hart-Brooke and Dixon.

NO – 18

Alderson, B Anderson, C Anderson, Buckley, Amanda Carter, Andrew Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Foster, Harrington, Richards, Robinson, D Seary, S Seary, Smith, Stephenson and Wadsworth.

ABSTAIN –0

Council rose at 7.10 pm