We’re always looking ahead; considering a more sustainable future. As set out in our vision to 2050, we understand the need for a long term view of sustainability.

And 2017/18 looks set to bring all this and more. Next year is filled with exciting opportunities as we continue to develop many of our projects and activities, and brand new ones are inevitably born. We will increasingly focus on the Living Lab programme – as an exemplar of how sustainability is embedded into the way we work and the wider impact we can have. We will also strengthen our commitment to the circular economy approach, namely by revitalising our Reuse@Leeds system.

Opportunities to get involved in sustainability will increase. We are looking to develop an approach to engaging staff in sustainability, including a full review of the Green Impact programme and taking a look at our wider student opportunities to ensure everyone can develop their knowledge, understanding, and practical skills.

Our PIP programme will continue to grow, seeing our staff work with even more local third sector organisations to create mutual benefit, new partnerships and co-learning. We’re also looking to develop a new School Governors Programme, an incredibly important volunteer role to help school leadership teams to set targets, policies and standards and to plan for future development. This hugely valuable experience will give even more staff and alumni the chance to give back to their local community and make a positive impact on the education of young people across the city region.

As we continue to contribute to the United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals, our global outlook will increase as our environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts are regarded through an international lens. Of course, we will continue to work with our own City of Leeds – the council, public, private and third sector partners. As an anchor institution, this enhances the sustainability of all involved and reinforces our core purpose to increase knowledge and opportunity for the betterment of society.