
Meeting	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date	19 January 2026
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Ayre, Baxter, Wells, Widdowson, Waller (Substitute) and Whitcroft (Substitute)
Apologies	Councillors Coles, Watson and Taylor
In attendance	Councillor Rose
Officers Present	Debbie Mitchell, Chief Finance Officer Patrick Looker, Assistant Director of Finance Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager James Parker, Scrutiny Officer

40. Apologies for Absence (5.31 pm)

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Coles, Watson and Taylor. Cllr Waller substituted for Cllr Watson and Cllr Whitcroft substituted for Cllr Taylor.

41. Declarations of Interest (5.31 pm)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests that they might have in the business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

None were declared

42. Minutes (5.32 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record for the meeting held on 10 November 2025.

43. Public Participation (5.33 pm)

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

44. Draft Report of the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Task and Finish Group (5.33 pm)

Cllr Baxter, Chair of the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Task and Finish Group (TFG), thanked the TFG members, and those finance and democratic services officers involved, for their contributions to the task and then introduced the report. She highlighted the importance of both understanding how council money was spent and effectively communicating messages relating to council finances to residents

During the discussion of the report, the Chair of Corporate Scrutiny asked members to consider each of the seven recommendations in turn. Members praised the new approach taken in the format and presentation of the task and finish group report, and commented on monitoring savings delivery, the proposed joint task and finish group with People scrutiny committee, the financial settlement figures, member training and the communications and engagement strategy. Following an amendment to recommendation two (outlined below), the recommendations were approved unanimously.

In drawing this item to a close, the Corporate Scrutiny Chair put on record his thanks to those involved with the task and finish group.

Resolved:

- i. That recommendation two be amended to read as follows:

That the re-established Task and Finish Group reviews the format of budget and budget monitoring (including how savings are being delivered) reports with a view to ensuring greater accessibility and a sufficient level of detail to understand the impact of decisions taken on the budget.

- ii. That the report and recommendations, subject to the amendment above, be approved.
- iii. That the report be presented to the Executive at their meeting, 3 March 2026.
- iv. The Chair of People Scrutiny be notified of the recommendation for a joint task and finish group, and that this be added to the People work

plan.

- v. That the task and finish group be re-established. Cllrs Baxter and Ayre agreed to remain as members of the group and Labour and Liberal Democrats to each nominate one other Member. The Chair of Corporate Scrutiny to contact the Conservative Group Leader for a nomination.

Reason: To contribute to the development of a structured and consistent approach to budget scrutiny into the new municipal year and beyond.

45. Work Plan (6.18 pm)

Members considered the draft work plan for the committee and the overview scrutiny work plan for the scrutiny committees.

The Chair noted that he was in discussions with officers with a view to receiving an update on the York Central project.

The Scrutiny Officer suggested that a proposal be brought to the next meeting in relation to tracking Scrutiny recommendations, which would address recommendation seven of the previous item.

The following briefing / possible TFG items, relating to Customer Services, were suggested:

- Digital information provision
- AI
- User Journey via the CYC website

Resolved:

- i. That the work plan be noted.
- ii. That a proposal report on tracking scrutiny recommendations be brought to the next committee meeting in March.
- iii. The procurement TFG be removed from the plan.

Reason: To ensure an overview of the scrutiny work plan.

Cllr S Fenton, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.31 pm and finished at 6.33 pm].