



## **Notice of a public meeting of**

### **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**

**To:** Councillors Fenton (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Ayre, Baxter, Coles, K Taylor, Watson, Wells and Widdowson

**Date:** Monday, 8 September 2025

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Venue:** West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

### **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive and note apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see the attached sheet for further guidance for Members.]

**3. Minutes** (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2025.

#### **4. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

**Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings.** The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Thursday 4 September 2025.**

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

#### **Webcasting of Public Meetings**

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- 5. 10-year anti-poverty strategy** (Pages 13 - 44)  
Members will consider the draft 10-year anti-poverty strategy and provide feedback as part of the consultation process.
- 6. Next steps for securing investment in York** (Pages 45 - 112)  
Members will consider the York Prospectus and provide feedback.
- 7. 2024/25 Finance and Performance Outturn** (Pages 113 - 124)  
Members will consider the year end analysis of the overall finance and performance position for the year 2024/25.
- 8. A Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York** (Pages 125 - 136)  
Members will receive the Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York and are asked to agree the document.
- 9. Work Plan** (Pages 137 - 144)  
To consider the Committee's work plan and the Scrutiny Overview work plan.

## **10. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Jane Meller

Contact details:

- Telephone: (01904) 555209
- Email: [jane.meller@york.gov.uk](mailto:jane.meller@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
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- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

### Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## City of York Council

## Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date	7 July 2025
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Ayre, Coles, Wells, Widdowson and J Burton (Substitute)
Apologies	Councillors Baxter and Watson
In attendance	Cllr Kent, Executive Member, Environment and Climate Emergency Cllr Lomas, Executive Member, Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion
Officers Present	Claire Foale, Chief Strategy Officer Shaun Gibbons, Head of Carbon Reduction Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager

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**7. Apologies for Absence (5.33 pm)**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Taylor, Watson and Baxter. Cllr J Burton substituted for Cllr Taylor.

**8. Declarations of Interest (5.33 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.

**9. Minutes (5.34 pm)**

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record for the following meetings:

- Corporate Scrutiny held on 9 June 2025.
- Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, 12 May 2025.
- Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee, 1 May 2025.

- Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, 21 May 2025.
- Economy, Place, Access and Transport Committee, 25 March 2025, 29 April 2025 and 20 May 2025.

#### **10. Public Participation (5.36 pm)**

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams, a resident, spoke in relation to the committee's remit and raised concerns regarding a statement made by the Director of City Development during the discussion of the Station Gateway item which was heard at the June meeting of the committee. She questioned whether changes made to improve accessibility to the scheme had cost the stated amount of £2-3m and went on to identify ways in which suggested improvements had removed cost rather than added to them. She noted that the York Disability Rights Forum had written to the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion to request a financial breakdown of the figures and they were awaiting a response.

The Executive Member confirmed that officers were preparing a response to the letter, and this would be shared with members in due course.

#### **11. Harewood Whin Green Energy Park Update (5.40 pm)**

The Chief Strategy Officer presented a report which provided an update to members on the outline business case to create a green energy park on the Harewood Whin site, noting the full business case would be funded by the net zero fund. The Head of Carbon Reduction outlined the process and explained that it followed the HM Treasury green book protocols.

Members asked a range of questions covering the rationale for decreasing the megawatt capacity, the extension to the business case from 25 to 30 years, direct take off, the relocation of the council fleet to Harewood Whin, the smart export guarantee scheme, return on investment compared to other green investment projects, changes to the scheme, the cost of delivering one megawatt, project management risk mitigations, initial feedback on ground conditions, CYC energy manager, project phasing risks and optimism bias.

Officers reported the following:



- One megawatt offered the least risk and the greatest return in the first phase; it was possible to expand on this in future phases. Although the financial return would be lower, there was a greater environmental benefit. The cost to deliver one megawatt was around £1m.
- Moving the entire council fleet to Harewood Whin would change routes and impact waste collection; Officers would seek to optimise routes.
- The timescale for the project was based on the current lifecycle of solar PV, which was assumed to be thirty years. The early years of the scheme would service debt repayment. The full business case would examine this in more detail.
- The smart export guarantee scheme (SEGS) was typically for a twelve-month period and then renewable. A power purchase agreement was typically for between five and twenty-five years with a lower price point. Should there be greater offtake on site, this could be actioned more quickly through SEGS.
- There was a strong strategic case to make use of the site although the returns were slightly lower than similar schemes not on an industrial site.
- There had been no early indication of problems with the ground conditions survey.
- The risks of project management would be mitigated through the use of internal contracts to ensure consistency for the lifetime of the project. A project board exists in the Corporate Governance framework. Climate Change and national capital programme board.
- An officer had taken on the responsibilities of energy management, additionally, a framework agreement was in place with Yorkshire Purchasing.
- There were positive indications from the Combined Authority that the project would fit with their funding streams. They provided strict deadlines which, if not met, would risk funding.
- A phased approach meant that the scheme was not committed to existing technology. The risks, both mitigated and unmitigated, would be clearly identified to the Executive. The full business case would identify those gaps, such as the volatility of energy pricing.
- Each phase could be delivered as a stand-alone project, the strongest financial case was in the early stages of the project; the greater environmental and social benefits were within the later stages. Phasing should reduce the risk although this would be further assessed in the full business case.
- Optimism bias was included in the green book guidance which was due to be reissued early 2026.

Resolved:

- i. That member's support for the scheme be noted.
- ii. To receive further updates through briefings and to return to the committee for pre-decision scrutiny.
- iii. A briefing for members on project management.

Reason:

To help shape the full business case work to follow.

## **12. Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Scrutiny, Task and Finish Group (6.29 pm)**

Members considered the formal proposal for a task and finish group to provide scrutiny of the budget setting process and the medium - term financial strategy.

The timeline, objectives and process were discussed, and it was

Resolved:

- i. that the aims and objectives be reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and then circulated to the committee members.
- ii. The Chair and Vice-Chair would establish the membership of the group.

Reason: To enable the task and finish group to proceed with the review in line with scrutiny procedures.

## **13. Boundary Commission Electoral Review - Council Size, Task and Finish Group (6.52 pm)**

Members considered the formal proposal for a task and finish group to provide scrutiny of the Boundary Commission Electoral Review – Council Size.

The timeline, objectives and process were discussed and the opportunities for resident engagement were considered. It was

Resolved:

- i. That the remit, aim and timeframe be approved.

- ii. The Chair and Vice-Chair to identify the membership of the group.

Reason: To enable the task and finish group to proceed with the review in line with scrutiny procedures.

#### **14. Work Plan (7.01 pm)**

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

Resolved: That the work plan be noted.

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

Cllr S Fenton, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.33 pm and finished at 7.07 pm].

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**Corporate Scrutiny****8 September 2025****10-year anti-poverty strategy****Summary**

1. This report seeks views of Members on the draft 10-year anti-poverty strategy – Tackling Poverty Today and Turning the Tide to Create Lasting Change A Strategy and Strategic Action Plan for addressing Poverty in York 2025-2035 (**Annex A**).
2. The draft strategy is currently out for consultation, with a closing date of 29 September 2025. Feedback from Members is an integral part of the consultation process to ensure representation from across the city is included in its development.

**Background**

3. The draft strategy has been developed in partnership between the Council and a number of organisations in the city who focus on poverty and deprivation alleviation.
4. The draft strategy describes the strategic approach the city partners and council will take over the next decade to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty now, and in the future. It is designed to act as a framework of those aspects' city partners agree will collectively lead to a greater impact if partners share the same/similar approach.
5. The draft strategy follows the Financial Inclusion Interim Strategy 2023-2025, approved by the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects in March 2023.
6. As a 10-year strategy, the draft anti-poverty strategy will set a direction of travel for a significant period. It recognises that much can change during such a length of time although fundamentals around poverty will remain the same.

7. In developing the strategy, it was recognised that a key challenge in poverty reduction is that it is driven by complex issues and national policy that simply cannot be easily remedied.
8. However, although there are many policies and powers that are outside of the control of local partners, there remains key opportunities that collectively the city can deliver to make life better for many of York's residents who are experiencing deprivation. It also recognises that by doing nothing, nothing will change.

### **Consultation**

9. The draft strategy was developed through engagement with cross-directorate Council officers and through group and individual engagement with representatives from:
  - a) St Michael le Belfry and One Voice Church Network
  - b) Welfare Benefits Unit
  - c) York Foodbank
  - d) Aviva
  - e) Two Ridings Community Foundation
  - f) Community Furniture Store
  - g) York CVS
  - h) Money and Pensions Service
  - i) York Carers Centre
  - j) North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership
  - k) Advice York network meeting
  - l) Pride of Place anchor institution meeting
10. The University of York and Policy in Practice, an organisation focused on utilising data to reduce poverty, supported work around data insights for the strategy.

11. A council presentation and subsequent discussion at the Resolve Poverty Conference in March 2025 further informed the approach following insight from other local authority attendees including Manchester and Bolton Councils and the North-East Combined Authority. This was followed up with a subsequent roundtable event, hosted by the University of York, with participants from nearby local authorities, such as Bradford, who shared their experience in developing an anti-poverty strategy.
12. The public consultation on the draft strategy went live on 4 August 2025 and will close on 29 September 2025. The draft strategy and accompanying consultation survey are available on City of York Council's website. Paper copies are available via the York library network. Copies have also been provided to Citizens Advice, York Food Bank and Community Furniture Store.
13. At time of writing, the consultation has received 84 responses.
14. Specific workshops are taking place with interest groups to enable feedback on the strategy. A schedule of currently organised meetings is found in the below table:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
Wednesday 13 August	Ageing without Children
Wednesday 3 September	Good Place Network
Wednesday 10th September	Armed Forces Community
Tuesday 16 September	Financial Inclusion Steering Group
Tuesday 23 September	Gypsy & Traveller Working Group
Wednesday 24 September	Pride of Place
Wednesday 24 September	LGBT Forum
Thursday 25 September	York Access Forum tbc

15. Additional meetings will be organised during the consultation period.
16. Following the close of the consultation, responses will be analysed with feedback considered in the development of the final version of the strategy.

## **Options**

17. Members are invited to provide feedback on the draft strategy.

## Analysis

18. As a 10-year strategy, the anti-poverty strategy will form a direction of travel for the council and city for a significant period of time. It is therefore crucial that scrutiny has an opportunity to provide feedback.

## Council Plan

19. The draft strategy aligns with the 10 Year City Plan 2022-2032, co-designed by city partners, and approved by Council in December 2022. This set a vision for the city, namely that by 2032 York will be a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share and take pride in its success. City Partners identified one of the key actions they would take would be to reduce poverty:

We will harness the capacity and capability in the city to **tackle the causes of poverty**. Recognising poverty and deprivation have direct impacts on health inequalities and economic opportunities, actions will focus on food, fuel, housing, financial inclusion and the resilience of the community sector.

20. The Council Plan 2023-2027, One City for All, recognises the inequalities experienced across the city and set a vision for the council to establish the conditions that would make the city a healthier, fairer, **more affordable**, more sustainable and more accessible place, where everyone feels valued.
21. Supporting this vision, the Council Plan Four Core Commitments includes a focus on “affordability”, with Full Council recognising “lower socio-economic” communities as a protected characteristic, designed to ensure people experiencing deprivation are not inadvertently disadvantaged by council decisions.
22. The Council Plan also contains a specific action to: “Listen to lived experience to deliver a Cost-of-Living Plan; and together with partners, develop and deliver a 10-year Anti-Poverty Strategy and Plan, including supporting young people and households reduce the cost of heating and energy bills” (p.19).

## 23. Implications

**Financial** The development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy does not directly incur additional expenditure. The strategy highlights areas where the



council is allocating resources into mitigating poverty eg retrofit in council housing.

**Human Resources (HR)** There are no HR implications contained within this report

**Legal** There are no legal implications contained within this report

**Information Technology (IT)** There is a need to ensure that the Council continues digital connectivity work programme across the city/region to maintain and sustain the required levels of interest and investment, given how key access to digital connectivity/technologies is particularly to vulnerable communities and the different angles of helping to address our collective poverty challenges.

**Property** None, unless the strategy requires use of property assets in the future, in which case resources from Property Services would have to be utilised.

### **Risk Management**

24. Whilst there are no risks associated with the recommendation of this report, there are broader risks of not producing an anti-poverty strategy for the city – most pressingly, that action to alleviate poverty will not be coordinated at a city-level potentially increasing risk for vulnerable residents and failing to address a key aspect of wider city strategy development.

### **Recommendations**

25. Members are asked to provide feedback on the draft 10-year anti-poverty strategy.

Reason: to ensure Member feedback is considered as part of the consultation for the strategy

## Contact Details

**Author:**

Samuel Blyth  
Head of City Strategy and  
Corporate Programmes  
[samuel.blyth@york.gov.uk](mailto:samuel.blyth@york.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Pauline Stuchfield  
Director of Housing and Communities

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 27 August 2025

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

**All** ☒

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Background Papers:

Council Plan 2023-2027, One City for All, [Council Plan](#)

Financial Inclusion Interim Strategy 2023-2025, [Financial Inclusion Strategy](#)

York 2032 strategic framework, [York 2032 strategic framework](#)

## Annexes

Annex A – Draft 10-year anti-poverty strategy - Tackling Poverty Today and Turning the Tide to Create Lasting Change A Strategy and Strategic Action Plan for addressing Poverty in York 2025-2035

**Tackling Poverty Today and Turning the Tide to  
Create Lasting Change  
A Strategy and Strategic Action Plan for  
addressing Poverty in York  
2025-2035**

## **A note on York Poverty Truth Commission's Organisational Standards**

This strategy is informed by and embeds the York Poverty Truth Commission's Organisational Standards, which were approved by the Council Executive in March 2025. These standards are:

- We listen
- We are understanding
- We are respectful and friendly
- We are responsive, honest, and care about getting you the right support

## **A note on the role of councils**

Local authorities, also known as councils, provide essential public services within a specific area. They are responsible for a wide range of functions, including social care, schools, housing, planning, environmental protection, waste management, and local infrastructure, like local roads and footpaths. They are not responsible for setting national policy and cannot change housing market conditions, the cost of products or essential services like energy or the welfare or benefits system.

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## Foreword by Cllrs Lomas and Webb

To be completed

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## Introduction

From the outside, York looks like a beautiful, historic city, filled with culture and charm. Many people who visit York each year, drawn to its ancient walls and Minster, might think that poverty is something that happens elsewhere. But if you look closer, even within the city's famous walls, you'll see that poverty is a real issue for more and more people who live here.

The cost of living in York is very high, and, when coupled with national and international issues, this makes it harder for some people to afford what they need.

125 years ago, Seebohm Rowntree started the first big study of poverty in York. Fast forward to today and poverty is still visible in the city. Although, encouragingly, what is also still true is there remains a strong commitment in York to finding ways to help people in need and make the city more affordable for everyone. Many local organisations are working hard on this issue, and with their help, a new strategy to fight poverty has been created.

This new strategy is focused on the next ten years, but it won't be a one-time fix. Whilst some of the contextual factors in a decade's time will be the same as now, such as the built fabric of the city, the role of technology, and the shifting demographics of the city as the UK's population gets older, there are things we will not be able to predict. For instance, ten years ago, we couldn't have predicted things like the global pandemic, the rising cost of living, or the war in Ukraine. Because of this, the plan will be updated to deal with new challenges that emerge.

## Our Ambition

Our ambition is to fight poverty in York and its impacts now and in the future. We want to improve the city, making it fairer and more affordable for everyone who lives here.

## Our Strategic Objectives

It's not possible to completely end poverty with just one plan. There are many factors, at a national and international level as well as locally, that affect poverty, and we can't control all of them.

To help guide us, as we do what we can to reduce poverty across the city, this strategy has three main objectives:



1. **Tackling poverty today** – Helping people who are struggling right now.
2. **Preventing people from falling into poverty** – Making sure fewer people end up in poverty in the future.
3. **Creating long-lasting change** – Making York a more equal and affordable city for the long term.

These strategic objectives are designed to help people in York who are experiencing poverty but also create the longer-term conditions to make York more equitable and more affordable for all. They do not stand in isolation from one another. They are concurrent, happening at the same time, reinforcing and supporting work to tackle poverty in the city.

## Strategy Development and Consultation

This strategy sets out the activity required to reduce poverty in the city for the next ten years. It replaces the Interim Financial Inclusion Strategy 2023-25.

It has been developed through discussion with lots of different people and organisations, led by the Council. It recognises the Council alone cannot tackle poverty. It requires all of us to work together. In this light, the strategy has been considered, developed, and amended through an extensive engagement process ensuring the voices of York's communities, its representatives, its groups, organisations and businesses are heard clearly in what York will do over the next ten years to tackle poverty.

It is important to recognise the strategy provides a framework for action. It is not the end of the conversation as the city, together, will continue to reflect on and amend activity based on the shifting landscape in which poverty exists.

IMAGES FROM CONSULTATION EVENTS/WORKSHOPS TO BE ADDED IN HERE

## Defining Poverty

There isn't one single way to define poverty. People usually talk about two main types: relative income poverty and absolute income poverty.<sup>1</sup>

- **Relative income poverty** refers to people living in households with an income that's below 60% of the average income for that year.
- **Absolute income poverty** refers to people living in households with an income that's below 60% of the average income from a specific year, usually 2010/11. This is then adjusted for inflation over time.

However, income alone doesn't fully account for poverty. Other factors, like wider living costs and individual needs, should also be considered.

This strategy uses the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's definition of poverty:

"When a person's resources (mainly their material resources) are not enough to meet their minimum needs, including social participation."

### This includes things like:

- Resources: Usually, this means income, but it can also include things like savings, things you own (like a house or car), services

like healthcare or education, and support from family, friends, or community groups.

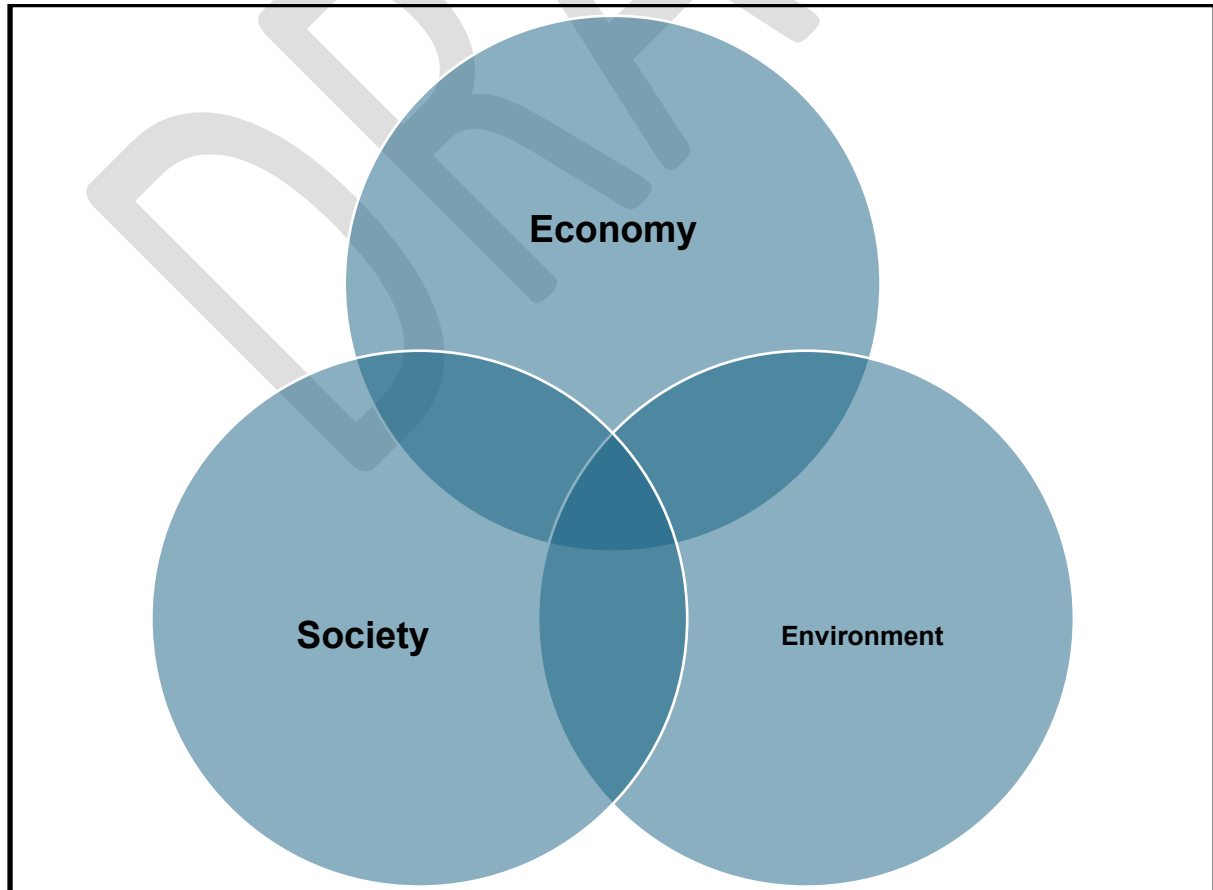
- Needs: These are essential items, like food, shelter, heating, clothing, and toiletries. But needs also include things like being able to join and be part of society, whether through hobbies, education, work, or training.

To help city partners keep working together to solve the main causes of poverty, it is recommended that everyone in the city use the same definition of poverty.

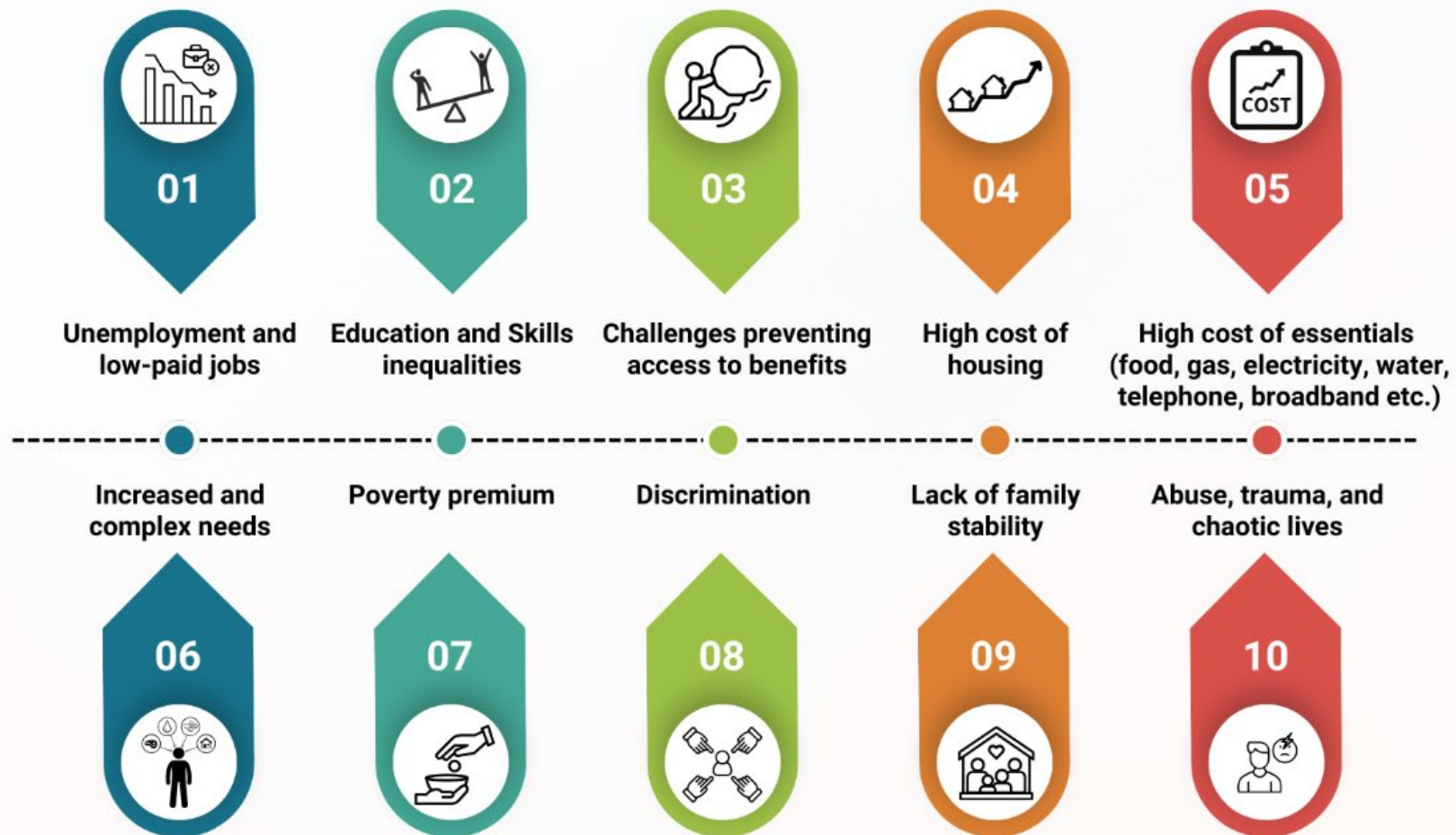
This way of thinking about poverty considers where people live, since living costs can be different in different places. For example, in York, living costs are higher than in many other places in the country, so, relatively, what counts as "poverty" here might be different from other places.

### What Causes Poverty?

Poverty is a systemic issue. The economy, society, and the environment where people live act as overlapping drivers that create the conditions that cause poverty in people's lives. These causes, set out below, reduce the needs people have, or increase needs they cannot afford.



# Causes of Poverty



## Setting the Context of the Strategy

This strategy comes at a time when there are many long-term and emergent challenges at a global, national and local level. These exacerbate structural inequalities and hinder efforts to tackle the causes of poverty.

York does not stand in isolation. Global and national challenges, such as wars, pandemics and inflationary cost of living pressures impact on our ability to tackle localised issues. We have limited ways to offset these challenges given their scale and scope.

However, we also know there are unique issues to York that influence poverty levels in the city.

- We know that York has one of the highest costs of housing in the north of England with an affordability ratio of 8.5:1 (median house price to earnings ratio)
- The highest housing rental costs in the region – the average rent is nearly £300 per month more in York than the rest of the region (£1,006 v £722)
- Despite these housing costs, median gross weekly pay is only £40 above the regional average and below the national average
- There is a £180 wage gap between the 25 centile and median in York compared to £144 at a regional and £172 nationally meaning lower paid residents in York are comparatively worse off than their counterparts elsewhere in the country

Despite these challenges, there remains hope and determination to create a better future, with a strong commitment to address the root causes of poverty.

This commitment is also part of a bigger global effort. Ending poverty in all its forms is the first goal of the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#).

At a national level, the UK Government has made tackling child poverty a priority. Across the country, local authorities are developing plans to reduce poverty, working together to find the best ways to make a difference in their communities.

In our region, the Mayor for York and North Yorkshire wants to create "healthy and thriving communities" by focusing on economic growth, better skills, and affordable housing.

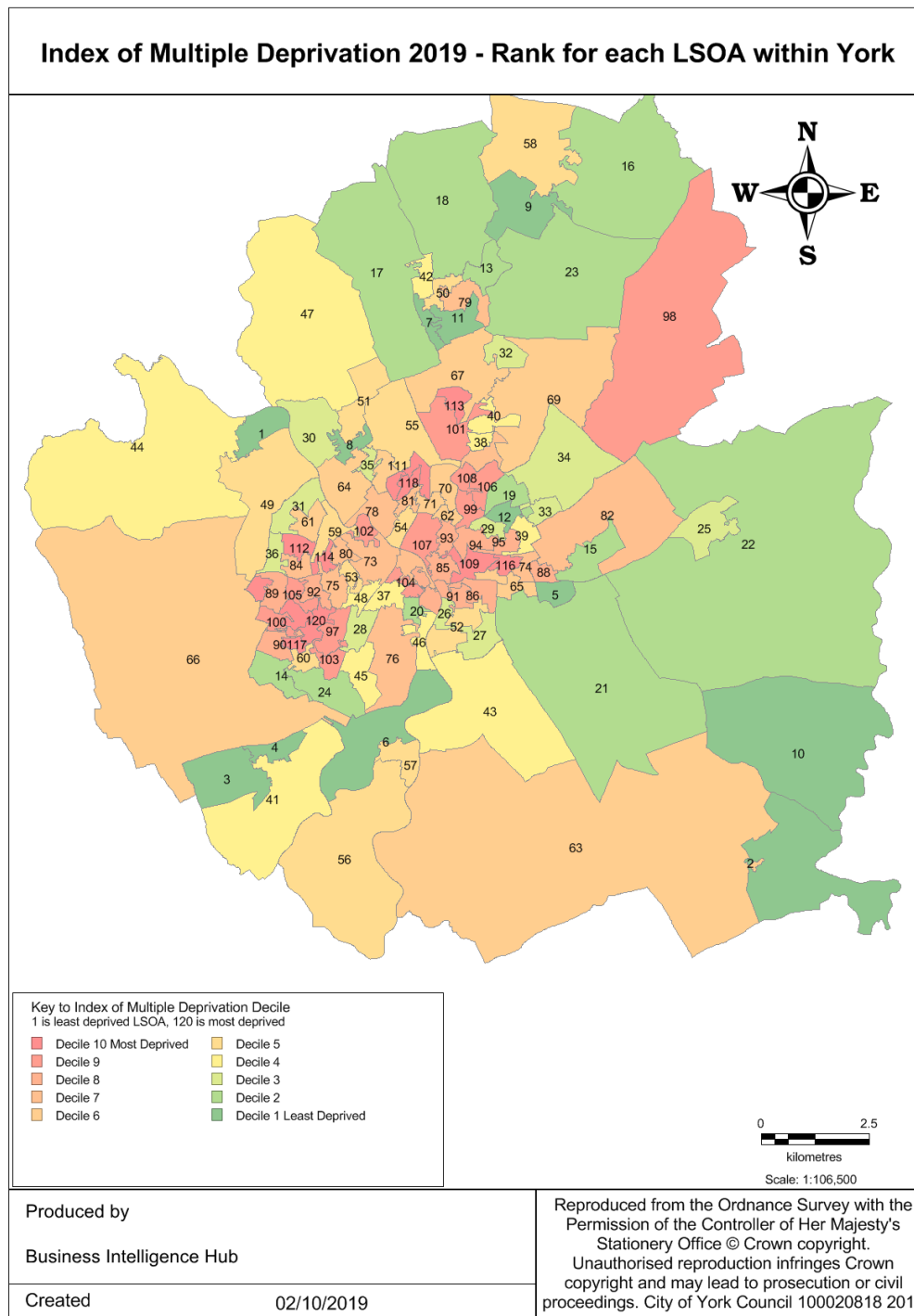
In this context, developing a plan to reduce poverty in York is both important and timely.

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## Poverty in York in 2025

Poverty, and its proxy deprivation, exists in all parts of York although it is more prevalent in some areas than others.

The below map indicates indices of multiple deprivation in the city. This considers seven measures of deprivation – income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing services, and the living environment. The darker the red the more deprived the ward, the darker the green the less deprived the ward.



The variable impact of poverty in the city is further reinforced by life expectancy variation for men with a 10-year difference in life expectancy between the poorest and richest wards in the city (6.71 for women).

Whilst we cannot know the exact number of people living in poverty in York, through data insight provided by Policy in Practice we are able to provide an indicative poverty rate. This considers a percentage of households below a selected income threshold, out all households in receipt of benefits.

The data (utilising information from national sources) in the table below is based on Relative Resources Gap (a measure used to assess poverty by considering not just income but also other resources as defined on page 8 of this strategy).

Relative poverty is where an individual or household lack the resources to maintain a standard of living that is considered the norm of their society.

Deep poverty is where a household's income is significantly below the median household income, often defined as below 50% of the median.

<b>Relative Resources Gap by ward in York</b>			
	<b>As of March 2025,</b>		
	<b>At risk of poverty</b>	<b>In relative poverty</b>	<b>In deep poverty</b>
All Wards	21.2% (1,765)	39.84% (2,811)	4% (282)
Acomb	26.14% (80)	36.6% (112)	6.21% (19)
Bishopthorpe	25% (26)	34.62% (36)	0.96% (1)
Clifton	18.2% (115)	47.94% (303)	5.38% (34)
Copmanthorpe	22.06% (15)	39.71% (27)	4.41% (3)
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	22.4% (97)	39.49% (171)	4.62% (20)
Fishergate	20.99% (68)	36.73% (119)	1.23% (4)
Fulford & Heslington	28.31% (47)	39.76% (66)	1.81% (3)
Guildhall	21.8% (177)	47.29% (384)	3.57% (29)
Haxby & Wiggington	18.91% (52)	33.09% (91)	2.55% (7)
Heworth	19.83% (141)	48.24% (343)	5.77% (41)



Heworth Without	15.87% (10)	41.27% (26)	3.17% (2)
Holgate	21.58% (115)	51.41% (274)	4.5% (24)
Hull Road	22.14% (85)	50.52% (194)	4.43% (17)
Huntington & New Earswick	19.43% (136)	34.57% (242)	2% (14)
Micklegate	24.52% (140)	45.36% (259)	4.03% (23)
Osballdwick & Derwent	17.84% (43)	42.32% (102)	2.9% (7)
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	21.84% (69)	38.61% (122)	6.01% (19)
Rural West	24.72% (44)	46.07% (82)	1.12% (2)
Strensall	21.02% (37)	37.5% (66)	3.41% (6)
Westfield	19.61% (232)	52.16% (617)	4.65% (55)
Wheldrake	25.71% (18)	42.86% (30)	2.86% (2)

The table demonstrates that poverty is apparent across York but is more concentrated in certain wards. Westfield has the highest percentage of individuals in relative and deep poverty (nearly 57%) with Holgate and Hull Road Wards experiencing a similar level. However, Fulford and Heslington has the highest percentage of residents on the cusp of poverty ahead of Acomb, Wheldrake and Bishopthorpe.

We know that poverty is more evident for some groups of people than others. Looking at the same data, we know that:

- Those in receipt of universal credit are more likely to be in poverty than those who are not
- Working age people are much more likely to be in poverty than pensioners
- Those with in receipt of disability allowances are more likely to experience poverty
- Carers and lone parents are more likely to be in poverty
- Households with at least one child eligible for free school meals are likely to be in poverty and those with young children are the most likely to be in poverty

However, data only tells us so much about poverty and its impact on individuals and families.

## Strategic Framework

This strategy does not sit in isolation.

In 2022, local partners came together to set a 10-year vision to make York a “vibrant, prosperous, welcoming, and sustainable city, where everyone can share and take pride in its success.” This vision was broken down into five elements: health and wellbeing, education and skills, economic growth, transport, and sustainability.

Sitting behind this were 10-year strategies focused on climate change, York’s economy, and health and wellbeing. This has been reinforced by the development of a Movement and Place Plan that will lead to sustainable, active, affordable transport systems in the city.

The Council Plan (2023-27) and partner strategies are also seen through the prism of the 2032 vision. Indeed, this framework has been used to underline the ambitions of the city, not least in the work to inform York’s growth in response to the opportunities set out within the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (such as the Local Growth Plan) but also at a national level with government.

In December 2024 the Council’s Executive approved Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy for 2024-29. The Strategy will guide work in this area over the next five years and will seek to enlist partners, stakeholders and citizens in a plan to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. The Strategy builds on existing successes and partnerships, offering pathways to suitable housing that can be sustained with high quality, person-centred support. This sits alongside Council priorities around building 100% affordable homes on council land, and insulating thousands of homes to combat cost of living impacts.

York 2032 provides a framework to identify opportunities to tackle poverty in the city – especially given the connection between the drivers of poverty (economy, environment, society) as well as take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Combined Authority and elsewhere.

# York 2032 Strategy and Policy Framework

## Our vision

York will be a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share and take pride in its success.

**A city where history meets the future.**

### Priorities and Goals

Health and Wellbeing	Education and Skills	Economic Growth	Transport	Sustainability
All York residents (young, old and future residents) will enjoy happier, healthier, longer lives, in homes that meet their needs, able to actively participate in their communities, with access to the right support at the right time.	All ages will have access to learning throughout their lives to equip them with the skills to succeed commercially, socially, locally and nationally.	York's economy will be vibrant and inclusive, with businesses supported to grow and prosper and talent nurtured, retained and supported. Our economy will be developed to be well balanced with a <b>mix of different sectors</b> providing opportunities for young and old.	York's transport networks will be inclusive and sustainable, connecting neighbourhoods and communities.	York will be carbon neutral and contribute to the regional ambition to be carbon negative, with iconic green spaces to enjoy today and the environment protected for future generations to enjoy.

## Movement and Place Plan 2023–2040

Health and Wellbeing Strategy  
**2022–2032**

Economic Growth Strategy  
**2022–2032**

Climate Change Strategy  
**2022–2032**

### THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Policies set the context. Policies typically include SMART objectives and/or targets. The Council's Executive approves council policy and related budget, with city partner's own governance arrangements responding to their own strategies and policies. Council Policies are called Plans, for example the Local Plan, the Local Transport Plan, the Council Plan, etc.

### ACTION PLANS

Action plans set out the city partner's actions to deliver the vision and goals in the 10-year Plan and related 10-year strategies. City Partners own actions plans will respond (in part) to the priorities.

At the same time, whilst recognising our ability to influence national and global challenges are limited, the strategy will adapt and evolve to global and national policy such as the emergent UK Child Poverty Strategy and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

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## **Our Strategic Action Plan**

Poverty hurts people and the whole community. It makes it harder for people to stay healthy, go to school or work, and live a good life which in turn can cause problems in society.

We know poverty affects some groups of people more than others. Because of this, not everything in our plan will help everyone in the same way. Some of our actions are focused on helping those who are most in need although poverty can and does have an impact across all of society.

The groups most affected by poverty include children, families (particularly those with multiple children), single-parent families, and people who have unstable incomes because of unemployment or low wages. Disabled people, those living in rented homes, and some minority ethnic groups also often face higher rates of poverty.

Our Strategic Objectives are designed to bring results both in the short term and in the long term. These objectives should not be seen in isolation; they build on each other and happen at the same time. They aim to solve immediate problems while also setting up solutions for the future.

Each strategic objective looks at the causes of poverty. By addressing these causes, we hope to find opportunities to tackle the long-term issues that lead to poverty.

### **Strategic Objective One - Tackling poverty today**

Focuses on the actions being taken to help people who are currently living in poverty or are at risk of falling into it.

### **Strategic Objective Two - Preventing people from falling into poverty**

Focuses on actions that can help lift people out of poverty and stop more people from falling into it.

### **Strategic Objective Three - Turning the tide to create long-lasting change**

Making long-term changes to create a fairer and more affordable York for everyone.

## Strategic Delivery Plan

### Strategic Objective One: Tackling Poverty Today

We are currently working on different actions to help people who live in poverty or are close to falling into it.

Challenge	Example of what we will do
Challenges preventing access to benefits	Working with partners across York to ensure people have access to the right help and support so they can maximise their income.
Education and skills inequalities	Supporting York's children to get the best start in life, creating a strong sense of belonging through equality and equity in education and community settings.  Creating the conditions for all of York's residents to learn new skills, opening up employment opportunities.
Unemployment and low-paid jobs	Championing approaches that enshrine good, fair working conditions for all of York's communities, for example promoting the Good Business Charter and real living wage.  Making access to work easier and more affordable through improved, sustainable public transport.
High cost of housing	Reducing energy costs of current social housing through retrofitting properties, whilst working with private landlords to improve energy efficiency in the private rental market.  Providing multidisciplinary support for those in need of warm, supportive environment.  Building affordable housing on council land.

High Cost of Essential Goods	Signposting people to help and support when in need, such as food banks and warm places, and providing access to modern day essentials such as digital white goods.
Increased and complex needs	Establishing, maintaining and enhancing programmes of support to improve health and social wellbeing made worse as a result of poverty and poor wellbeing.
Poverty premium	Supporting a "cash first" approach, offering direct payments to individuals facing hardship to give them autonomy and control over how to meet their needs.  Signposting sustainable, affordable solutions to help people access safe finance and affordable goods.
Discrimination	Acknowledging and addressing the challenges facing some members of our community to access support and overcoming adversity.
Lack of family stability	Providing early help for families in need.
Abuse, trauma and chaotic lives	Taking a trauma informed approach in recognition of the impacts of abuse and chaotic lives.  Engaging with our carer community to ensure they have the help and support they need.

## Strategic Objective Two: Preventing people from falling into poverty

We're working to help people who are struggling with money now, and we're also trying to fix the bigger problems that cause poverty, so fewer people end up in difficult situations.

Challenge	Example of what we'll do
Education and skills inequalities	Deliver financial education programmes so residents of all ages can learn about financial management techniques.
Unemployment and low paid jobs	Support people who aren't employed into or back into the workforce, making sure job training matches what local jobs need, and ensuring consideration is given to unique characteristics.
High cost of housing	Build affordable housing that meets environmental needs and reduces bills for residents and work with the private rental sector to make rented homes more affordable, of better quality and more energy efficient.
High cost of essential goods	Reduce the need for expensive personal vehicles to get to work or education through providing more sustainable, affordable public transport and cycle and walking paths.
Increased and complex needs	Providing support to enable the transition into the workplace for young people with Special Educational Needs.
Poverty premium	Inspire all young people with cultural and creative opportunities through the introduction of a cultural passports programme.



### Strategic Objective Three: Turning the tide to create long-lasting change

This part of our plan looks at big changes that need to happen over time to really make a difference in ending poverty. Some things are starting now but will take time to show results, while others are long-term ideas to help York and its people in the future.

Challenge	Examples of what we'll do
Challenges preventing access to benefits	Making sure York's voice is heard by working with the Government and others to understand the impact of national policy on York residents.
Education and skills inequalities	Work with local, regional and national partners to reduce long-term unemployment in the city and create space for people to learn new skills.
Unemployment and low-paid jobs	Implement a social value outcome framework to support organisations to increase community wealth by redirecting procurement and purchasing into the city. Help social enterprises grow (businesses that help people and communities). Create sustainable, affordable transport systems into York and within the wider region. Create more jobs, including part-time or flexible hours, that meet the needs of residents.
High cost of housing	Deliver The Local Plan to build more affordable housing across York and utilise supplementary planning documents to make places and spaces multi-functional building and enhancing our communities. Identify and address procedural and policy drivers to address rental price issues in York.

	Use the Community Infrastructure Levy to provide community infrastructure (like health, or parks and play areas) that is free and accessible to all.
High cost of essential goods	<p>Create local renewable energy solutions to lower household bills.</p> <p>Support sharing, repairing and reusing of goods and tools in the community (this is called the circular economy).</p>
Increased and complex needs	<p>Work with partners to embed an early intervention and prevention approach to reduce longer-term health issues in the city.</p> <p>Create the conditions for good health by making it easier to be physically active and travel actively, reducing air pollution, and making healthier food more affordable and accessible</p> <p>Protect residents from the commercial determinants of ill health and poverty, for instance high-cost loan products, poor landlord practice, and the advertising and marketing of unhealthy commodities e.g. gambling, alcohol and unhealthy food</p>

## How Progress Will Be Monitored

This strategy is shared and supported by different groups and organisations in York. The City of York Council has endorsed it on behalf of the city.

The Financial Inclusion Steering Group will lead monitoring the strategy's progress. They will check if the actions are being done and if things are improving, using the indicators listed below and considering the real-world application of this strategy's approach.

We will develop an Annual Action Plan with the Financial Inclusion Steering Group, and annually review of indicators, approved by Executive Member Decision Session.

The Council, through its regular reporting mechanisms, will also review the strategy to make sure it's working and fit for purpose.

## Indicators

We'll keep track of how poverty in York is changing by looking at the below performance indicators

In addition, the Financial Steering Group will monitor progress against the actions we take, looking at eligibility and engagement in the different programmes to support people.

We will learn from the lived experience of people experiencing poverty, or at risk of poverty to understand how this changes over time.

Slope index of inequality in life expectancy at birth - Female - (Three-year period)
Slope index of inequality in life expectancy at birth - Male - (Three-year period)
%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)
%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)
% of young people who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 - FSM pupils - (Snapshot)
% of young people who attain a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 - FSM pupils - (Snapshot)

% of children eligible for FSM who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)
%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)
% of households in fuel Poverty - low-income low energy efficiency (LILEE)
JSA and UC (Out of Work) % of working age population (16 - 64)
Indices of Multiple Deprivation

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## Corporate Scrutiny

8 September 2025

### Next steps for securing investment in York

#### Summary

1. This report invites Corporate Scrutiny Committee to provide feedback on the York Prospectus. This is the next stage in the development of a portfolio of investible propositions for York which sets out a bold ambitious programme of development for the city, leading to significant resident benefits including more well-paid jobs, more affordable homes, with more accessible and sustainable development.
2. The prospectus builds on the Mayoral Pipeline of Proposals, approved by the Council Leader in July 2024 following feedback from scrutiny, and reflects the opportunities that have subsequently emerged in the regional and national policy landscape.
3. Feedback from Members will be considered as part of the consultation process ahead of Executive considering the prospectus for approval in November 2025.

#### Background

##### The Mayoral Pipeline of Proposals

4. On 17 July 2024, the Mayoral Pipeline of Proposals was approved by the Council Leader at an Executive Member Decision Session (EMDS). This pipeline contained an initial tranche of projects to be pursued with the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) following the election of the Mayor in May 2024 and his emerging priorities.
5. The projects identified were mapped against strategic ambitions for York contained within the Council Plan 2023-2027, the York Narrative and York 2032 10-year plan and accompanying strategies. They were also mapped against the then emergent Regional Economic Framework developed by YNYCA in consultation with the local authorities.

6. In advance of the EMDS in July 2024, all of City of York Council's scrutiny committees were invited to provide feedback on a proposed pipeline of projects. The suggestions from scrutiny informed the final pipeline considered by the Leader.
7. Subsequent to the approval of the pipeline, Mayoral priorities have emerged and the YNYCA have confirmed the Regional Economic Framework. This led to funding being released by YNYCA to secure investment against several projects identified in the pipeline. **Annex A** provides a review of the pipeline and funding received so far.

### **Shift in regional and national policy framework**

8. The policy framework in which YNYCA operates has developed over recent months with the publication of the UK Government's National Industry Strategy, the Get Britain Working White Paper, and 10-year NHS Plan.
9. In December 2024, the English Devolution White paper was published. It describes how Mayoral Strategic Authorities (successor to Mayoral Combined Authorities) will include consolidated funding to deliver local growth covering a wide portfolio of responsibilities, including, transport, local growth, place, housing and regeneration, skills, and non-apprenticeship adult skills, together with integrated health and wellbeing.
10. The UK Government also tasked each combined authority to develop a Local Growth Plan to both inform and respond to the National Industrial Strategy. The purpose of the Local Growth Plan is to unlock national growth by addressing regional inequalities by targeting competitive advantages for the region. In York and North Yorkshire, this sits alongside the Regional Economic Framework as a key guiding strategy for growth in the region.
11. Building on the Mayoral pipeline of projects, an initial mapping exercise was undertaken to align potential projects in York with emergent government and mayoral priorities. This was considered by Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2024.
12. As part of the YNYCA development of the Local Growth Plan, discussions took place between the Combined Authority and City of

York Council in December 2024 to consider the proposals for inclusion in the Plan.

### **The York Prospectus**

13. The Council has drafted an overarching response to the Local Growth Plan and wider national agenda. Known as the York Prospectus (**Annex B**), the development of the prospectus included significant ongoing collaboration with city partners.
14. Once complete, the prospectus will act as a guide for discussion with key national and regional private and public funders about investment opportunities in the city. Executive are being invited to consider and approve the prospectus in November 2025.
15. This is an ambitious programme of work. It is designed to deliver the ambitions co-developed with city partners and residents during the development of the 10 Year Strategies and 10 Year City Plan (approved by Council in December 2022).
16. York's Prospectus aims to ensure York residents benefit from having affordable safe, warm, homes in the city they are proud to call home, a job they are trained and supported to do, improved and earlier access to community health and wellbeing services to prevent health issues getting worse, and improved connectivity.
17. The prospectus projects combined set out to deliver more homes, more jobs, together with world-class innovation, culture and heritage and accessible and inclusive adult skills pathways inspired by the research and innovation taking place across the city.
18. By attracting greater interest and investment in the city, York will benefit from greater global and national recognition of the role it plays in driving key economic sectors and its social research that actively improves the lives of residents across the country, together with cementing York's status at the heart of cultural heritage. In addition, the city will benefit from reduced carbon emissions and greater biodiversity and enhanced green spaces.
19. The Council will benefit from more residents living longer healthier lives in their own homes. This will reduce pressure on statutory services, such as social care, homelessness and community support. Over time,

realising these benefits will support the council to become more financially resilient.

20. Whilst the prospectus is a direct response to the Local Growth Plan, it also seeks to attract investment from other third parties. It is predicated on the assumption that external funding will be secured to deliver on the ambitions set out. Should this funding not be secured, then the scheme would not be able to progress.
21. Delivering the projects will realise the benefits outlined in the emerging social value framework, discussed at Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee on 20 January 2025, meaning the prospectus is designed to not only drive economic and housing growth, but to also deliver lasting social value for every community.
22. York's Prospectus is designed as a "live" document. It prioritises projects which, as they move from development to delivery, will then change prioritisation, with new projects then added. It steers officers to quickly respond to investment opportunities, whilst ensuring York's interests are best represented.

### **Consultation**

23. York's Prospectus was co-designed with officers across the council. It was initially informed by the Mayoral Pipeline of Proposals which Scrutiny Committees were consulted on in 2024, together with discussion with key city partners.
24. The proposals were presented to the Mayoral Combined Authority in December 2024 for their consideration for inclusion in the Local Growth Plan as it developed.
25. It was discussed with several partners who contributed their own aspirations, including during City Leader events in January, April and June 2025.

### **Options**

26. Members are invited to provide feedback on the prospectus, giving their views on priorities.

### **Analysis**



27. Feedback from scrutiny is an integral part of the consultation process to develop the prospectus for York, ensuring representation from across the city is included.
28. This feedback will be considered as part of this process and referred to in the development of the final version of the prospectus to be considered by Executive in November 2025.

### **Council Plan**

29. The prospectus sets out the proposals designed to attract significant investment in the city. Delivering the proposals in the prospectus focuses on EACH, the four core commitments:

**Equalities:** the proposals provide opportunity for all, many targeting areas of deprivation and designed to appeal to all residents, with a focus on those at risk of experiencing inequalities.

**Affordability:** More affordable housing will be delivered both by Unlocking the Local Plan, and developing a new pipeline of the next Housing Delivery Programme

**Climate:** enhancing the environment and delivering greater sustainability measures, including an ambition to be the UK's first city to achieve energy independence.

**Health:** All the proposals will contribute to reducing health inequalities through providing more and better jobs, more affordable safe housing and greater social connections, with Health in All Policies included in the design principles.

### **Implications**

30. **Financial** - This report outlines the ambition for the city, with a number of very complex, high value potential projects outlined in the annex to the report. There are no immediate financial implications for the Council because there is an assumption that external funding will be secured to deliver on this ambition. This external funding will therefore need to cover all the costs to the Council, including the finance, procurement and legal costs associated with what is a wide range of very significant projects. Should external funding not be secured, or if it was not able to fund delivery costs such as support services, then the

scheme would not be able to progress. We are unable to accept funding that would ultimately increase the Council's running costs.

Some consideration will also be needed on the scale and variety of projects the Council can support at any one time, especially in relation to the amount of financial risk we could be exposed to.

**Human Resources (HR)** There are no HR implications contained within this report.

**Equalities** There are no equalities implications contained within this report.

**Legal** - Any works, supplies of goods and/or services relevant to the projects within the Prospectus must be commissioned in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and (where applicable) the Procurement Act 2023. Any external grant funding for the projects detailed within the Prospectus must be compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. All contracts and grant funding terms and conditions will require the advice and input of Legal Services.

**Property** - Where property assets are involved and or required in the delivery of this strategy, then advice and resources will be required from Property Services.

## **Other**

- **Health and Wellbeing** - York Prospectus includes a range of opportunities which, if adopted, may bring significant health benefits for residents. These include direct benefits such as improved access to health services and active travel opportunities, and indirect benefits such as provision of quality housing and creation of jobs both of which are important for good health. As not all projects will bring equal benefits from a health perspective, health implications of specific projects may need to be revisited further down the line.
- **Climate** - To meet our climate change ambitions and support sustainable growth, it is crucial that we decouple economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions. The Prospectus proposes priority projects that support this aim and the wider climate change ambitions for the city.

The Prospectus supports the ambitions of the York Climate Change Strategy, specifically objectives 2.3 Move away from fossil

fuel heating systems, 3.2 Increase uptake of active travel and public transport, 5.3 Grow the green economy, 7.1 Increase renewable energy generation.

### **Risk Management**

31. **Financial** There is a risk that by setting out York's ambitious prospectus, the council raises expectations that all proposals are deliverable. As set out above, no proposal will be undertaken without sufficient external investment including an understanding of the impact on corporate services.
32. **Engagement** the delivery of the prospectus can only be made a reality with the continued support of city partners, many of whom will be lead delivery partners. The council will continue to work with city partners to unlock opportunities, including developing design principles in collaboration with residents and communities when funding has been secured.

### **Recommendations**

33. Members are asked to consider
  - 1) Providing feedback on York's Prospectus and to provide views on their priorities for the prospectus.

Reason: to ensure Member feedback is considered as part of the development of the prospectus.
  - 2) To review progress already taken against the Mayoral Pipeline of Projects.

Reason: to provide scrutiny oversight.

## Contact Details

### Author:

Samuel Blyth  
Head of City Strategy and  
Corporate Programmes  
[Samuel.Blyth@york.gov.uk](mailto:Samuel.Blyth@york.gov.uk)

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Claire Foale  
Chief Strategy Officer

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 26 August  
2025

### Wards Affected:

**All** ☐

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

English Devolution White Paper : [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

NHS 10 Year Plan: [Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#)  
The UK's Industrial Strategy [Invest 2035: the UK's modern industrial strategy - GOV.UK](#)

Regional Economic Framework: [Economic Framework: Guiding Prosperity in York & North Yorkshire](#)

Combined Authority approve Local Growth Priorities: [241002-YNKYCA-Item-5-York-and-North-Yorkshire-Combined-Authority-Strategic-Growth-Priorities.pdf](#)

Combined Authority approve The Local Growth Plan [Agenda for York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority on Friday, 18th July, 2025, 3.00 pm - York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority > Mayoral Combined Authority item 8](#)

Leader approves Mayoral Pipeline of Proposals: [Agenda for Decision Session - Executive Leader, Policy, Strategy and Partnerships on Wednesday, 17 July 2024, 10.00 am](#) item 5

Scrutiny reviews York's response to the Local Growth Plan [Agenda for Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 10 December 2024, 5.30 pm](#) item 5

Scrutiny committees considering the draft York pipeline of projects:  
[Agenda for Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee on Monday, 10 June 2024, 5.30 pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 4

[Agenda for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 12 June 2024, 5.30 pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 3

[Agenda for Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 25 June 2024 5.30pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 5

[Agenda for Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 2 July 2024 6.00pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 4

[Agenda for Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee on Monday, 8 July 2024, 5.30pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 6

## **Annexes**

Annex A – Review of York Pipeline of Projects

Annex B – York's DRAFT Prospectus

## **Abbreviations**

EMDS - Executive Member Decision Session

YNYCA – York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

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	Funded	Progressing	Not Started
1.1	1	1	0
1.2	1	1	0
1.3	1	1	0
1.4	1	1	0
1.5	1	1	0
1.6	1	1	0
1.7	1	1	0
1.8	1	1	0
1.9	1	1	0
1.10	1	1	0
1.11	1	1	0
1.12	1	1	0
1.13	1	1	0
1.14	1	1	0
1.15	1	1	0
1.16	1	1	0
1.17	1	1	0
1.18	1	1	0
1.19	1	1	0
1.20	1	1	0
1.21	1	1	0
1.22	1	1	0
1.23	1	1	0
1.24	1	1	0
1.25	1	1	0
1.26	1	1	0
1.27	1	1	0
1.28	1	1	0
1.29	1	1	0
1.30	1	1	0
1.31	1	1	0
1.32	1	1	0
1.33	1	1	0
1.34	1	1	0
1.35	1	1	0
1.36	1	1	0
1.37	1	1	0
1.38	1	1	0
1.39	1	1	0
1.40	1	1	0
1.41	1	1	0
1.42	1	1	0
1.43	1	1	0
1.44	1	1	0
1.45	1	1	0
1.46	1	1	0
1.47	1	1	0
1.48	1	1	0
1.49	1	1	0
1.50	1	1	0
1.51	1	1	0
1.52	1	1	0
1.53	1	1	0
1.54	1	1	0
1.55	1	1	0
1.56	1	1	0
1.57	1	1	0
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1.100	1	1	0

CYC project	CYC project description	Status update	Evidence	Alignment to Prospectus
<b>Great Places for All</b>				
Our City Centre	Ensure that York City Centre is a 'great place for all' which fully maximises its economic, social, and cultural potential as the key urban centre in York and North Yorkshire  The project will build upon the 'Our City Centre' vision agreed by Executive in October 2023-that sets out a clear set of collaborative ambitions for the future of York City Centre, informed by significant local engagement.  Funding is now required to collaboratively prepare an 'Our City Centre Delivery Strategy' alongside a specific piece of work to co-produce an our city centre spatial framework. The masterplan will provide the spatial context to the city vision, setting out how different city centre spaces can best be used and developed in the future in order to maximise its effectiveness as an economic, social, and cultural space for all. This work will identify a project pipeline of 'great places' capital investment schemes to deliver that spatial masterplan with an early win delivered within the first 12 months  Additional quick win schemes are likely to be scoping at Castle Gateway, followed by other projects such as Parliament Street.	E430,000 funding approved as part of the Mayoral Investment Fund	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNCA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNCA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf</a>	
Secondary Centres	Strategically, secondary centres across York should be treated in the same way as market towns in North Yorkshire in terms of access to investment with the size/scale of York's secondary centres greater than some of the market towns. Funding to develop and deliver future project phases of the Acomb Front Street Masterplan as well as exploring opportunities linked to the Haxby Masterplan and associated housing growth in this location	E200,000 funding approved for Acomb and Haxby as part of the Mayoral Investment Fund		
Smaller centre plans	Funding to develop smaller centre master plans and deliver schemes, working closely with community neighbourhood plans (at Tang Hall, Fishergate, the Groves, York's villages, etc)			
Healthy places infrastructure	Funding to develop a business case for a healthy places infrastructure plan that would support region wide developments and increases in population based on the JSNA and Local Plan(s), including integrated localised primary care health centres (particularly in York's villages), GP practices, dental facilities, community health facilities, and an age-friendly infrastructure – with capital funding via S106/Community Infrastructure Levy/and/or commercial / health partners.			
Air Quality	Funding to operate cross-boundary air quality initiatives (determined through feasibility work) at a regional scale, aligning air quality action plans across the whole region, and with interdependencies with neighbouring authorities, to improve air quality to WHO standards (achieving more through the economies of scale).			Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (a) - Funding to complete York's LED Streetlighting programme	Funding to complete York's LED Streetlighting programme	E352,282 of funding received as part of Net Zero Fund with additional £122,718 received following successful delivery against original funding	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf</a>	First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (b) - council delivered sites	Funding to investigate opportunities and deliver infrastructure on council delivered sites to deliver above existing policy in relation to net zero and climate adaptations, affordable housing, health impacts etc.	E353,028 for commercial buildings LED lighting renewal project received and E216k from Mayoral Renewables Fund for PV on public buildings / E4.512m Brownfield Funding for new developments	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.moderndev.co.uk/documents/d1141010408%20-%20Report%20-%20New%20Way%20Forward%20to%202027">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.moderndev.co.uk/documents/d1141010408%20-%20Report%20-%20New%20Way%20Forward%20to%202027</a>  <a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23854/Report%20-%20New%20Way%20Forward%20to%202027.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23854/Report%20-%20New%20Way%20Forward%20to%202027.pdf</a>	First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence / Accelerating Brownfield Sites
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (c) - funding for developers to bid into	Funding for developers to bid for to exceed net zero ambitions and become climate ready of developments (in line with Local Plan) – ie. funding the gap between net zero ambition and commercial realities, whilst technology "catches up"			First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (d) - adapt highways infrastructure	Funding to adapt highways network and existing infrastructure to be climate ready specifically extreme heat			Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (e) - retrofit heritage and cultural buildings	Funding to retrofit heritage and cultural buildings			First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
Decarbonising and adapting new and existing infrastructure (f) - retrofit housing stock	Funding (in addition to that already available) to retrofit council housing stock	Honeysuckle House heat pump (£843,78	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf</a>	First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
<b>Housing</b>				
<b>CYC project</b>	<b>CYC project description</b>	<b>Status update</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Alignment to Prospectus</b>

Housing Strategy Y/NY	Funding for capacity to develop a housing strategy (refresh) for York and North Yorkshire that identifies opportunities and considers different "housing" needs for all residents, including gypsy/traveller community, children in care and families/individuals with additional needs, older people's accommodation and support for care leavers (as part of local authority corporate parenting and working alongside North Yorkshire Council).	YNYCA housing strategy being developed		Accelerating Brownfield Site Development/Unlocking the Local Plan
Affordable Homes Growth	Funding for capacity to develop a continuous pipeline of affordable housing schemes (aligned to the Local Plan including on brownfield sites, newbuild and Housing First, eg. the York Central site, and garden villages) for future capital investment, that reflects local need, regional strategic economic clusters and connectivity plans and works collaboratively to ensure the supply of sites for development is accelerated.	£4,512,000 of funding received as part of the Brownfield Housing Fund to deliver: Willow House Woolnough House Clifton School Lowfield Ordance Lane	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf</a> <a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/240906-YNYCA-Item-8-BHF-Round-2.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/240906-YNYCA-Item-8-BHF-Round-2.pdf</a>	Accelerating Brownfield Site Development/Unlocking the Local Plan
Tackling homelessness with Housing First	Expand housing with wraparound support to tackle rough sleeping in a holistic, public health informed and strategic approach to support expanding the supply of 1-bed flats with funding to complement existing resources for a "multi-disciplinary team" overseeing the recovery journey from rough sleeping to independence, operating at scale across the region (including learning from best practice).			Accelerating Brownfield Site Development/Unlocking the Local Plan
Affordable keyworker housing	A key priority for the region with recruitment in health, care and education keyworker roles an issue –funding for capacity to develop an innovative and deliverable affordable keyworker housing scheme working with partners and the private sector			Accelerating Brownfield Site Development/Unlocking the Local Plan
Regulatory powers	Funding to develop a case for additional regulatory powers neighbourhood for decarbonising schemes, including rental regulations and appropriate enforcement.			
Safe green affordable housing	Funding for council delivered strategic sites to deliver above existing policy in relation to net zero and climate adaptations, safe, green affordable housing, health impacts etc etc.  Funding for developers to bid for to exceed net zero ambitions of developments – ie. funding the gap between net zero ambition and commercial realities, whilst technology "catches up"	£4.152m Brownfield funding	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf</a>	Accelerating Brownfield Site Development/Unlocking the Local Plan
Youth Zones	Funding to develop Youth Zones located in key areas across the region, including Youth Zones in York aligned to the emerging locality model and aligned to the emerging Youth Strategy, creating a dedicated space for young people to build strong connections and pride in the city/place, develop life skills, mental health and wellbeing, and for mentoring / coaching in a safe space.			
Regional adult learning centre	An Adult learning centre business case to attract future funding - in York, this could be co-located with the Youth Zone, Green Construction Village and Leeman Road accelerators, a comprehensive skills hub that builds regional skills for the key economic sectors.			Innovation Hub (York Central) and New Regional Adults Skills Centre
Well-connected economy				
<b>CYC project</b>	<b>CYC project description</b>	<b>CYC project description</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Alignment to Prospectus</b>
Transport connectivity	Develop a Movement and Place plan which is key to identifying future transport schemes for mayoral consideration and describes how we will deliver the schemes identified throughout the pipeline  (initial individual schemes to be determined in addition to those listed throughout)	£150,000 funding from Mayoral Investment Fund to develop the Movement and Place Plan	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNYCA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNYCA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf</a>	Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
	Undertake a review of shovel ready schemes that the Mayor and Combined Authority can support through funding provision			
	Ensure key transport infrastructure is maintained			
	<b>Sustainable transport</b>			Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
	Funding for infrastructure of sustainable and active travel routes at strategic Local plan sites to complement the contribution (S106/CIL etc) which developers must fund through the planning process.			
	Funding to develop a comprehensive network improvement strategy (deliver Movement and Place plan) including on-road cycle priority schemes (rebuilding junctions, underpasses etc), improve footways, lengthen footways, narrow junctions, etc. seeking to align work at a regional level to connect York, towns, villages and other areas across the region	£4m Active Travel Fund launched by YNYCA in June 2025 together with approval for an Active Travel Commissioner	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf</a>	
	Funding to develop cycling and active travel connectivity between York and North Yorkshire and enhanced provision of cycle storage	£250K YNYCA Transport Grant funding allocated for cycle parking improvements.	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/documents/s25564/Report%20-%20Brownfield%20Housing%20Fund.pdf</a>	
	<b>Public transport enhancements:</b>			Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
	Whilst noting bus franchising is already a mayoral opportunity for further discussion, explore bus franchising as a mechanism for connecting people in remote or currently underserved areas through public transport provision to enable economic, social and cultural opportunity working as a regional level	CYC will allocate some staff resource to support development of the MCA rural franchising pilot.		
	Funding to develop options appraisal for key routes, including park and ride and between university and city centre – options will include current bus infrastructure and fixed track options	YNYCA to commission a bus network review - tender process almost complete.		



	<p>Funding to develop a business case for MCA revenue supported bus and rail improvements for example accessibility of network including bus links to York College and villages around York, reduced-price fares, franchising, integrated ticketing etc</p> <p>In additional to support for other community transport offers including provision of e-scooters, dial and rides services, and a EV shuttle bus around the city centre whilst working to improve access routes to public transport whilst noting MIMA independent access consultants have recently consulted the disabled community in York and there was no support expressed for the shuttle bus, and that any further provision for disabled residents must included consultation</p>	CYC suggestions allocated funding for delivery/continuation in 25/26 included tendered bus services, fare subsidies for young people, families and NHS staff.		
	Implement the Local Transport Strategy schemes	Funding allocated by YNYCA to deliver some of these projects, some others to be progressed through the 25/26 transport capital programme.		
	Explore options to establish York as a hub for regional transport with greater connectivity of transport			
	<b>E-charging</b>	£1,540,000 from Mayoral Investment Fund	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNICA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/241002-YNICA-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf</a>	Delivering the Movement and Place Plan / First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
	Funding for increased infrastructure, car parks, Askham Bar park and ride (and hyper hub match funding) and exploring solutions for terraced housing streets (also activating net zero bids)			
	Identified match funding for mayoral quick win funding			
	<b>Rail:</b> Funding to develop schemes to:			Station Gateway/New Station for Haxby
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve York Rail Station: develop a station masterplan and deliver improvements as part of York Station Frontage in response to doubling of passenger numbers</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haxby Station: Approve a business case for DfT to fund fully integrated transport developments of Haxby Station</li> </ul>	Funding confirmed by DfT, MCA and DfT change request in progress	<a href="https://www.york.gov.uk/news/article/1717/partners-welcome-haxby-station-announcement">https://www.york.gov.uk/news/article/1717/partners-welcome-haxby-station-announcement</a>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rail network: develop a business case to provide funding to support rail services that have been lost/stalled over the last two-three years (ie. to recover from covid)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support work that feeds into the wider Transport for the North strategy ensuring York's connectivity forms part of the network priorities for the wider region</li> </ul>			
	<b>Strategic road capital upgrades:</b>			Outer Ring Road Improvements
	Whilst ensuring developer contributions, work to deliver:			
	Full dualing of York outer ring road to include:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1237 dualing stage 1 (A19 to Hopgrove) overspend (inflationary variation)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1237 dualing phase 2 (A59-19) capital</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A64 upgrading at A19/A64 Fulford junction including enhanced public transport prioritisation</li> </ul>			
	<b>Climate ready transport infrastructure</b>			Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
	Funding to conduct a study and develop recommendations for the use of sustainable/green materials and/or treatments for road surfaces to assess how to create a more climate ready/lower emission road surface			
	<b>Home to school transport</b>			
	Funding to cover the cost of home to school transport including alternative safe sustainable transport routes			
	Funding for the provision of SEND transport			
	<b>Late night opening for Park and Ride services</b>	Extension announced as part of BSIP funding from DfT	<a href="https://www.york.gov.uk/news/article/1706/earlier-starts-later-finishes-for-york-s-park-ride">https://www.york.gov.uk/news/article/1706/earlier-starts-later-finishes-for-york-s-park-ride</a>	Delivering the Movement and Place Plan
	<b>Support provision of disabled parking at cultural venues and trip attractors</b>			World Leading Centre for Heritage
Digital connectivity	<p>Noting digital roll out is a mayoral responsibility, funding for a NY Digital Connectivity offer (similar to WYCA) connecting businesses and communities to digital opportunity across York and North Yorkshire – developing strategy to attract private sector and Whitehall funding and support early intervention and prevention across care sector and housing, preparing high streets for the changing landscape.</p> <p>Support for fibre roll out across city centre to address coverage gaps and implement data hot spots for high density, high deprivation areas to support those on low-incomes who may otherwise run out of data (i.e for work)</p>			Enhancing the Digital Technology Landscape
Renewable energy (a) - Harewood Whin	Funding for Harewood Whin renewable energy park following completion of the strategic business case (due to complete 2025).	£243,500 of funding received as part of the Net Zero Fund	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf</a>	Harewood Whin Renewable Energy / First UK city to achieve energy independence
Renewable energy (b) - Elvington and Wigginton	Funding to develop strategic business cases for other renewable energy park sites, including Wigginton and Elvington, with future funding allocated to deliver the ambitions of the Local Energy Area Plan.	£100,000 funding received for Elvington Lane Solar PV and North Wigginton Onshore Wind	<a href="https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf">https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s23853/Report%20-%20Net%20Zero%20Funding.pdf</a>	First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence

Renewable energy (c) - LAEP	Funding to develop deliverable plan to deliver LAEP (the Accelerator project is funded by DESNZ)	£148,000 funding received		First UK City to Achieve Energy Independence
Food redistribution	Funding to deliver the food distribution project in the net zero funding, building community capacity and creating a circular food redistribution network across the region, aiming to eliminate food waste (as much as possible).			Regional Circular Food Distribution Network
Green and blue infrastructure	Funding to develop a green and blue strategy for the region taking into account multiple interrelated projects, including LAEP, LINC, LNRS, green streets, flood resilience, biodiversity, health and economic benefits of green spaces, to secure additional commercial/private sector investment through BNG, and insetting	LINC and LNRS funding		
Inward Investment	Co-ordinated inward investment services across YNY. Funding for inward investment capacity and activity, working collaboratively on behalf of the region and specific council geography and in close partnership with the MCA.	YNYCA funded regional participation in UKREiF. UKSPF funding provided		
International relationships	Build international relationships, drawing on York's relationship with ambassadors, twinning arrangements (including utilisation of the student networks with York's twin cities) and others to further the region's global impact utilising our assets including building the relationship between the Mayor and Lord Mayor whilst noting the Council is no longer able to fund international visits on behalf of the Lord Mayor			
Tourism and Cultural offer	Develop a Yorkshire (and neighbours) tourism and cultural offer that attracts tourists to move between the areas, to complement and promote destinations as attractors	LVEP coordinating being undertaken by YNYCA	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.mayor.gov.uk/documents/174572/153079-2024mtr-017-2b-20-VLP.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.mayor.gov.uk/documents/174572/153079-2024mtr-017-2b-20-VLP.pdf</a>	World Leading Centre for Heritage / Creative Chrysalis
Cultural funding	Funding to achieve the aspirations of York's cultural strategy (noting North Yorkshire Council has been tasked with developing a shared overarching Cultural Strategy across the region that will sit above York's strategy which concludes in 2025), including capital investment in York Castle Museum, and to promote York as a national and international destination for sporting events, ensuring support for music, digital creativity (UNESCO City of Media Arts) and creative skills	Cultural funding for digital creativity in cultural passports		World-leading centre for heritage/Creative Chrysalis
Cultural Heritage skills	Funding to build and deliver (with partners) a unique programme bespoke to the region to develop a centre for excellence in cultural heritage skills by drawing on our regional asset and creating pathways, stepping stones and routes into employment (could be located at the regional skills hub, see above), with a focus on connecting cultural heritage strengths with opportunities for people in areas of need.			Creative Chrysalis /World Leading centre for heritage
Suite of tech accelerators	Funding to develop a business case for a suite of tech accelerators on the York Central site to create tech accelerators in key economic strengths			Innovation Hub and New Regional Adult Skills Centre
<b>Productive and Innovative Economy</b>				
<b>CYC project</b>	<b>CYC project description</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	
Economic Space for High Growth Sectors	There is a short term funding ask for capacity to undertake a study into the regional economic potential of assets as strategic employment sites for the region to drive high growth sector employment and investment eg bioeconomy and/or creative & digital and how it's position could support a connected relationship with the region. Longer term (subject to business case) there may be a need for future MCA funding to support the strategic acquisition and/or the development of sites.			Innovation Hub (York Central) and New Regional Adult Skills Centre / Cordukes Business Centre
Green Construction Skills Initiative	With significant economic growth (homes and jobs) planned across York and North Yorkshire, there is an increased need for local construction skills to deliver the strategic sites on the ground. The region's focus upon achieving net zero also creates a new local demand for retrofit skills. Short term revenue capacity funding will allow an initial pilot phase to combine an initial focus on developing training and work experience opportunities, including adult skills development and information provision to groups such as care leavers (joining up with the approach of North Yorkshire Council on how best to support care leavers) and council tenants to ensure opportunities are known by all. It will help test and develop a business case for a longer term York & North Yorkshire approach of working with developers and education providers to increase provision of training and to link such opportunities to the pipeline of developments across the city and wider sub region.  Develop a green construction skills village to build essential skills that would decarbonise new developments, setting higher standards for strategic sites (throughout the MCA strategic plan, as above) – working closely with partners, to build retrofitting skills for York and North Yorkshire housing stock, across all tenures, offering opportunities as a corporate parent.	£70,000 for construction skills announced as part of Mayoral Investment Fund	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/24-1002-1907-Ca-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/24-1002-1907-Ca-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf</a>	Construction Skills Centre
Business Support	Funding for delivery of business support services across YNY. This is likely to be some capacity centrally to lead on specialist work, complemented by locally based teams at CYC/NYC to deliver business support on the ground with local businesses. Aim to replace UKSPF.	Business support services funded via UKSPF		
Cultural passports for Young People	Funding to produce a cultural passport for the region's young people (secondary school age) to engage in free cultural opportunities across the region, building support from the sector, including funding for day-trips for schools in areas of need and ensuring access for hard to reach groups including York's gypsy and traveller communities, migrants, and home schoolers.	£460,000 for cultural passports announced as part of Mayoral Investment Fund	<a href="https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/24-1002-1907-Ca-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf">https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/24-1002-1907-Ca-Item-6-Mayoral-Investment-Fund-Project-Funding-Decisions.pdf</a>	Creative Chrysalis
	Develop a proposal to support schools access AONB, nature reserves and other green spaces			
UNESCO Heritage City	funding to develop the application/bid for York's UNESCO world heritage bid, as part of a wider strategy of celebrating the region's cultural and heritage strengths identifying the opportunities and benefits to York.			World Leading Centre for Heritage

Green, cultural and Sport prescribing	Funding to coordinate and promote initiatives for access to green space, and sport and culture initiatives delivered by the cultural and heritage sector that are designed to reduce loneliness and alleviate mental health waiting list – including coordinating additional funding to distribute smaller grants to the green, sports and cultural sector – with initiatives designed in response to an agreed outcomes framework as part of the package of early intervention and prevention work.	Mayor has launched a £2.75m Movement, Activity and Sports Investment Programme, grant funding elements expected to launch in October 2025.	<a href="https://www.bucks.gov.uk/press-releases/press-releases/2025/04/2025-04-20-movement-activity-and-sports-investment-programme/">https://www.bucks.gov.uk/press-releases/press-releases/2025/04/2025-04-20-movement-activity-and-sports-investment-programme/</a>	A healthy workforce - supporting people to thrive in work and health
Early Years Training	Supporting standardised early years training as a mechanism of overcoming the shortage of early years staff, working with education providers to overcome barriers including restrictions on funding (including to those not in work) and increase provision of spaces			
VCSE and Social Care sector support	Work with providers to support routes into employment and improve employee	£130,000 VCSE infrastructure support as part of UKSPF; wider programme of support into work announced as part of Trailblazer scheme		
Equalities and accessibility training for staff	Funding for accessibility training for staff at Combined Authority and local authority levels			
Guaranteed interviews for care leavers	Support access to opportunities for care leavers through a mechanism similar to the Armed Forces Covenant, joining up the offer to care leavers across the region			

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**YORK DRAFT PROSPECTUS**

**Going for Good Growth  
with Innovation, Culture and Heritage  
at our Heart**

**York's Growth Ambitions**

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**York’s Growth Ambitions**

## Annex B – York’s DRAFT Prospectus

York 2032 Priorities and Goals	Health and Wellbeing	Education and Skills	Economic Growth	Transport	Sustainability
	All York residents (young, old and future residents) will enjoy happier, healthier, longer lives, in homes that meet their needs, able to actively participate in their communities, with access to the right support at the right time.	All ages will have access to learning throughout their lives to equip them with the skills to succeed commercially, socially, locally and nationally.	York's economy will be vibrant and inclusive, with businesses supported to grow and prosper and talent nurtured, retained and supported. Our economy will be developed to be well balanced with <b>a mix of different sectors</b> providing opportunities for young and old.	York's transport networks will be inclusive and sustainable, connecting neighbourhoods and communities.	York will be carbon neutral and contribute to the regional ambition to be carbon negative, with iconic green spaces to enjoy today and the environment protected for future generations to enjoy.
Strategic delivery programmes	Health and Wellbeing	Education and Skills	Economic Growth	Transport	Sustainability
	Accelerating Housing Development (including Brownfield)  Healthy Workforce Programme	Innovation Hub (York Central) & new Regional Adult Skills Centre  Construction Skills Centre	BioYorkshire campus  Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone  Digital Technology Landscape Enhancement  World Leading Centre for Heritage  Unlocking the Local Plan  Creative Chrysalis	Haxby Railway Station  Outer Ring Road Improvements  Delivering Movement and Place  York Station Gateway – a Station Fit for the Future	Bioresources Engineering Centre  Harewood Whin  First energy independent city  Regional Circular Food Distribution Network





## Summary

**The York 2032 Vision challenges us to go for growth with innovation, culture and heritage at our heart – to shape a city that is vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable.**

*York’s Growth Ambitions* demonstrates how York is preparing for that future. By investing in the right conditions between now and by 2032, York will benefit from long-term, inclusive and sustainable prosperity. *York’s Growth Ambitions* reflects our shared priorities as a city: driving innovation and enterprise, unlocking infrastructure, and ensuring that more residents and communities benefit from the opportunities York and the region create.

*York’s Growth Ambitions* is a prospectus providing a practical framework for delivery, shaped by local priorities and designed to support long-term opportunity, resilience and equality. The prospectus is a portfolio of deliverable programmes and projects that collectively will bring more higher paid jobs, more affordable homes and deliver a more sustainable and accessible transport network to York.

It reflects the ambition at the heart of our 2032 vision: to be a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share and take pride in its success, combined with the values the city shares – a city that pioneers with purpose, makes history every day and priorities people.

It responds directly to the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority’s (YNYCA) Local Growth Plan and the Mayor’s vision to build healthy and thriving communities through investment in support services, more sustainable and affordable transport, high-quality and energy-efficient housing, and better access to green spaces.

*York’s Growth Ambitions* also supports several national government missions: helping to kickstart economic growth through innovation and infrastructure; contributing to the clean energy transition through sustainable development and retrofitting; and breaking down barriers to opportunity by improving access to education, training, and employment.

The projects outlined in the prospectus builds on our strategic direction – linking land, investment, skills, partners and communities to deliver social outcomes that all York residents can benefit from.

### What this will mean for the people of York

The projects in this document are designed not only to drive economic success, but to deliver for the people who live in all our communities, so that anyone anywhere in the city can look at the opportunities and see something for them. Our vision for York’s future means cohesive communities, benefitting from heritage and culture, with economic opportunities, are better connected through improved accessible and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Guided by our four core commitments – equalities and human rights, affordability, climate, and health – we are outcome-focused, ensuring that growth translates into real benefits for people’s everyday lives: from access to quality jobs and skills development, to affordable, energy-efficient homes, and thriving neighbourhoods. We will celebrate success, learn from challenges and continually improve, ensuring York’s future is not only more prosperous, but fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable for all.

The economic and social value for each project will follow

## Working together to create a shared vision for York’s future

*York’s Growth Ambitions* have been shaped through active engagement with stakeholders in the city. The projects outlined in the document are the city’s collective ambitions – some are led by City of York Council whilst others have been developed by some of the key institutions in the city.

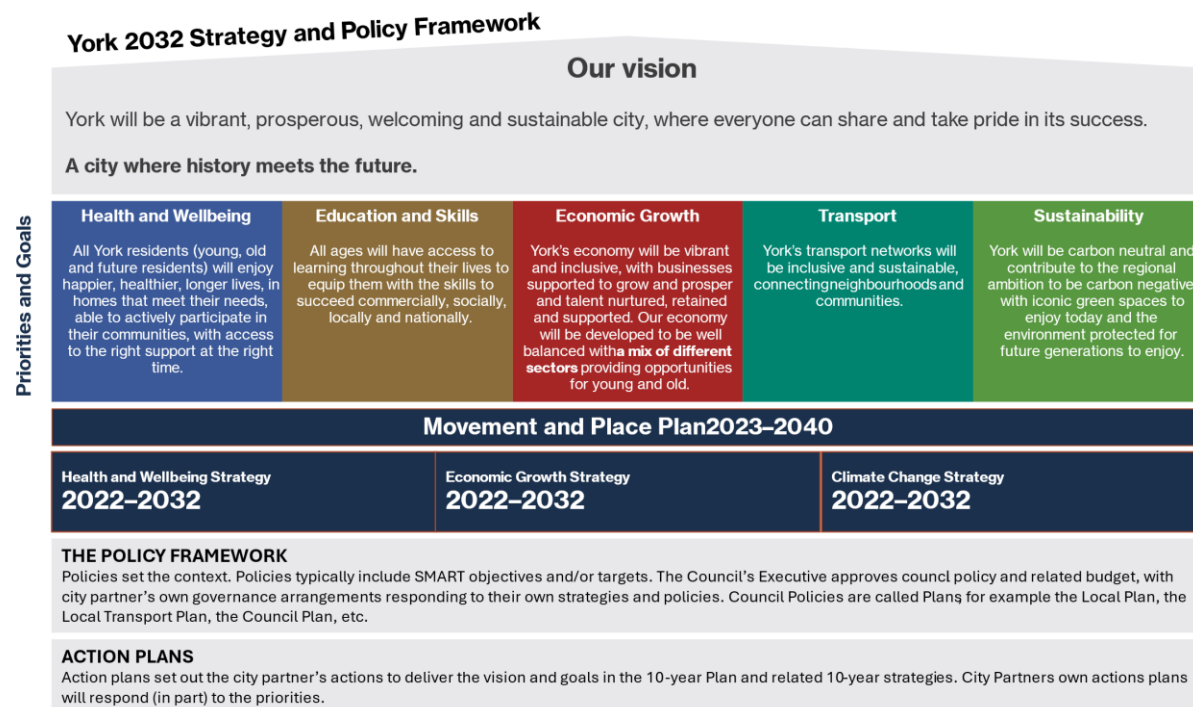
The ambitions have been reviewed by elected representatives via the Council’s scrutiny processes.

## A continual journey

The projects identified in this document are the ambitions of the city as of **autumn 2025**. As projects are completed, they will no longer be ambitions but our reality. New opportunities and challenges will emerge and will lead to the formulation of new ambitions for the city. This document will be regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects new realities.

## Turning Vision into Action

*York’s Growth Ambitions* is the next step in our journey – turning shared long-term goals into coordinated action and investible opportunities. It builds on the city’s adopted strategies, including the York 2032 Vision and 10 Year City Plan, the 2022-2032 Economic Strategy, Climate Strategy, and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These provide the foundation for a joined-up sustainable approach to growth – one that links place-making, economic inclusion, sustainability, and community health and wellbeing.



By aligning *York’s Growth Ambitions* projects with these strategies, we are not just describing the future we want – we are building the foundations to deliver on that ambition.

## A Modern City with Deep Roots and Real Strengths

York is a compact, high-performing city of just over 200,000 people. Well connected by rail and road it can be reached from London in under two hours by train, just over an hour from Manchester, and two and a half hours from Edinburgh, placing it at the heart of the UK’s national transport network. York is also exceptionally well connected to regional centres, with Leeds, Hull, and Teesside all easily accessible, reinforcing the city’s role as a key economic and cultural hub for the North.

The formation of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority marks a new chapter in regional collaboration, positioning York as a driving force in shaping a more prosperous and connected North Yorkshire. Our universities, heritage, and culture are world-renowned and give York a unique foundation for innovation and enterprise, with sector strengths in biosciences, rail innovation, digital creativity, health innovation, culture, heritage and tourism, and a pipeline of the highest skilled workforce in the North.

However, like many cities, we face challenges. Pressures on housing, the need for affordable and reliable transport, access to training and employment, and the shift to a low-carbon economy all require long-term investment and coordination.

In addition, significant inequalities persist within our city, with stark contrasts in life expectancy between the most and least affluent wards, highlighting the need for targeted action to ensure that all communities benefit from the city’s growth.

We are responding proactively, with a clear strategic delivery plan for the city’s future, *York’s Growth Ambitions*.

## A Values Led City

Our identity is shaped by more than our economy. As a UNESCO City of Media Arts, a Human Rights City, and a City of Sanctuary, York is a city that places people and community at the heart of its development.

York Narrative captures the essence of York, and describes our city values as:

- Pioneering with purpose to improve people’s lives
- Making history every day to leave a lasting and sustainable legacy
- Prioritising people so everyone is recognised and valued

These values guide how we invest and are reflected in our approach to digital infrastructure, cultural investment, and the planning of inclusive economic and housing growth. Together, these values reflect our belief that every resident should have the opportunity to benefit from and help shape the city’s future.

We see culture as a driver of identity, well-being and economic value. Being a Human Rights City means embedding equality and access into how we invest in affordable housing, education, health and opportunity.

## Growing Responsibly

Our approach to growth is built around long-term value, not just short-term returns. That means designing projects that deliver wider societal benefits – including local employment and high paid jobs to balance our visitor economy, community wealth building, inclusive accessible design, and sustainable development.

We are embedding social value into how we invest and deliver: through local procurement, targeted skills pathways, and partnerships that reach into communities who have not always benefited from the city’s success. We are working to make sure public investment leads to community benefit, not by accident, but by design.

## Momentum for the Future

York has a strong reputation for delivery. We have already delivered major regeneration and infrastructure programmes, including the unlocking of York Central and the development of the Community Stadium, developing strong partnerships across academia, private, public and community sectors, and have shown we can deliver on ambitious plans.

*York’s Growth Ambitions* builds on that momentum – identifying the next projects that will help us meet the demands of the future, while protecting what makes York special.

*York’s Growth Ambitions* is structured around three outcomes:

1. **Delivering Good Economic Growth** – Investing in enterprise, innovation and the high-value sectors that define our economy supporting skills development and productivity gains;
2. **Facilitating Good Growth** – Enabling good growth through investment in housing, infrastructure, planning and digital connectivity;
3. **Good Growth for All** – Ensuring the benefits of growth are shared, with a focus on investment in health, skills, community, wealth and social outcomes.

Together, they form a practical and ambitious plan to achieve the York 2032 vision that is both economically strong and socially inclusive.

## Our core commitments

Reflecting the Council Plan, and our four core commitments, we will translate strategy to delivery with a focus on:

Equalities / Affordability / Climate and the Environment / Health

## In partnership

York has extensive, ongoing experience of collaboration that has helped to create the vibrant city that it is today.

We will build on this spirit to achieve the ambitions of this prospectus. Only by extensive, joined-up partnership working can we transform the city to meet the needs of the people that call it home.

This means working at a local, regional, national and international scale with partners new and old, creating a shared understanding, learning from each other, and co-designing the future.

Enabling our residents, our communities and our businesses to play a role in place-making so that York works for them and that we create opportunity in everything we do.

Developing a shared approach with the key institutions in the city, setting out a roadmap to success.

Maintaining a dialogue with funders, investors, government and others to get buy-in for York’s ambitions whilst ensuring there is a clear onus on societal benefit.



## Delivering Good Economic Growth

We believe sustainable and inclusive economic growth is driven by investment in culture, enterprise, and innovation. Our city is uniquely positioned to grow with deep cultural heritage and thriving creative sectors, complemented by high growth knowledge-based industries such as bioeconomy, digital and life sciences.

Through the development of flagship projects articulated in this prospectus, we will unlock opportunities that directly fuel inclusive economic growth. These initiatives will attract businesses and create the ecosystem necessary to nurture talent, foster creativity, and stimulate the local economy in high-growth sectors.

We are equally committed to leveraging York’s heritage to enrich our economy, as a trailblazer for new sustainable construction and conservation, together with pioneering digital curation of the city’s artefacts and nationally important collections.

York’s vibrant cultural scene plays a critical role in shaping the city’s identity and future. From world-class theatre and innovative visual arts to festivals, York’s diverse cultural offerings inspire both residents and visitors alike. Active participation in cultural activities contributes directly to the health and well-being of the community. For example, the BAFTA–qualifying Aesthetica Film Festival 2025, not only welcomes filmmakers, games developers and VR experts from around the world, but also engages local communities in creative expression. As a UNESCO City of Media Arts, this rich cultural landscape informs the way we grow in the future, ensuring that the arts remain central to shaping a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable city.

This approach directly supports government priorities to equalise economic opportunities, driving inclusive growth, and fostering innovation-led sectors such as biosciences and digital technology. By investing in cultural capital alongside cutting-edge industries, York exemplifies a holistic model for sustainable economic development that aligns with national strategies, including the UK Innovation Strategy, the Creative Industries Sector Deal, and the Industrial Strategy’s Clean Growth pillar.

## Bio-Yorkshire Campus

£mm

**To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance**

**Location:** Fera, Askham Bryan College, and University of York

**Description:** The Bio-Yorkshire Campus will serve as a hub for innovation and skills in the bioeconomy, linking research, business, and education to drive sustainable economic growth. It includes adult STEM learning provision and applied research and development aligned with green technologies and agri-tech. It considers connectivity to and from the sites to urban and city centres.

**Context:** This is central to Bio-Yorkshire – a flagship regional initiative that positions York and North Yorkshire as a leader in the bioeconomy.

**Importance:** The campus supports high-value, low-carbon growth, helping the region transition to a greener economy while creating skilled jobs and boosting local innovation capacity.

**What are we doing:** Developing integrated learning and research facilities across three key sites, working with anchor institutions and industry partners to deliver STEM education, incubate businesses, and foster innovation.

**What this will lead to:** Job creation, green tech spinouts, increased adult participation in high-level STEM learning, and accelerated growth of the regional bioeconomy. It will also enhance York’s reputation as a UK leader in sustainable innovation.

**How does it fit York’s future:** It aligns with regional and national ambitions around the circular economy, reusing biomatter to create more sustainable and resilient food and fuel materials, while also advancing York’s role as a green innovation leader.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project directly supports the Local Growth Plan’s focus on engineering biology and life sciences as a

competitive advantage sector. By linking applied research with skills and business incubation, it advances the region’s ambition to lead in bioeconomy-driven innovation, boost productivity, and deliver low-carbon economic growth.

**What does this mean for the UK:** This project will help the UK lead the global shift to a sustainable, high-value bioeconomy, turning research into commercial green tech, filling critical STEM skills gaps, and creating a scalable model for clean growth in rural and regional economies.

**Current Position:** This programme is in development, with stakeholder buy-in and key site partners engaged. Planning and investment strategy work is underway.

**Barriers:** Requires capital investment with long-term funding commitments to deliver infrastructure and programming across multiple sites; cross-sector coordination is essential.

## Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York St. John main campus (Lord Mayor's Walk)

**Description:** Build a world-leading sustainable business enterprise and conference zone. The aim for the site is to generate and consume its own energy and provide a complementary venue to Harrogate Convention Centre.

**Context:** A new, sustainable Business Enterprise and Conference Zone built at York St John University’s Lord Mayor’s Walk campus. The site will feature space for up to 100 incubating businesses, 6–8 flexible-use areas for teaching and meetings, and a conference venue with capacity for 300–350 delegates. Fully energy self-sufficient, the facility will focus on supporting York’s growing digital and cultural sectors.

**Importance:** This project directly addresses the critical need for flexible, affordable workspaces in York—especially for start-ups and underrepresented entrepreneurs, including women. The conference

facility is a key component: expected to host 25–30 events per year and attract around 7,000 visitors, it will significantly boost York’s business tourism, promote knowledge exchange, and increase visibility for the city’s innovation and cultural strengths. By supporting business incubation, applied education, and networking in a low-carbon setting, the zone future-proofs York’s economy and reinforces its ambition to become a leader in sustainable and inclusive growth.

The inclusion of a high-quality conference facility ensures that York has the infrastructure to host events that support its business ecosystem, fostering collaboration, attracting investment, and amplifying the impact of local innovation.

### What Are We Doing?

## Annex B – York’s DRAFT Prospectus

Building a new, sustainable Business Enterprise and Conference Zone will be constructed on YSJ's campus, including:

- Space for 20–30 business incubations lasting ~18 months.
- 800m<sup>2</sup> of incubation units for 80–100 businesses.
- 6–8 flexible-use areas (900m<sup>2</sup> total) for teaching, meetings, catering, or breakout spaces.
- Conference space for 300–350 delegates.
- Focus on the digital and cultural sectors.

### How Does It Fit York’s Future?

The Cordukes Zone directly supports York’s key strategic priorities—innovation, sustainability, digital transformation, and business resilience. The project will reinforce the city’s reputation as a forward-thinking hub for business. The addition of a

- Fully energy self-sufficient facilities.

### What This Will Lead To:

- 25–30 new events per year, attracting 7,000 people.
- Business tourism boost.
- Capacity to support new applied business programmes, apprenticeships, and short courses.
- 40–60 businesses supported annually.
- 100–150 new direct jobs created each year, with additional indirect employment.

dedicated conference facility will draw in business events, strengthening York’s status as a regional centre for collaboration and enterprise. By being energy self-sufficient the centre contributes to York’s goal of achieving 100% energy self-sufficiency and will foster the growth of emerging sectors like engineering, biology and digital technologies.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan by fostering innovation and inclusive economic growth through

## Annex B – York’s DRAFT Prospectus

support for digital and cultural sectors, promoting sustainable development, and creating flexible business spaces that strengthen York’s entrepreneurship ecosystem.

**What does this mean for the UK:** The Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone will serve as a pioneering model for sustainable, inclusive business incubation in the UK, combining zero-carbon infrastructure with targeted support for underrepresented entrepreneurs

and high-growth digital and cultural sectors, while boosting business tourism and regional collaboration.

### **Current Position:**

- Conceptual design complete.
- Initial business case approved.

### **Barriers:**

- Funding remains the key challenge.

## Harewood Whin Renewable Energy

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** Former landfill site at Harewood Whin, York

**Description:** A staged renewable energy project to develop solar generation capacity, with the first phase targeting 20MW. The long-term goal is to support York becoming a self-generating, net zero energy city, including consideration of connectivity to economic opportunities.

**Context:** The site provides a unique opportunity to repurpose a landfill site for large-scale energy generation. It fits into York’s broader ambition to be a global exemplar in urban sustainability

**Importance:** The project will reduce emissions, cut council energy costs, and potentially provide green power to local homes and businesses – helping secure energy resilience and economic benefits

**What are we doing:** Developing a phased solar energy generation park on an unused landfill site, starting with 20MW generation potential. The

outline business case is due for Council Executive approval in September 2025

**What this will lead to:** Clean energy for council operations and the potential to expand provision to residents and businesses. It builds the foundations for York to become 100% self-generating/self-consuming on renewable energy and supports the council’s financial resilience.

**How does it fit York’s future:** Essential to achieving York’s net zero targets, demonstrating innovation in repurposing land, and advancing energy independence and environmental leadership

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project supports the Local Growth Plan’s priorities on clean energy and sustainability by repurposing brownfield land for large-scale renewable generation, contributing to the region’s low-carbon transition and energy resilience goals while

stimulating green economic growth and innovation.

**What does this mean for the UK:** Harewood Whin Renewable Energy Park directly supports the government’s Net Zero Strategy (2021) and the Clean Growth Plan, which prioritise large-scale deployment of renewable energy and the efficient use of land, including brownfield sites. By transforming a former landfill site into a substantial solar generation facility, the project advances national ambitions for energy resilience and independence in urban areas, helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and strengthen local

energy security. This approach also aligns with the government’s focus on innovative, sustainable urban regeneration and contributes to meeting legally binding carbon reduction targets for 2050.

**Current Position:** Outline business case underway; progressing to strategic business case state post Executive approval. Technical assessments and delivery modelling in progress

**Barriers:** Requires upfront capital investment and grid connection planning; long term operation and ownership models need defining.



## World Leading Centre for Heritage

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** City Centre

**Description:**

York’s cultural and heritage assets are at the heart of the city’s identity. This project unlocks York’s potential as a global leader in conservation, transforming nationally significant heritage assets into thriving hubs that drive investment, create jobs, and offer enriching experiences for residents and visitors alike. By blending the past with innovation, York will create a sustainable legacy that powers the city’s future, including consideration of transport infrastructure and connectivity.

**Context:**

York’s cultural assets, including York, the Art Gallery, the city walls, and the Shambles and other historic sites, are central to the city’s identity and play a significant role in its economy. This project focuses on revitalising these cultural and heritage sites, working collectively across partners to bolster York’s reputation as a cultural powerhouse, while also

creating economic opportunities and enriching experiences for residents and visitors.

**Importance:**

York’s heritage is central to its economy, supporting tourism, job creation, and community wellbeing. By unlocking the potential of underused heritage spaces, York can boost its heritage sector and further its role as a world leader in conservation and heritage sustainability and innovation.

**What Are We Doing?**

- Developing a masterplan to revitalise York’s heritage core, including Castle Gateway Park looking collectively across a wide range of assets held by a range of partner organisations, to optimise productive use and drive in public funding support in a coordinated way
- Exploring the creation of a new destination, including a research centre and digitally enabled events space

- Regenerating an area of the city centre, renowned for its heritage to attract investment and support long-term growth
- Putting a case together to attract a national heritage partner to focus on digital preservation

### **What This Will Lead To:**

- Increased investment and long-term funding for York’s cultural and heritage sector
- A transformative space that combines conservation with innovation, attracting more visitors and creating jobs for residents
- Stronger community engagement with York’s historic legacy, supporting the essential tourism economy too

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

This project enhances York’s economic growth by unlocking the city’s heritage assets, driving innovation, creating jobs, and supporting community engagement. It reinforces York’s role as a global leader in heritage conservation and helps shape the city’s sustainable future.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** The World-Leading Centre for Heritage project supports inclusive and sustainable growth by revitalising heritage assets to drive economic investment, job creation, and community engagement, strengthening the city’s national and global heritage role

### **Current Position:**

- Concept agreed in principle
- Awaiting decision to proceed and the outcome of the York Museums Trust review
- Planning to convene local partners to shape and present the masterplan

### **Barriers:**

- Limited internal capacity to lead and deliver the project
- Need for upfront funding to unlock next steps and lever in wider public funding support (team, master planning, coordination)

## BREC - Bioresources Engineering Centre

### £mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** Naburn

**Description:**

Development of a new anaerobic digester incubator at Naburn to transform bioresources processing and renewable product development.

**Narrative:**

The incubator will focus on designing, scaling, and commercialising biology-derived products using synthetic biology to innovate in the bioeconomy.

**Outputs:**

- Address knowledge gaps in bioresources processing.
- Deliver the BREC facility with full resources and governance strategy.
- Create a research agenda for facility utilisation.
- Develop a feedstock supply contract.

**Outcomes:**

- Inform decision-making on whether to proceed with an OFWAT bid to fund construction and operation.
- Establish sources for the required 10% project cost contribution.

**Contribution to Regional Vision:**

- Connected to the Outdoors: Enhances nature recovery.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** Supports the Clean Energy sector as a regional competitive advantage sector by advancing bioresources processing and synthetic biology innovation, contributing to sustainable economic growth and strengthening regional specialisms.

**Delivery Status:**

- Feasibility project being evaluated by OFWAT and partners.
- Contracts being prepared for a potential award.

- OFWAT bid submission planned for December 2025.

**Barriers:**

- Additional funding may be needed to translate research into practical applications.

## First UK city to achieve Energy Independence

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York-wide

**Description:** Invest in infrastructure and renewable energy sources to make York a world-leading, self-generating energy net-zero city. By harnessing local renewable resources, the goal is for York to generate more renewable energy than it consumes, becoming the UK’s first net exporter of renewable energy.

**Context:** York is working towards achieving 100% self-generation of renewable energy, which will help the city reach carbon neutrality and also enable it to export surplus energy. This ambitious goal positions York as a model for other cities looking to transition to renewable energy and achieve net-zero emissions.

**Importance:** York has the potential to be a national leader in renewable energy, generating enough power to meet its own needs and exporting surplus energy, reducing local carbon emissions and increasing energy resilience.

### What Are We Doing?

- Green Energy Parks (e.g., Harewood Whin, Elvington, Monks Cross Solar).
- Roof Top Solar City initiative (e.g., Solar for Schools programme).
- York District Heat Network using geothermal and River Ouse energy.

### What This Will Lead To:

- Energy self-sufficiency, with the potential to export surplus energy.
- Significant reductions in carbon emissions.
- Increased resilience to future energy crises.
- Attraction of investment into green technologies.

### How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project is a cornerstone of York’s climate strategy, contributing to the city’s long-term

sustainability and energy security. The project will attract additional revenues for the council’s wider budget, providing greater financial resilience.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project directly supports the Local Growth Plan’s priorities for large-scale renewable energy deployment, efficient use of brownfield land, and advancing energy resilience and independence, positioning York as a leader in sustainable urban regeneration and net-zero carbon ambitions.

**Current Position:**

- Planning permission granted for Harewood Whin in March 2025.

- Feasibility study underway for additional capacity at Elvington.
- School and heat network projects underway.

**Barriers:**

- Funding for revenue needed to complete business cases.
- Technical challenges in connecting to the national grid.
- Site-specific conditions (e.g., landfill site at Harewood Whin).

## Construction Skills Centre

### £mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

#### Description:

Establish a construction skills centre to support construction projects across York by providing on-site skills development training.

#### Narrative:

York faces a significant shortage of construction skills, which this project aims to address through practical, on-site training. It will encourage employers to take on apprentices at all levels and support the rollout of T Levels to create a steady pipeline of talent.

#### Outputs:

- Encourage employers to engage apprentices across all levels.
- Support the uptake and delivery of T Levels, in particular with placements.
- Deliver on-site skills development training alongside ongoing construction projects.

#### Contribution to Regional Vision:

- Healthy and Resilient: Local Growth Plan, supporting access to skills.
- Connected to Opportunity: Employment opportunities, skills provision.
- Warm and Affordable Homes: Catalyst for housing development, housing investment plan.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan’s focus on skills development and employment opportunities by supporting access to skills and providing a pipeline of talent for the construction sector. It also supports housing development priorities through the Housing Investment Plan.

#### Barriers:

- Capital funding needed for the construction of modular training centres.
- Revenue required to maintain the facility and drive interest in the construction sector.

## Innovation Hub (York Central) & New Regional Adult Skills Centre

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York Central

**Description:**

Build an innovation campus at York Central to enhance York’s status as a world-leading centre in rail, agri-tech, creative tech, and medtech whilst also supporting life-long aspiration through the development of a world-leading adult skills centre that targets hidden talent from deprived communities, bridging the skills gap in areas such as literacy and digital skills.

**Outputs:**

- Provide space for universities, colleges, government, and private companies to design, test, and build the future.
- Foster lifelong learning and knowledge exchange for York residents.
- Addressing key skills shortages, particularly digital

- Complement and align with the Cordukes Business Enterprise Centre.
- Provide accessible and inclusive skills and support services.
- Build on evidence-based skills needs for York and North Yorkshire.

**Outcomes:**

- Create collaborative spaces that boost regional economic strengths.
- Provide employment routes and connections for all, including disabled people.
- Support technological and digital transformation
- Inspire residents to build confidence and develop skills for future careers



### **Contribution to Regional Vision:**

- Healthy and Resilient: Collaboration, Local Growth Plan, and skills access.
- Connected to Opportunity: Employment opportunities and skills provision.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project supports investment in skills development and innovation, strengthening local specialisms and fostering collaboration to drive sustainable economic growth across York and North Yorkshire.

### **Delivery Status:**

- Reserved Matters Application due September 2025
- Operating model to be confirmed

- Capacity needed to develop the proposal in partnership with universities, developers, and inward investment partners.
- Champion capital investment in the scheme.

### **Barriers:**

- Lease-wrap-around needed to support multiple businesses/research and innovation companies in the same space.
- Capacity to develop the proposal.
- Capital investment and convening power to bring together local and national partners are required.
- Ensuring improved connectivity and alignment to the Movement and Place Plan

## Facilitating Good Growth

To enable the next phase of growth, York needs to unlock its potential through strategic investment in infrastructure to improve accessibility and sustainability. This includes the new rail station for Haxby, unlocking the Local Plan, and enhancing the digital technology landscape to connect businesses and people to digital opportunities. By improving transport, infrastructure, and digital connectivity, we will make it easier for people to move, trade, and innovate.

This focus supports government priorities around improving infrastructure and connectivity as outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy Working Paper. By investing in transport links, digital technology, and efficient use of public land, York is helping to reduce regional disparities, stimulate economic activity, and ensure sustainable growth that benefits all communities.

## Station Gateway – a station fit for the future (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

**£mm**

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York Railway Station and the adjacent York Central development

**Description:** A phased redevelopment of York Station Gateway to increase capacity, create a future-ready multimodal transport hub, resolve accessibility issues, improve visitor and user experience, optimise commercial opportunities, and integrate more effectively with surrounding iconic heritage and transport infrastructure

**Context:**

As a key gateway to the city, York Station currently faces limitations in terms of accessibility and congestion. With the expansion of York Central, a modernised transport hub will be necessary to better connect the city to the regional economy and support sustainable transport options

Passenger numbers through York are forecast to double by 2050, with projections of 30-40 million annual users. The station’s future is linked to national

rail upgrades including the TransPennine route upgrade.

**Importance:** York Station is a key interchange for the North of England. It must be modernised to support growth in rail travel across the country, unlock the full potential of York Central, and provide a gateway to the city and the region to fully leverage economic growth and business ecosystems

**What are we doing:** Developing a long-term vision for the station in partnership with rail industry stakeholders, designed to be delivered in phases, aligned with the York Central development.

Work at the station is already underway, this includes:

- Redesigning the station’s frontage to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and buses
- Removing Queen Street Bridge and relocating taxi ranks and bus stops

- Improving public realms at Station Square and Tea Room Square
- Adding wider crossings, new cycle paths, and increased cycle parking
- Incorporating inclusive and accessible design features

**What this will lead to:** Greater capacity, a vastly improved passenger and visitor experience, enhanced rail connectivity, and economic uplift from better integration with York Central and wider regional networks.

**How does it fit York’s future:** Crucial to York’s role as a regional transport hub, driver of modal shift to rail, and enabler of inclusive growth through better access and infrastructure.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan and Yorkshire’s Plan for Rail by improving critical transport

infrastructure and leveraging York’s existing role as a regional transport hub to drive economic growth and unlock development opportunities.

**What does this mean for the UK:** York Station is a key national rail hub connecting the North of England to London and Scotland. This redevelopment will increase capacity and reliability across the entire network, support growth on strategic routes such as the East Coast Main Line and TransPennine corridor, and demonstrate how modern, integrated transport hubs can act as powerful catalysts for economic regeneration in regional cities across the UK.

**Current Position:** Wider work is already progressing on site but the station itself is being left behind; funding is needed to accelerate and expand delivery

**Barriers:** Funding gaps remain for later phases; complex coordination across stakeholders and aligning with national rail investment timelines adds risk

## New Station for Haxby (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

### £mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** Haxby

**Description:**

York has a 160-year legacy in rail innovation and is home to a cluster of rail organisations, including Network Rail’s Eastern Region hub. However, areas around the city, like Haxby, are poorly served by rail connections, limiting access to talent and economic opportunities. This project will construct a new, fully accessible two-platform station in Haxby, with integrated transport links to improve regional connectivity and provide sustainable travel options, and associated regeneration around it.

**Context:**

Haxby’s lack of a station has led to higher car dependency, restricting access to employment, education, and services. This project will offer a sustainable solution, making it easier for Haxby’s residents to connect to the wider York area and beyond.

**Importance:**

A new station will enhance regional rail connectivity, reduce car dependency, and provide better access to employment and education. It supports York’s Local Transport Strategy by contributing to the goal of reducing fossil fuel use by 20%, and it will drive growth and inclusion by enabling access to a broader, more diverse workforce.

**What Are We Doing?**

- Building a fully accessible two-platform station
- Integrating transport links with a 154-space car park, taxi rank, bus stops, and safer street designs
- Adding EV charging stations and cycle/pedestrian infrastructure

**What This Will Lead To:**

- Increased access to employment and education for communities around Haxby

- Greater use of public transport, reducing car dependency

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

This project enhances the connectivity of suburban York, making Haxby part of a wider regional transport network. It supports sustainable and inclusive mobility and aligns with York’s net-zero goals.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** The new station for Haxby aligns with the Local Growth Plan and Yorkshire’s Plan for Rail by strengthening foundational transport infrastructure and applying a place-based approach to improve regional connectivity, supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth in York and North Yorkshire.

### **Current Position:**

- Public consultation in 2022 with 81% support

- Contribution to York’s sustainable transport and growth strategies
- Strategic business case endorsed in 2023
- Planning decision due in 2025, construction expected in 2026, with delivery in 2034/35

## Accelerating Brownfield Site Development

**£mm**

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York-wide

**Description:** This project focuses on identifying and accelerating the development of brownfield land, with a focus on sustainable, affordable housing. The goal is to unlock development on new sites to meet York’s growing housing needs, which are connected through sustainable, accessible infrastructure developments..

**Context:** York’s housing affordability crisis is worsening, with a 9.3:1 income-to-house-price ratio. Brownfield sites offer an efficient and environmentally responsible solution to meet housing demand without using greenfield sites or encroaching on York’s Greenbelt. This initiative will accelerate the development of council-owned sites and other stalled sites in the city.

**Importance:** Developing brownfield sites will enable faster housing delivery while maintaining sustainable development and protecting the green belt. It will

provide affordable housing close to transportation links, fostering inclusive growth for York’s residents.

### What Are We Doing?

- Supporting brownfield sites for development, in our Local Plan, including British Sugar, Barbican, and Gasworks
- Supporting development through planning, funding, and site preparation
- Targeting affordable housing for key workers and other housing needs
- Identifying opportunities where above policy affordable housing can be delivered

### What This Will Lead To:

- More affordable housing across York
- Faster progress toward housing targets
- People living in sustainable, well-connected neighbourhoods

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

This project aligns with the mission for warm and affordable homes and contributes to York’s spatial strategy by transforming underutilised sites into high-quality housing.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan by maximising local assets and strengths to deliver sustainable, affordable housing on brownfield sites, supporting inclusive growth and efficient use of land within York and North Yorkshire.

### **Current Position:**

- Housing Delivery Programme known as ShapeYork in development.
- Partly supporting Net Zero projects
- Sites allocated for development in the new Local Plan

### **Barriers:**

- Ongoing site identification to develop a pipeline whilst protecting the permanence of the green belt
- Challenges with land ownership, planning, and infrastructure
- Viability and costs of delivery



## Unlocking the Local Plan (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York-wide

**Description:** York’s Local Plan is our crucial strategy that directs and manages the city’s spatial growth. By unlocking this plan, we ensure that the planned approach advances and the development it allocates and influences can meet our council ambitions, policy objectives and sustainable development priorities in a viable and deliverable way. Opportunities exist to unlock infrastructure delivery and support development to deliver above policy requirements to enable more benefits to be realised, including improved connectivity.

**Context:** Yorks Local Plan aligns to national and local priorities to spatially identify and support the delivery of c.20,000 new homes, economic development and high quality, sustainable design. Unlocking the plan will help ensure the city is meeting the identified demands by way of securing the supporting infrastructure and helping to

accelerate delivery of high quality and sustainable places.

**Importance:** Unlocking the Local Plan ensures York’s future development is delivered effectively meeting the needs of the new and existing communities in which it is delivered. It enables proactive management of York’s growth, supporting accelerated development and positioning the city to thrive in the face of evolving regulations and needs.

### What Are We Doing?

- Preparing to unlock infrastructure required to deliver strategic and non-strategic site allocations
- Identifying opportunities to maximise or exceed policy requirements
- Ensuring alignment across housing, employment, environmental, and connectivity needs with neighbouring authorities for consistency

### **What This Will Lead To:**

- Secured delivery of necessary infrastructure and futureproofing of infrastructure requirements
- Accelerated delivery of allocated sites
- Investment opportunities to exceed Local Plan policy requirements for the benefit of residents and businesses such as more affordable housing.

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

Unlocking the Local Plan ensures York grows in a way that is planned, sustainable and inclusive, achieving its objectives for affordable housing, economic opportunity and community wellbeing.

As national planning policies evolve, and the city’s population and economy shift, it will form the baseline for a future spatial strategy which responds to any changing needs of both current and future generations.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** Unlocking the Local Plan supports York’s sustainable, inclusive growth by ensuring coordinated housing, employment, and infrastructure development aligned with evolving regional and national priorities.

### **Current Position:**

- New Local Plan adopted in February 2025
- Awaiting national policy relating to the release of new Planning Regulations expected in summer 2025

### **Barriers:**

- Changing development costs
- Potential changes in national and regional planning frameworks
- Need for a coordinated approach with multiple partners, including CYC, MCA, and North Yorkshire Council

## Outer Ring Road Improvements (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

**£mm**

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** Outer Ring Road

**Description:** Take a phased approach to increase road capacity at the Outer Ring Road to support schemes to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre and to enhance economic and housing growth in line with York’s Local Plan.

**Context:** York’s outer ring road connects the city to its surrounding areas but faces congestion, pollution, and limited sustainable transport options. Upgrading it is essential to unlock housing and economic growth and to facilitate reduction of vehicle traffic from the city centre.

**Importance:** Improving the outer ring road will increase road capacity, and provide safer and more sustainable travel options for residents and visitors.

### What Are We Doing?

- Increasing road capacity and dualling

- Active travel improvements: pedestrian/cycle underpasses, orbital routes, interchanges.
- Coordination with housing development plans.

### What This Will Lead To:

- Essential to reduce city centre congestion and facilitate the wider Movement and Place Plan for the city.
- Safer, more sustainable travel options.
- Facilitate the Local Plan housing developments and economic growth across the city and region

### How Does It Fit York’s Future?

Supports the city’s move to improved sustainable and accessible, healthy transport options, and delivering housing and economic growth.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** The project facilitates delivering increased housing and economic growth, both locally and across the region.

**Current Position:**

- £72 million secured, planning permission granted.
- Design work ongoing; construction expected to begin in 2027.

**Barriers:**

- Rising construction costs.
- Developer contributions to future infrastructure costs.

## Delivering the Movement and Place Plan – A Healthier, More Sustainable and Better-Connected City

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York-wide

**Description:** Deliver a series of connected sustainable transport schemes and place-making schemes that reduce the number of vehicle miles travelled by 20% across York, enabling more people to choose to use sustainable, accessible, and healthy travel alternatives. This includes infrastructure improvements for walking, cycling, and public transport to provide more sustainable options for travel.

**Context:** York faces increasing transport pressures with 200,000 residents (and growing), 25,000 daily commuters, and 9 million annual visitors. There are 450,000 vehicle trips daily, contributing to rising traffic and emissions, set to increase as a result of population growth in the Local Plan. By offering better sustainable transport options and developing more high-quality public realm, we will achieve

climate goals, address public health concerns, boost the city’s economy and reduce car dependency.

**Importance:** The right transport infrastructure and balancing the needs of movement and place-making is key to improving air quality, reducing emissions, enhancing road safety, sustaining a thriving economy and making travel more inclusive and accessible for all. It is essential for York’s climate, economic and public health goals to keep York moving, despite a growing population.

### What Are We Doing?

- **Sustainable Travel Corridors:** Upgrading infrastructure and reallocating road space to sustainable modes of travel along key corridors to support walking, cycling, and public transport.

- **Accessibility Policies:** Making all forms of mobility more accessible, such as increasing blue badge parking, installing accessible bus stop infrastructure, barrier-free foot and cycle paths, reduced wait times at pedestrian crossings, increased seating along walking routes and inclusive cycle parking.
- **Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Improvements:** Expanding priority walking, cycling routes, and better facilities like safer pedestrian and cycle crossings, plus a fully **connected cycle network**.
- **Investing in Public Realm:** Reallocating road space to create enhanced public realm, helping to increase footfall and dwell time in local shopping areas and creating healthy places for everyone.
- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** Developing a strategic map of walking and cycling routes across York to prioritise high-impact areas for improvement.

#### What This Will Lead To:

- 90% of the city’s car and van fleet to be electric or hybrid by 2040.

- Most daily journeys will be carbon-neutral, enhancing accessibility, health, and sustainability.
- 20% reduction in driven vehicle miles by 2030
- 50% increase in bus patronage by 2030
- 100% increase in active travel by 2030

#### How Does It Fit York’s Future?

- **Connected to Opportunity:** Better access to jobs and services without car dependency.
- **Active Travel and Public Transport:** Encourages healthier lifestyles and reduces carbon emissions.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Aligns with housing development and climate targets, creating a more sustainable city.

#### Alignment with Local Growth Plan:

This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan’s focus on strengthening the foundations of York and North Yorkshire’s economy by investing in transport infrastructure and public realm, which supports sustainable economic growth. It contributes to the spatial priorities by addressing place-based needs across York, enhancing connectivity and

access. Additionally, improving transport supports wider goals around digital connectivity, housing, innovation, and skills development by making travel more accessible and inclusive, which in turn supports productivity and wellbeing in the local economy.

**Current Position:**

- LCWIP completed with major consultations from November 2023–February 2024.

Local Transport Strategy Schemes

- Reimagining York Streets (city centre)
- Sustainable travel corridor (Micklegate)
- Sustainable travel corridor (radial) (city centre)
- Sustainable travel neighbourhood
- Sustainable travel village
- Micromobility / car club contract
- Dial and Ride
- 20mph city/neighbourhoods

**Barriers:**

- **Funding Gaps:** Many projects need external funding sources.
- **Coordination Challenges:** Successful planning and funding applications are critical.
- **Costing Requirements:** Projects require detailed scoping and technical

## Enhancing the Digital Technology Landscape

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York-wide

**Description:** Develop strategies to bridge digital deprivation gaps, expand access to Wi-Fi hotspots, and provide digital training and resources to vulnerable groups.

**Context:** Digital skills are now essential, and gaps in connectivity limit equality, climate action, health, and access to services. York has a strong digital foundation but still faces connectivity challenges, especially in rural areas.

**Importance:** Bridging digital connectivity gaps promotes economic growth, reduces inequality, and helps establish York as a tech-forward city. This project focuses on both expanding digital skills and enhancing the infrastructure needed to support them, ensuring that vulnerable groups have not just access to Wi-Fi and training, but also the necessary hardware and connectivity. This effort supports York’s growing digital and cultural economy, which already

employs over 1,500 businesses, and lays the groundwork for future technological innovation.

### What Are We Doing?

- Strategy development to attract private sector investment.
- Expand access to Wi-Fi hotspots.
- Establish support programmes and digital training.
- Support vulnerable groups with data access and devices.
- Develop 6G Hub Project with University of York.
- Improve infrastructure in high-density and rural areas.

### What This Will Lead To:

- City-wide digital inclusion.



- Stronger digital skills and employment opportunities.
- Attraction of tech investment and businesses.
- More resilient and connected communities.

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

A foundational part of becoming a smart, connected, inclusive city. Supports all strategic goals from employment to health, equity to climate.

### **Alignment with Local Growth Plan:**

This project supports the Local Growth Plan’s emphasis on fostering a strong digital economy, promoting inclusive growth by addressing connectivity gaps, and attracting investment to develop York’s technology sector, thereby building resilient, connected communities across the city.

### **Current Position:**

- Digital Inclusion Coordinator funded until March 2026 via Household Support Fund.
- Fibre broadband rollout ongoing (5,000+ premises, rising to 8,000 by end of 2025).
- Elvington, Wheldrake, Stockton now connected.

### **Barriers:**

- Revenue and operational capacity are ongoing challenges.
- York must remain attractive to private sector investors—clear strategy and “city of choice” messaging are essential.

## Good Growth for All

Our approach to growth is to ensure it benefits everyone. To that end, we are committed to ensuring all residents, especially the most disadvantaged, can share in the city’s success.

Our projects in this section focus on social value and community inclusion. Whether through initiatives such as the regional circular food distribution network, celebrating lifelong learning, or the healthy workforce programme, we are taking steps to ensure that health, education, and employment opportunities are available to all, and especially to the residents who most need these opportunities.

By embedding the principles of inclusion and wellbeing into our growth, we will create a city that is not only economically successful but also socially and environmentally sustainable. In doing so, we help realise the ambition set out in the York 2032 Vision: to establish the conditions of a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share in and take pride in its success, now and for future generations.

This approach supports government ambitions to promote inclusive economic growth and social equity, ensuring that opportunities in health, education, and employment reach all communities. By embedding social value and wellbeing at the core of growth, York contributes to national efforts to build stronger, fairer, and more resilient places across the UK.

## Regional Circular Food Distribution Network

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York and the wider region

**Description:** Build community capacity for a circular food redistribution network, aiming to eliminate food waste, reduce emissions from transport, and support vulnerable communities.

**Context:** York and North Yorkshire are strong in food and farming, with companies like Nestle and McCain based in the region. However, food waste is a major issue, with 300,000 tonnes wasted annually in Yorkshire and Humber. The project aims to create a circular food economy, addressing both environmental and social challenges.

**Importance:** A circular food network can reduce food waste, support vulnerable communities, and lower emissions from long-distance food transport. It will strengthen the regional economy by keeping value within local food systems and building more resilient supply chains.

### What Are We Doing?

**Community Capacity Building:** Empowering local communities to take charge of food redistribution and rescue efforts.

**Circular Supply Chains:** Developing closed-loop systems to reuse surplus food, by-products, and waste.

**Local Value Chains:** Reducing food miles by promoting local sourcing and shortening supply chains.

**Anchor Institution Procurement:** Encouraging public bodies and large businesses to purchase from local circular food networks.

**Innovation in Surplus Use & Packaging:** Exploring sustainable packaging and food processing methods, positioning the region as a leader in food waste solutions.

## Future Readiness for Food Waste

Collection: Preparing for the rollout of domestic kerbside food waste collection.

### What This Will Lead To:

- Elimination of avoidable food waste.
- Stronger food security for vulnerable communities.
- Reduced carbon emissions from food transport and waste processing.
- More resilient local economies based on sustainable food systems.

### How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project supports a Healthy and Resilient York by strengthening local food systems, reducing waste, and contributing to environmental sustainability. It reinforces York’s leadership in food innovation and cooperative economic growth.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This project supports the Food and Farming growth sector and promotes sustainable local food systems, aligning

with the Plan’s focus on maximising local assets and driving resilient, inclusive economic growth.

### Current Position:

- The project is in early development, with initial work on community building and supply chain mapping.
- Some partnerships with local food businesses have been established.

### Barriers:

- Funding: Investment is needed to launch and scale the redistribution network.
- Infrastructure Development: Support for community infrastructure and sustainable food technologies is required.
- Regulatory Challenges: Navigating food safety regulations and compliance will be a significant hurdle.

## A Healthy Workforce – Supporting People to Thrive in Work and Health

£mm

### To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

**Location:** York

**Description:** A blended programme providing targeted occupational health support, employer assistance to adapt workplaces for health conditions, and skills development to help people with health challenges return to or remain in work.

**Context:** York’s economy faces growing challenges related to chronic illness and mental health, which have worsened due to the cost-of-living crisis and long-term impacts of COVID-19. The city is shifting its approach to health and care, focusing on prevention, strengths-based interventions, and improving the workforce’s health.

**Importance:** Supporting people with health conditions (such as mental health, long COVID, and musculoskeletal issues) to return to or stay in work improves workforce productivity, reduces poverty, and enhances overall wellbeing. Employers also need support to adapt workplaces for employees with these challenges.

### What Are We Doing?

Targeted Occupational Health Support: Offering tailored health interventions to help individuals manage health conditions while remaining employed.

Support for Employers: Assisting businesses in adapting workplaces and policies to accommodate employees with long-term health conditions.

#### Return-to-Work Schemes & Skills

Development: Providing training and skill development to help individuals recover and return to work with confidence.

### What This Will Lead To:

Improved health and job outcomes for people with long-term health conditions.

Reduced hospitalisations and stronger health support outside of clinical settings.

Increased workforce participation and productivity.

### **How Does It Fit York’s Future?**

This programme is central to York’s Healthy and Resilient future by integrating health, housing, and employment support, improving the lives of individuals with health conditions and enhancing economic security.

**Alignment with Local Growth Plan:** This programme supports the “everyday economy” by enhancing health and workforce productivity, aligning with the Plan’s emphasis on skills development, workforce wellbeing, and integrated health and social care to drive inclusive economic growth.

**What does this mean for the UK:** Building out from the Trailblazer programme being implemented by the YNYCA, this programme offers a case study in supporting people into work which can be rolled out throughout the country.

### **Current Position:**

Occupational health services for council staff were launched in July 2023, including an Employee Assistance Programme.

Early-stage funding provided through Trailblazer initiatives.

### **Barriers:**

**Capital Funding:** Significant investment needed to deliver new health and housing facilities

**Revenue Funding:** Ongoing funding required to support health infrastructure and housing development.

**Partnership Working:** Building stronger relationships with NHS Property Services and coordinating with social care partners is crucial.

## Creative Chrysalis: A new arts and culture innovation centre for York

**£mm**

### **To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance**

#### **Location: York City Centre**

#### **Description:**

Building on the cultural vibrancy of York, this will be a new arts and exhibition space in the middle of the city that will welcome world-class artists and provide space to showcase emerging talent in a cutting-edge environment that can act as a springboard for future artistic success.

**Context:** York is the only UNESCO City of Media Arts in the UK. It is host to a diverse, expanding range of festivals and exhibitions and is home to a growing number of creative organisations and artists. It attracts top talent across the arts from around the world. However, there is limited creative space in the city, particularly in its historic centre, that can be utilised to test, innovate and showcase.

#### **Importance**

The centre will inspire new cultural experiences for residents in York and support efforts to attract to and retain talent in the city, with artists knowing that they can choose York over London and other bigger cities.

#### **What are we doing**

Supporting our creative sectors and maintaining York’s position as home to globally recognised festivals and cultural innovation

#### **What will this lead to**

York will be recognised as the beating heart of culture and creativity in the region, cementing its status as a home for artists of all backgrounds.

#### **How does it fit York’s future**

Culture and the arts are a key part of York’s future economy, building on the success of festivals such as Aesthetica but also related to cutting edge innovation such as XR stories. A cultural centre in the middle of

the city is the next step in supporting the city’s innovators and attracting talent to the city.

### **Alignment to the Local Growth Plan**

The creative industries are considered a competitive advantage sector for York and North Yorkshire but it is clear that there is a lack of dedicated creative, artistic space across the region which a culture and arts centre in York will resolve.

### **What does it mean for the UK**

The Creative Industries are considering one of the key development sectors in the UK through the National Industrial Strategy. Creating a dedicated space in a city that has a thriving cultural scene, despite limited resources, provides an exciting

opportunity to drive these industries forward at a global scale.

### **Current position**

- Research undertaken to identify location
- Engagement with cultural leaders
- Initial feasibility undertaken

### **Barriers**

- Capacity and funding to progress with business case
- Visibility
- Ensuring transport connectivity and alignment to the Movement and Place Plan





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**Corporate Scrutiny****8 September 2025**

Report of the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Finance Officer

**2024/25 Finance and Performance Outturn****Summary**

1. This report provides a year end analysis of the overall finance and performance position for the year. This is the final report covering the financial year 2024/25.
2. There have been reports to the Executive throughout the year that have outlined an improved financial position compared to 2023/24 however one that continues to be challenging as a £2.6m overspend was projected in the Monitor 3 report in January. This was after the use of £1.1m from earmarked reserves.
3. This report provides detail that there was a budget overspend of £1.123m which has been funded from the use of contingency £576k and through the use of £547k draw down from earmarked reserves. This has been an improvement of £3.2m from the position forecast at Monitor 3 report.
4. There has been no need to draw on general reserves which stand at £7.4m.
5. The outturn position shows that most areas of the council are now broadly in budget, and it is very pleasing following significant hard work within the service that Children's social care has been reducing its overspend through the year. The key area that required continued focus is Adult Social Care where the overspend of £4.1m is putting pressure on the council's overall position.
6. As outlined in previous reports, the existing cost control measures remain in place, and further action is needed to bring spending down to an affordable level over the medium term, to safeguard the Council's financial resilience and stability. The impact that this work is having can be clearly seen in this outturn position and the Council's track record of delivering

savings, along with robust financial management, provides a sound platform to continue to be able to deal with future challenges.

7. Local government continues to be in challenging times, with worsening performance in a number of sectors nationally. The majority of performance indicators chosen to support and monitor the Council Plan in York, continue to show a generally positive and stable trend against this difficult financial picture and shows the hard work from staff, partners and the city to tackle these challenges.
8. Council Plan Progress Reports, providing an update of activity against each of the plan's seven priorities, will be published on an annual basis and sit alongside a six-monthly snapshot of progress available on the Council's website (<https://www.york.gov.uk/council-plan-1/snapshot-progress-council-plan/5>). The reports complement the Finance and Performance Monitor, providing a narrative for the steps that the Council is taking to meet its ambitions.

## **Background**

### **Financial Summary and Mitigation Strategy**

9. The draft outturn position shown an overspend of £1.1m across service areas for the year compared to a comparable overspend of £4.3m at Monitor 3. There has been a requirement to balance the budget with a drawdown from earmarked reserve totalling £572k as well as use of contingency £576k. The year end position has improved by £3.2m compared to Monitor 3.
10. As outlined in previous reports to Executive, the financial position across the council has been less severe than was faced in the previous year. Council identified £14m of savings at its meeting in February 2024 and even though these have not all been fully delivered the result has given the council much needed resilience. There are however continued recurring overspends, primarily across Adults Social Care, which cause concerns. Many of the underspends and mitigations that we have seen us to balance the budget at year end have generally been one off.
11. Members will be aware that the financial position of local government is a national challenge and that the pressures being seen across both Adult and Children's Social Care are not something that is unique to York. Many Councils are experiencing significant financial pressures and struggling to balance their budgets now, so it is vital that we continue the work started

last year to reduce our expenditure down to a sustainable level both within the current financial year and over the medium term.

12. The delivery of savings plans continues to be a clear priority for all officers. Corporate Directors and Directors will keep Executive Members informed of progress on a regular basis.

### Financial Analysis

13. The Council's net budget is £149m. Following on from previous years, the challenge of delivering savings continues with c£14m to be required in 2024/25 to reach a balanced budget. The draft outturn on a Directorate basis is shown in the table 1 below.

Service area	Net budget* £'000	2024/25 Q3 Forecast Variation £'000	2024/25 Outturn Variation £'000	Change £'000
Children & Education	35,261	994	531	-463
Adult Social Care & Integration	52,051	3,608	4,155	+547
Env. Transport & Planning	30,360	-859	-1,899	-1,040
Housing & Communities	11,613	711	688	-23
Corporate & Central Services	19,407	-149	-2,352	-2,203
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>148,692</b>	<b>4,305</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>-3,182</b>
Contingency	576	-576	-576	0
Use of earmarked reserves		-1,089	-547	+542
<b>Total including contingency</b>	<b>149,268</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,640</b>

\*Budgets includes Support Service Charges totalling £20m with the offset being within Central Services

Table 1: Finance overview

14. The year end position shows that there has been an overspend across service budgets of £1,123k which can be funded from the use of contingency £576k and the need to draw down of earmarked reserves totalling £547k. This is an overall improvement of c.£3.2m compared to Monitor 3 which demonstrates the council's cost control measures are working.

## Directorate Analysis

### Corporate & Central Services

15. The forecast outturn position for the remaining areas of the Council is a net underspend of £2,352k primarily related to the Treasury Management budget. The table below summarises the variances by service area.

	2024/25 Budget £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Outturn Variance %
Director of Finance	5,967	-122	-2.0%
CO HR & Support Services	10,137	-92	-1.0%
Director of Governance	3,821	-66	-1.7%
City Development	1,136	-99	-8.7%
Public Health	607	-5	-0.8%
Other Corporate & Treasury Mgt	18,942	-1,968	-10.4%
Support Services Net Income	-21,203	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,407</b>	<b>-2,352</b>	<b>-12.1%</b>

\*The above includes £1,036k of Support Service Charges and £21,203k of support service income

16. Within the corporate services directorates have all delivered underspends during the financial year which totalled £384k (excluding Corporate and Treasury).
17. Pressures in Finance due to External Audit fees (£157k) being higher than budgeted due to additional work undertaken as a part of the year end accounts. These have been offset by increased insurance interest (£71k) and favourable staffing variations and recharges (Finance £95k, Business Intelligence £75k and Procurement £18k).
18. Within Property there have been unbudgeted dilapidation costs of Commercial Properties (£142k, 1 Museum Street) and additional spend on external legal fees, (£137k). These were offset by additional fee income across the architects and engineering teams (£88k).
19. The Governance underspend is largely due to favourable staffing variations in Legal (£103k) which have covered overspends in Coroners (£41k) and Democracy (£21k).
20. The underspend in HR and Support Services is predominately due to staffing underspends in Business Support.

21. Across City Development the £98k savings have been achieved through staff vacancies and an additional opportunity to charge staff costs to the UK Share Prosperity Grant.
22. The Public Health Budget is showing an underspend of £5k however there was a net £60k underspend on the Public Health reserve that has been transferred into the Public Health reserve. The reserve stands at 31/03/2025 at £837k.
23. The Treasury Management budget underspent by £1,699k which was due to the levels of slippage in the capital programme and the reduced requirement for borrowing. This will not be recurring as the council is committed to the borrowing, but the timing will determine the revenue impact.

### **Performance – Service Delivery**

24. This performance report is based upon the city outcome and council delivery indicators included in the Performance Framework for the Council Plan (2023-2027) which was launched in September 2023. Wider or historic strategic and operational performance information is published quarterly on the Council's open data platform; [www.yorkopendata.org.uk](http://www.yorkopendata.org.uk)
25. The Executive for the Council Plan (2023-2027) agreed a core set of indicators to help monitor the Council priorities and these provide the structure for performance updates in this report. Some indicators are not measured on a quarterly basis and the DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three results whether they are annual or quarterly.
26. A summary of the city outcome and council delivery indicators by council plan theme are shown in the paragraphs below along with the latest data for the core indicator set.

How the Council will operate (Council)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to in time - (YTD)	88.99% (2023/24)	95.32% (2024/25)	↑ Good	Monthly	Not available	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
% of 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	85.54% (2023/24)	70.11% (2024/25)	↓ Bad	Monthly	Not available	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
The % of the Talkabout panel reporting an 'excellent' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	10.92% (2023/24)	11.36% (2024/25)	→	Quarterly	No benchmarking as local indicator	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
The % of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'good' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	34.86% (2023/24)	27.76% (2024/25)	→	Quarterly	No benchmarking as local indicator	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
The % of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'satisfactory' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	34.51% (2023/24)	38.17% (2024/25)	→	Quarterly	No benchmarking as local indicator	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
The % of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'poor' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	19.72% (2023/24)	22.71% (2024/25)	→	Quarterly	No benchmarking as local indicator	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
Average Sickness Days per FTE - CYC (Excluding Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	11.2 (2023/24)	12.1 (2024/25)	→	Monthly	CIPD (Public Sector) 2022/23 10.6	Q1 2024/25 data available in August 2025
York Customer Centre average speed of answer	00:00:13 (Phone) (2023/24)	00:00:42 (Phone) (2024/25)	→	Monthly	No benchmarking as local indicator	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
The DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three data points whether they are annual or quarterly. All historic data is available via the Open Data Platform						

27. **FOI and EIR – % of requests responded to in-time (YTD)** – 95% of FOI and EIR requests were responded to in-time during 2024-25, which is an increase from 89% in 2023-24 and the highest figure seen for a number of years.
28. **% of 4Cs complaints responded to in-time** – There has been a large decrease in the number of corporate complaints received over recent years and the decrease has continued into 2024-25 with 1,054 complaints (compared to 1,310 in 2023-24 and 1,866 in 2022-23). The percentage of corporate complaints responded to in time during 2024-25 was 70.1% which is a large decrease from 85.5% in 2023-24. The figures were lower during the start of the year but had increased in the second half and the March figure was 85.3% showing an improvement.
29. **% of the Talkabout panel reporting an excellent, good, satisfactory or poor experience when they last contacted the council about a service** – The results for this indicator for Q3 2024-25 show that the majority of the panel report having a 'good' (28%) or 'satisfactory' (38%) experience when they last contacted the Council, with 11% reporting an 'excellent' experience and 23% reporting a 'poor' experience, consistent with Q1 2024-25.

30. **Average sickness days per full time equivalent (FTE) employee** – At the end of March 2025, the average number of sickness days per FTE (rolling 12 months) had increased to 12.1 days from 11.2 in March 2024. The latest benchmarks show that the CIPD public sector benchmark is 10.6 days per FTE, putting us above national trends. The number of people off work on an average day has remained relatively stable in the last year at c.120-140 people, with the overall figure affected by the number of “long-term” sickness cases. Further detail on the organisational approach to addressing and supporting sickness actions can be found within the Staffing Matters and Urgency quarterly workforce reports.
31. **York Customer Centre average speed of answer** – Phones were answered, on average, in 42 seconds during 2024-25 by the York Customer Centre. This is slower than in 2023-24 (13 seconds) but faster than the previous few years. Call volumes have increased in the last year due to garden waste calls.

#### **Consultation**

32. Not applicable.

#### **Options**

33. Not applicable.

#### **Analysis**

34. Not applicable.

#### **Council Plan**

35. Not applicable.

#### **Implications**

36. The recommendations in the report potentially have implications across several areas. However, at this stage
- **Financial implications** are contained throughout the main body of the report. The actions and recommendations contained in this report should ensure the continued financial stability and resilience of the Council both in the current year and in future years.

- **Human Resources (HR)**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Legal** The Council is under a statutory obligation to set a balanced budget on an annual basis. Under the Local Government Act 2003 it is required to monitor its budget during the financial year and take remedial action to address overspending and/or shortfalls of income.
- **Procurement**, there are no specific procurement implications to this report.
- **Health and Wellbeing**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Environment and Climate action**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Affordability**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Equalities and Human Rights**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Data Protection and Privacy**, there are no implications related to the recommendations.
- **Communications**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Economy**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.

### **Risk Management**

37. An assessment of risks is completed as part of the annual budget setting exercise. These risks are managed effectively through regular reporting and corrective action being taken where necessary and appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

38. The Committee is asked to:
- a. Note the finance and performance information.
  - b. Note the use of earmarked reserves in order to balance the budget.

Reason: to ensure expenditure is kept within the approved budget.



## Contact Details

**Author:**

Debbie Mitchell  
Chief Finance Officer  
[Debbie.Mitchell@york.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.Mitchell@york.gov.uk)

Ian Cunningham  
Head of Business Intelligence  
[ian.cunningham@york.gov.uk](mailto:ian.cunningham@york.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Ian Floyd  
Chief Operating Officer

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 26/08/25

**Wards Affected:**

**All** ☒

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None.

**Annexes:** Corporate Q4 24-25 Scrutiny Committee Scorecard

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## Scrutiny - Corporate 2024/2025

No of Indicators = 29 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.  
Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub August 2025

				Previous Years			2024/2025								
			Collection Frequency	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT		
01. Business	BPI110	Forecast Budget Outturn (£000s Overspent / - Underspent) - CYC Subtotal (excluding contingency)	Quarterly	£4,887	£3,661	£1,123	£3,896	£4,445	£4,305	£1,123	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green		
	BUR01	Business Rates - Rateable Value	Monthly	£252,801,976	£242,602,745	£242,055,571	£242,054,821	£242,673,321	£243,513,996	£242,055,571	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
02. Customer Service	CFS01	Overall Customer Centre Satisfaction (%) - CYC	Monthly	72.10%	84.40%	84.90%	83.60%	84.00%	84.60%	87.00%	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral		
	OCC06B	Number of days taken to process Housing Benefit new claims and change events (DWP measure)	Monthly	3.72	4.16	3.88	6.27	6.01	5.09	2.13	-	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral		
		Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	6.32	4.69	(Avail Jul 25)	8.62	9.44	8.52	-	-				
	YCC030a	Footfall in Customer Centre - Average wait time (Minutes)	Monthly	9	9	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green		
	YCC057	YCC Average Speed of answer - Operators	Weekly	00:01:42	00:00:13	00:00:42	00:00:42	00:01:05	00:00:25	00:00:22	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
03. Human Resources	STF01	Staff Headcount - CYC Total (Excluding Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	2,546	2,597	2,694	2,587	2,638	2,659	2,694	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
		Staff Headcount - CYC Total (Including Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	3,405	3,368	3,434	3,358	3,373	3,400	3,434	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
	STF08	Staff FTE - CYC Total (Excluding Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	2,148.92	2,212.08	2,334.82	2,205.88	2,249.66	2,297.98	2,334.82	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
	OCC09	CYC stand-alone apprenticeships (excluding schools) - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	24	21	14	18	20	21	14	-	Up is Good	▼ Red		
	STF100	Average Sickness Days per FTE - CYC (Excluding Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	Monthly	11.96	11.2	12.06	11.49	11.58	11.84	12.06	-	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral		
		Benchmark - CIPD (Public Sector)	Annual	10.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	STF107	Voluntary Turnover (%) - CYC Total (Including Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	Monthly	11.38%	8.33%	8.09%	8.70%	8.55%	8.19%	8.09%	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
04. Risk Management	CORP02L a	Red rated Large Projects - CYC - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	0	2	2	2	3	2	2	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
	CORP02L b	Amber rated Large Projects - CYC - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	11	8	12	7	9	6	12	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
	CORP101	Large Project - Hyperhubs - Union Terrace	Quarterly	-	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	(Paused)	Amber	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
		Large Project - EV Charger	Quarterly	-	Amber	Red	Amber	Red	(Paused)	Red	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
		Large Project - Carbon Reduction	Quarterly	-	-	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
		Large Project - HR System Transfer to Cloud	Quarterly	-	-	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		
		Large Project - Green Waste	Discontinued	-	-	Complete	Green	Complete	-	-	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral		

			Previous Years			2024/2025								
			Collection Frequency	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
Environment	Council	Large Project - Mansion House	Quarterly	-	-	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
		Large Project - Retrofit One Stop Shop York (ROSSY)	Quarterly	-	-	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
		Large Project - CRM Replacement	Quarterly	-	-	Amber	-	Amber	Green	Amber	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
		Large Project - Hyperhubs - Askham Bar	Quarterly	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Amber	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
		Large Project - City Leap Accelerator	Quarterly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
Finance	05.	BPI110	Forecast Budget Outturn (£000s Overspent / - Underspent) - CYC Subtotal (excluding contingency)	Quarterly	£4,887	£3,661	£1,123	£3,896	£4,445	£4,305	£1,123	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
06. Resident Surveys	TAP02	% of Talkabout panel satisfied with the way the council runs things	Quarterly	47.30%	43.84%	48.46%	41.47%	-	48.46%	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral	
		Benchmark - LG Inform	Quarterly	62.00%	-	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	-	-			
	TAP37	% of the Talkabout panel reporting an 'excellent' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	10.92%	11.36%	11.07%	-	11.36%	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral	
		% of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'good' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	34.86%	27.76%	29.07%	-	27.76%	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral	
		% of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'satisfactory' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	34.51%	38.17%	37.02%	-	38.17%	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral	
		% of the Talkabout panel reporting a 'poor' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	19.72%	22.71%	22.84%	-	22.71%	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral	
08. Information Governance	FOI01	FOI & EIR - Total Requests Received	Monthly	1,291	1,640	1,681	427	406	404	444	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
	FOI02	FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to In time - (YTD)	Quarterly	85.50%	88.99%	95.32%	96.14%	95.50%	95.21%	95.32%	-	Up is Good	▲ Green	
		FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to In time	Monthly	85.48%	88.99%	95.32%	96.14%	94.82%	94.60%	95.66%	-	Up is Good	▲ Green	
	FOI05	DP (Data Protection Act) / SAR (Subject Access Request) - Total Received - (YTD)	Monthly	132	175	187	49	93	141	187	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
		DP (Data Protection Act) / SAR (Subject Access Request) - % In time - (YTD)	Quarterly	64.39%	72.00%	83.54%	86.05%	85.00%	84.87%	83.54%	-	Up is Good	▲ Green	
	IG14da	% of 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	Monthly	94.56%	85.54%	70.11%	48.28%	71.55%	81.75%	78.34%	-	Up is Good	▼ Red	
	IG22a	% of Grade 1 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	Monthly	86.15%	66.32%	70.64%	46.40%	71.53%	79.76%	78.41%	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral	
	IG35h	Number of EIR Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing")	Monthly	-	20	20	21	20	15	20	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral	
	IG35k	Number of FOI Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing")	Monthly	-	54	45	29	55	40	45	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral	
	IG36h	Number of EIR Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing") - > 30 days	Monthly	-	3	1	1	1	3	1	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green	
	IG36k	Number of FOI Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing") > 30 days	Monthly	-	10	9	5	8	4	9	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral	



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**Corporate Scrutiny****8 September 2025**

Report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

**A Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York****Summary**

1. This report presents the Committee with a Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York document (Annex A) developed by the Scrutiny Review Working Group and agreed with the Council Leader and Deputy Leader. Members are asked to agree to the Shared Vision sitting in the charge of the Committee as a 'live' document.
2. An Executive / Scrutiny Protocol for City of York Council, also developed by the Working Group and agreed with the Leader and Deputy Leader, has been referred to the Audit and Governance Committee, and is included for information at Annex B.

**Background**

3. Following the February 2024, Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge of the City of York Council, the subsequent report presented to the Council's Executive in May 2024 stated: "Scrutiny arrangements at CYC would benefit from review. As a function of governance, it can be hugely beneficial for quality of decision-making if it is fully supported and empowered to be a positive and integral part of policy development. It is clear that this is recognised by the administration as an area where a fresh look at how improvements can be made would also be a good use of time and effort."
4. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) was therefore commissioned to undertake a Scrutiny Impact Review of City of York Council. This review was conducted in November and December 2024.
5. The final CfGS recommendations were reported to the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee on 10 March 2025, with a proposed action plan to address each of the

recommendations in full. All Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs were invited to attend the meeting and contribute to the debate.

6. The CfGS's Recommendation 1, as reported to the above meeting, stated: 'The Council should work to develop a shared vision and understanding of scrutiny.' The action plan proposed that this work be taken forward by a cross-party working group for discussion and agreement with the Leader and Deputy Leader once proposals had been developed.
7. This would aim to support and develop clarity over the role of scrutiny, and foster a robust organisational culture acknowledging and valuing the role of scrutiny in enhancing accountability and decision-making through collaboration and constructive challenge.
8. The CfGS's Recommendation 4, as reported to the above meeting, stated: 'Revisit and refresh the Cabinet/Scrutiny protocol, including the establishment of regular structured meetings between Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs and relevant Cabinet Member(s) to discuss collaboration and future mutual priorities and upcoming decisions and projects.' The action plan proposed that this work be taken forward by the same cross-party working group for discussion and agreement with the Leader and Deputy Leader once proposals had been developed.
9. Following agreement by the Committee, the recommendations, action plan and the comments of the Committee were then presented to Executive on 11 March 2025.
10. Following approval by Executive, the recommendations and action plan were then presented to Full Council on 27 March 2025. Council endorsed the proposed actions, including the establishment of a cross-party working group, consisting of all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, to lead and oversee work to implement the recommendations.
11. This group was then established as the Scrutiny Review Working Group and held its first meeting on 16 April 2025, with Cllrs Fenton and Merrett respectively elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group. Following the introduction of a revised scrutiny committee structure in May 2025, new scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs who were not already members of the Working Group were co-opted to its membership.
12. At its meeting on 5 June 2025, the Scrutiny Review Working Group considered examples of best practice from comparable local authorities to inform the development of a 'Shared Vision for Scrutiny' document,

and guidance published by the CfGS to assist with the development of a Scrutiny / Executive Protocol. Draft Shared Vision and Executive / Scrutiny Protocol documents were then developed and considered at the Working Group's meeting on 30 June 2025 and revised to take members' comments into account.

13. Revised drafts of the Shared Vision and Protocol documents were then considered by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and agreed on 14 July 2025.
14. The agreed drafts were then approved by the Working Group at its meeting on 23 July.
15. The Protocol was referred to the Audit and Governance Committee, with the recommendation that the Protocol be approved for inclusion in the Council's Constitution, and was due to be considered by that committee at its meeting on 3 September 2025.
16. The Working Group recommended that the Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York be referred to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to note, and that the document sit in the charge of the Committee as a 'live' document to be updated and adapted when required.

## Consultation

17. Consultation on the Shared Vision has been undertaken by the cross-party Scrutiny Review Working Group, with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, with Democratic Services, and with the Director of Governance.

## Implications

18. The implications are as follows:
  - **Financial** – none directly arising from this report. As noted in the report to Council on 27 March 2025, costs associated with the provision of training for members and officers can be met from existing budgets.
  - **Human Resources (HR)** – none directly arising from this report.
  - **Equalities** – none directly arising from this report.
  - **Legal** – none directly arising from this report. The Council has a statutory duty to operate a scrutiny function.
  - **Crime and Disorder** – none directly arising from this report.

- **Information Technology (IT)** – none directly arising from this report.
- **Property** – none directly arising from this report.
- **Other** – none directly arising from this report.

## Risk Management

19. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the Shared Vision document developed by the Scrutiny Review Working Group, and agree to the Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York sitting in the charge of the Committee as a 'live' document.

Reason: To strengthen the scrutiny function and to fulfil the recommendation endorsed by Council in March 2025 in relation to a Shared Vision for scrutiny in York.

## Contact Details

### Author:

James Parker  
Scrutiny Officer  
Democratic Governance  
[james.parker@york.gov.uk](mailto:james.parker@york.gov.uk)

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bryn Roberts  
Director of Governance and Monitoring  
Officer

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 29 August 2025

**Wards Affected:**

**All** ☒

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Background Papers:

- Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, Scrutiny Impact Report: City of York Council,  
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s182228/Annex%20A%20York%20Scrutiny%20Impact%20Report.pdf>



- City of York Council Scrutiny Impact Review Action Plan,  
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s182229/Annex%20B%20Scrutiny%20Impact%20Review%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

## **Annexes**

- Annex A: A Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York
- Annex B: Executive / Scrutiny Protocol for City of York Council

## **Abbreviations**

CfGS – Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

LGA – Local Government Association

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## **A Shared Vision for Scrutiny in York**

Scrutiny in York will ensure effective democratic accountability, support robust decision making, and enhance public service delivery. This will be achieved by a Member-led Scrutiny function which is held in high regard by its partners and stakeholders, and which will make a positive impact for the citizens of York.

Scrutiny is a core component of the governance structure of City of York Council. Scrutiny Members, the Executive and senior officers will all work to create a culture of collaboration and constructive challenge based on quality information, leading the way in making this vision a reality. Ensuring good Scrutiny in York is a whole council responsibility.

To achieve this, Scrutiny in York will follow the nationally agreed 'Four Principles of Good Scrutiny':<sup>1</sup>

- Providing constructive “critical friend” challenge;
- Amplifying public voice and concerns;
- Being led by ‘independent minded people’ who take responsibility for their role;
- Driving improvement in public services.

To succeed, the Council recognises that the following conditions need to be present:

1. Parity of Esteem between Scrutiny and the Executive: Scrutiny should be held in high regard and treated with the same respect as Executive decision making functions, underpinning a positive culture of Scrutiny within the Council.
2. Councillor Leadership and Engagement: Scrutiny Members set their own work programmes and priorities and should be empowered to engage in a positive way with Scrutiny work.
3. Clarity of Purpose and Focus: Scrutiny activities should be well-planned, focused and timely, with a clear understanding of how they can add value, influence outcomes and make a meaningful impact.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cfqs.org.uk/revisiting-the-four-principles-of-good-scrutiny/>

4. Evidence Based Investigation and Clear Recommendations: Scrutiny should be impartial and driven by evidence and reasoning. Recommendations should be clear, feasible and deliverable, with their impact and resource implications considered.
5. Reflecting the Concerns of Residents: Scrutiny should reflect and value the views of citizens and service users and providers, and engage clearly and constructively with stakeholders including harder to reach groups.
6. Clear Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: For Scrutiny to succeed, the roles of all participants in the Scrutiny process should be clear and understood by all.
7. Mutual Respect: Scrutiny should be constructive and challenging but will only succeed if all partners work together considerately and collaboratively within a climate of non-partisan working.
8. Effective Process – Scrutiny members should have timely access to relevant information to enable them to do their work.
9. Appropriate Training and Development: Scrutiny's role and value in supporting good decision making and policy development should be well understood by Members and Officers.

## **Executive / Scrutiny Protocol for City of York Council**

### **Introduction**

1. This Protocol applies to all members of scrutiny committees, any member who may be a member of a Task and Finish Group and all members of the Executive.

### **Policy development, pre-decision scrutiny and review of policy implementation**

2. The importance of early input from Scrutiny into policy development is recognised. Executive Members and/or officers should bring to the attention of the relevant scrutiny committee any policy that is being developed or is due for review to ensure timely input.
3. Policy development will be carried out through discussion at the relevant scrutiny committee or through a Task and Finish Group overseen by the relevant scrutiny committee. The Executive and relevant officers will consider the views of scrutiny members in the development of the policy and provide a response to the recommendations of scrutiny. The detail of scrutiny's involvement shall also be included within the body of the Executive report. The Executive/Full Council will continue to be responsible for approving and adopting policy.
4. Executive Members may wish to request views from Scrutiny members on a decision before it is taken in order to be able to consider different views and perspectives prior to a decision being taken.
5. Scrutiny members may wish to review the implementation of new or revised policies, with a view to identifying best practice or lessons learned.

## Holding the Executive to account

6. A key role of scrutiny is in holding the Executive to account for decisions taken and the performance of services. In holding the Executive to account Scrutiny members will:
  - Consider decisions taken by the Executive, individually and collectively and items on the Forward Plan;
  - Review service performance and performance against policy and targets;
  - Be prepared to ask searching questions that provide a constructive challenge;
  - Be respectful in their interactions with Executive Members and officers;
  - Represent the voice of the public;
  - Listen to the responses provided and to assist the Executive in identifying areas for further consideration and improvement.
7. In return, Executive Members will:
  - Be willing to be open, honest and engaged in providing a response to constructive challenge;
  - Value the importance of scrutiny;
  - Be supportive of the scrutiny process and invite and seek opinion from Scrutiny members on decisions to be taken, where appropriate;
  - Provide a positive contribution to scrutiny meetings;
  - Attend meetings when able to do so to answer questions and present information:
8. Where a decision is 'called in', it will be considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the procedures set out at Appendix 5 of the council constitution<sup>1</sup>.

## Scrutiny work planning

9. Scrutiny sets its own work programme, with input from Executive Members, officers and residents and taking into account the council's Forward Plan. At the start of each Municipal Year, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s178269/Appendix%205%20-%20Scrutiny%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

scrutiny committees will hold a work planning workshop. As part of this workshop the views of the relevant Executive Members and officers will be sought with a view to ensuring that the Scrutiny function contributes towards effective policy formulation and decision-making.

10. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will meet regularly with representatives of the Executive in order to ensure a positive working relationship between the two functions.

### **Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive**

11. Scrutiny committees may make recommendations to the Executive on functions the Council is responsible for through formal scrutiny committee meetings and through Task and Finish Group reports.
12. Upon receipt of a recommendation from Scrutiny, Executive Members will:
  - Give due consideration to any recommendations and accept these where they are minded to; and/or
  - Provide an explanation for the reasons why recommendations made by scrutiny have or have not been accepted.
13. Recommendations from Scrutiny will be logged and tracked by Democratic Services and Scrutiny Committees will receive formal reports twice each year on the number of recommendations that have been accepted and incorporated through the decision-making process and the level of progress made against the recommendations.

### **Ensuring Compliance with the Protocol**

14. The Head of Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol which should be used by members to support the wider aim of supporting and promoting a culture of scrutiny. The success of the protocol will be determined by:
  - Recognition of the value of scrutiny;

- A clear record of constructive challenge;
  - Valuable scrutiny reviews that achieve outcomes;
  - An open and accountable decision making process.
15. An Annual Report will be submitted to Full Council each year with the aim of demonstrating the impact of Scrutiny and effectiveness of the Protocol.



**Corporate Scrutiny Committee  
Work Plan 2025/26**

Theme	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Notes
<b>9 June 2025</b>			
	Outer Ring Road and Station Gateway	Garry Taylor Cllr Lomas	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	2026/27 outline budget process	Debbie Mitchell	
<b>7 July 2025</b>			
	Harewood Whin Green Energy Park Business Case	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Budget Task and Finish Proposal	Debbie Mitchell Cllr Lomas	
<b>8 September 2025</b>			
	10 year anti-poverty strategy	Pauline Stuchfield	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Next steps in securing investment for York	Sam Blyth, Claire Foale Cllr Douglas	
	2024/25 F&P Outturn	Debbie Mitchell, Ian Cunningham, Cllr Lomas	Planned to come in July but deferred as the date of Executive was changed
	A shared vision for Scrutiny in York	James Parker, Guy Close / Cllr Douglas	
<b>01 October 2025 (additional meeting)</b>			
	Castle Gateway	Garry Taylor Cllr Lomas	Pre-decision scrutiny

Theme	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Notes
	Report of the Task & Finish Group on the Boundary Commission review	Bryn Roberts Cllr Douglas	To agree a recommendation to go to Executive
	Draft Comms Strategy	Claire Foale / Michael James Cllr Douglas	Pre-decision scrutiny
<b>10 November 2025</b>			
	Complaints/Compliments annual report	Lorraine Lunt / Cllr Lomas	Annual update
	Petitions Schedule	Bryn Roberts	Six-monthly update
	Council Motions	Bryn Roberts, Sam Blyth	Six-monthly update
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Shaun Gibbons / Guy Hanson / Alison Cooke Cllr Kent	Consultation over the summer, due for approval late 2025
	City LEAP / Local Net Zero Accelerator Programme	Shaun Gibbons / Cllr Kent	Need to identify most appropriate time for this item
<b>19 January 2026</b>			
	Budget and MTFS Scrutiny, final report	Debbie Mitchell Cllr Lomas	
<b>2 March 2026</b>			
	Evaluation of the business decarbonisation support programme	Shaun Gibbons / Cllr Kent	

Theme	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Notes
<b>11 May 2026</b>			
	Petitions Schedule	Bryn Roberts	Six-monthly update
	Council Motions	Bryn Roberts	Six-monthly update

### Potential topics for all-member briefing sessions or public meetings

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
Major projects – York Central update		Garry Taylor / Cllr Lomas	Public meeting
Community Woodland update from Forestry England	Cllr Kent	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	Briefing
Digital Switchover		Roy Grant	Briefing
Customer Services developments		Pauline Stuchfield, Eilidh Carricker	
Emissions Reporting		Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	
Climate Change Action Plan		Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	
Project Management	Corporate scrutiny 07/07	Claire Foale	Briefing
F&P Q1	Regular Report	Debbie Mitchell, Ian Cunningham Cllr Lomas	Information to be shared with members via e-mail
F&P Q2	Regular Report	Debbie Mitchell, Ian Cunningham Cllr Lomas	Information to be shared with members via e-mail

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
F&P Q3	Regular Report	Debbie Mitchell, Ian Cunningham Cllr Lomas	Information to be shared with members via e-mail

### Briefing session dates

- Thursday 2 October
- Thursday 4 December
- Thursday 26 February
- Thursday 16 April

### Agreed Task & Finish Groups

Topic and timescale	Aims and objectives	Membership
<p>Preparing for proposed changes to long-term sickness and disability benefits.</p> <p>No timescale set for final report to People Scrutiny Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire a detailed understanding of the scope of the proposed changes and the likely direct and indirect impacts</li> <li>• Establish the number of York residents likely to be affected by the changes if they are implemented as currently proposed</li> <li>• Identify what additional financial or other support affected residents may seek to access from the council and partners</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Fenton Cllr Runciman Cllr Steward Cllr Coles Cllr J Burton</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how affected residents can best be supported to access help, such as applying for other benefits for which they may be eligible</li> <li>• Establish whether capacity exists to meet a potential increase in demand for services or support</li> <li>• Make recommendations as to how the council and partners can most effectively allocate resources to support affected residents</li> </ul>	
<p>Boundary Commission Electoral Review – Council Size.</p> <p>Final report to be considered at Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 01 October 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gather residents' views and seek cross-party agreement for a proposal on council size.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Merrett Cllr Coles Cllr Hollyer Cllr Wann Cllr Steward</p>
<p>Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy Scrutiny</p> <p>Final report to be considered at Corporate Scrutiny Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the council's MTFS</li> <li>• Review the process through which the council will engage with residents, businesses and other stakeholders as it develops and engages on its 2026/27 budget proposals</li> <li>• Review the process through which the MTFS informs the approach to budget-setting</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Ayre Cllr Hook Cllr Baxter Cllr Moroney</p>

meeting on 19 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider whether and how the budget proposals align with the Council Plan and the ten-year strategies</li> <li>• Review responses to the public consultation on budget proposals and consider any recommendations to Executive</li> <li>• Consider any improvements to the budget-setting process which could be adopted for future years</li> </ul>	
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### Possible Task & Finish Groups

Topic	Aims and objectives	Membership
Procurement		
Community Infrastructure Levy	Better understand the approach to implementation of the CIL in parished and unparished areas, and in particular, what advantages parished areas might have.	
Council communications with residents		

## Scrutiny Overview Work Plan

Meeting Date	Committee	Agenda Item
08/09/25	Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-year Anti-Poverty Strategy</li> <li>• Securing investment for York</li> <li>• 2024/25 F&amp;P Outturn</li> <li>• A shared vision for Scrutiny in York</li> </ul>
23/09/25	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HWRC Operating</li> <li>• Parks Investment Fund</li> <li>• Task and Finish Group Proposals</li> </ul>
01/10/25 (additional meeting)	Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castle Gateway</li> <li>• Boundary Commission Review Final report</li> <li>• Draft Comms Strategy</li> </ul>
08/10/25	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the Neighbourhood Model (TBC)</li> <li>• Update on the Adult Social Care Strategy (TBC)</li> </ul>
10/11/25	Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints / Compliments annual report</li> <li>• Petitions Schedule</li> <li>• Council Motions</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategy</li> <li>• City LEAP / Local Net Zero Accelerator Programme</li> </ul>

The Forward Plan can be found [here](#).

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