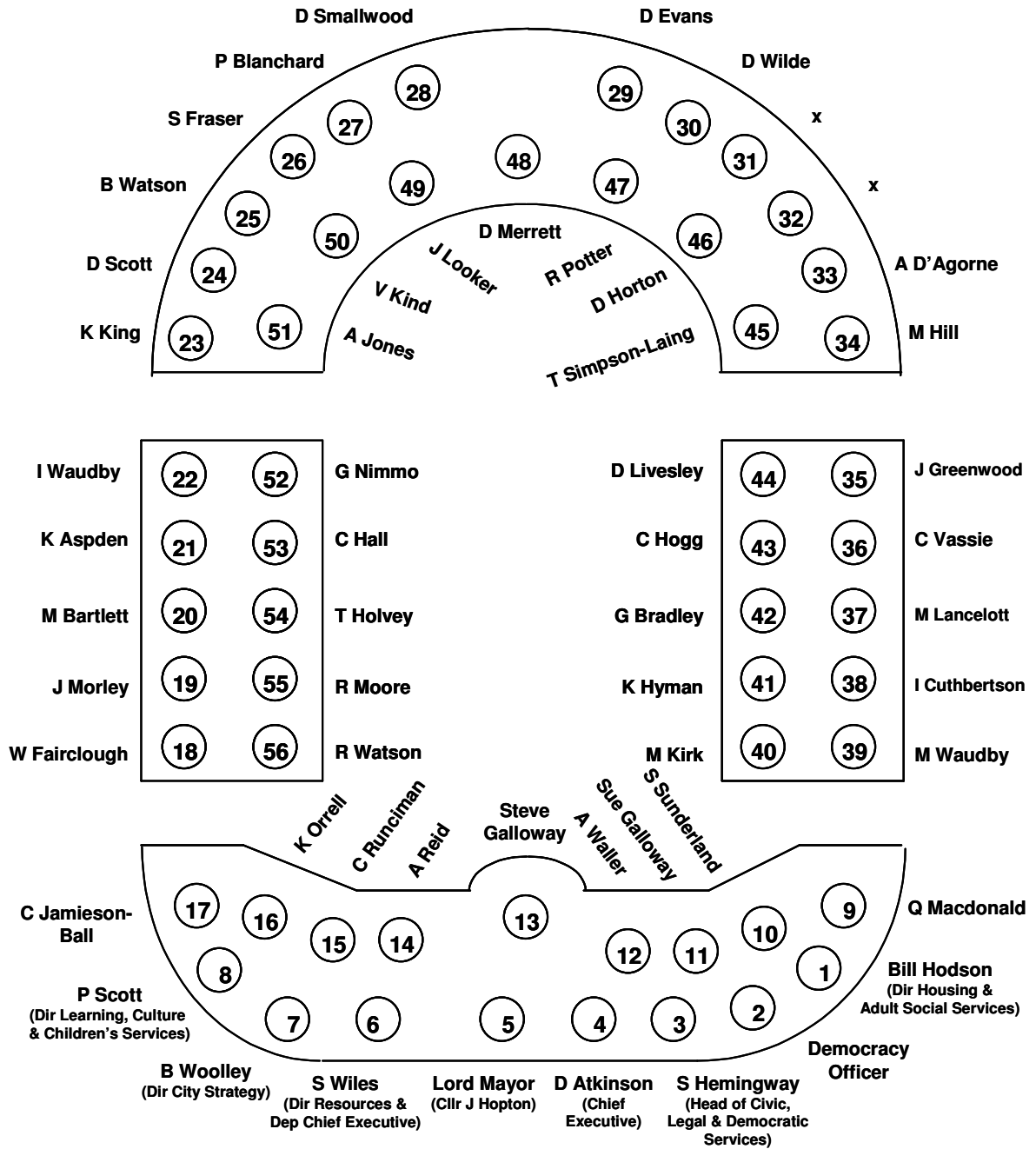


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at the Guildhall, York, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 25 January 2007 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER PLAN



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 30)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Special and the Ordinary meetings of Council held on 30th November 2006.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business, and in particular the nomination of the Lord Mayor Elect and the Sheriff of York for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of Council can do so. Anyone who wishes to register, or requires further information, is requested to contact the Principal Democracy Officer. Contact details are listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering to speak is **5:00 pm on Wednesday, 24th January 2007.**

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 7, including the following, of which notice has been received:

- A petition from local residents seeking improvements to the area around Plantation Shops, Boroughbridge Road. To be presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing.

6. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 11:

(i) From Cllr Horton:

“This Council notes that:

- There is a housing crisis in the City, as evidenced by the draft Fordham Housing Market Assessment, showing the vast majority of newly formed households unable to afford either house purchase with a mortgage or private sector rents (on the normal affordability criterion);
- The current Liberal Democrat support is for a lower regional housing allocation for York that can only exacerbate the York house price premium, as supply will be reduced by a third compared to the house building rates in York over the last six years;
- Many families have been forced out of the City due to rising house prices;
- Those people that do stay in the City, particularly those on low incomes, often have to live in poorer quality, overcrowded housing;
- Living in overcrowded residences can lead to poor mental and physical health.

This Council welcomes the Government’s Barker report, about providing new housing to meet projected need, and calls upon the Executive Member to work with the Government and the Regional Assembly to increase the supply of affordable family housing in York.”

(ii) From Cllr Potter:

“Council notes with regret that the Environment Forum is no longer represented on the Local Strategic Partnership Board, leaving the large environmental voluntary sector with no direct input into the ‘Without Walls’ vision and forthcoming review of the community strategy.

Council believes that this situation does not properly reflect how important environmental issues are to the City and its residents.

Council requests the ‘Without Walls’ Board to ensure that the Environment Forum are allocated a formal place on the LSP Board and mandates the Council’s nominees on the Board to support this.”

(iii) From Cllr Blanchard:

“Council notes that:

- To produce foie gras, at just 12 weeks old ducks and geese are restrained and grain is forced down the throat through a tube or pipe, a process that often results in physical injury;
- They are forcibly fed the equivalent to an adult human eating 1-28 lbs (7-13 kg) of spaghetti a day; and, after two or three weeks, when they are ready for slaughter, their livers will have swollen to about ten times normal size. The swollen liver expands the abdomen and can make movement and breathing difficult, as well as causing other health problems;
- Most ducks are kept in wire cages so small they have no room to turn around or stretch their wings, and their feet are often injured by the wire floor;
- Many die before the force feeding cycle ends, and the mortality rate for ducks raised on foie gras farms is overwhelmingly the highest in the industry;
- The force-feeding of geese is already outlawed in Poland, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Israel.

Council believes that:

- This intolerably cruel and painful practice is unnecessary and should end;
- The city of Chicago, USA, has shown tremendous compassionate leadership in its brave decision to ban foie gras in its shops and restaurants;
- The torture of small innocent animals should not be a matter of personal dietary choice.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Ben Bradshaw MP, Minister of State responsible for Animal Welfare, informing him of this motion and asking for the production and sale of foie gras to be banned in the UK;
- Do as much as reasonably possible to discourage or prohibit the sale of foie gras within the authority area, whether in shops or restaurants.

(iv) From Cllr Kirk:

“City of York Council calls on the Secretary of State for

Health to write off the historic debt that the new North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust inherited from its predecessor Trusts.”

(v) From Cllr Steve Galloway:

“Council notes the major achievements of Members and staff in providing good quality public services, and improved value for money, since May 2003.

In particular, Council highlights:

1. The success of the York Pride and the Safe City campaigns, which have resulted in a cleaner and greener City and reducing crime levels;
2. Continuing low Council Tax levels, with York residents now paying an average of £112 per annum less for services than similar councils elsewhere, while the number of public service quality indicators, achieving above the national performance, has increased to 63%;
3. The opening of the excellent household waste recycling centre at Hazel Court and the dramatic increase in recycling rates in the City;
4. The opening of the Eco Depot and the contribution that it and other initiatives are making to establishing a truly sustainable City;
5. the opening of several new schools and the sustained improvement in exam results seen since 2003;
6. the record numbers using teenagers’ leisure facilities, including the innovative “Schools Out” programme and the new mobile play and sport buses;
7. That social services customers in York continue to enjoy much easier access to Council care services than in neighbouring areas and that many Social Services buildings have been modernised during the last 4 years;
8. The reduction in the housing waiting list and the success of the housing modernisation programme, which is on schedule to reach ‘decent homes’ standards by central government deadlines;
9. The best performing Park and Ride service in the country, with 3 million passengers expected to use the service this year and – against national trends – the substantial growth in the use of public transport in

the City;

10. The impact of what has been the largest ever footpath and road resurfacing programme ever seen in the City.

Council remains confident that the City will be an increasingly attractive place in which to live, work and play during the forthcoming decades and looks forward to working with residents and partners to sustain and build on the successes of recent years.”

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 31 - 38)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader on the work of the Executive and the Executive recommendations for approval, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	19 December 2006	Minute 131 – Local Government Pension Scheme – Scheme Changes and Local Discretions
Executive	16 January 2007	Minute 143 – Amendments to Council Constitution (<i>to follow</i>)
Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Advisory Panel	16 January 2007	Minute 29 - Library Service Restructure (<i>to follow</i>)

8. Report of Executive Member (Pages 39 - 40)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Adult Social Services, and to question the Executive Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8(2)(a).

9. Questions to the Executive Leader and Executive Members received under Standing Order 10(c)

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 10(a):

- (i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:**
“Would the Executive Leader confirm the % increase in Council Tax implemented between 1999 and 2003 and contrast that with the present administration’s performance?”
- (ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:**
“Would the Executive Leader comment on the adequacy of job advisory services in the City and in particular detail the work undertaken by Future Prospects during the year?”
- (iii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:**
“Would the Leader agree to ask – now that capacity problems at the monitoring suite at the police station have been resolved – for a report on the options for modernisation and extension of CCTV coverage in the City to be prepared and would he say what obstacles there could be to the extension of the service into suburban shopping areas?”
- (iv) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:**
“Would the Executive Leader indicate what options for funding the government backed Waste and Highways PFI projects he is considering? Would he say what the consequences would be if either of these projects did not go ahead?”
- (v) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:**
“Would the Executive Member comment on claims that the costs of the new City Hall offices which are to be built for the Council are ‘spiralling’ and would he detail what the financial implications for the project are expected to be for Council Taxpayers over the next 20 years?”

(vi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:

“Would the Executive Member indicate how Council Tax collection rates are progressing and contrast this with performance in previous years and with other authorities?”

(vii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Hill:

“In view of the tight restrictions to be placed upon the use of alternative commercial accommodation at Clifton Moor, what does the future hold for the Parkside Centre’s commercial tenants?”

(viii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member explain the present situation regarding the inadequate ticket machines on the ftr?”

(ix) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member inform Members when the Council plans to draw up planning guidelines to stop or reduce the sub-division of family and terraced houses?”

(x) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:

“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy confirm how many existing residential streets have been adopted since 2003, and how many have been requested for adoption by residents?”

(xi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member compare – in real terms – car parking charges, which are proposed to apply for the forthcoming year, with those approved by the previous administration? Would she detail the increase in car parking charges applied during the period 1999-2003 with those that have been made during the course of the present administration?”

(xii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member compare the investment made by the present Council in highways maintenance with that of the previous administration?”

(xiii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member detail the increase in the use of public transport in the City achieved over the last 4 years?”

(xiv) To the Executive Member for Adult Social Services, from Cllr Greenwood:

“Would the Executive Member say how long social services clients are waiting in York for care services to be allocated and contrast this with the performance in previous years and with other authorities?”

(xv) To the Executive Member for Housing, from Cllr Hill:

“Has the City of York Council Housing department lost the confidence of its tenants?”

(xvi) To the Executive Member for Leisure & Culture, from Cllr Lancelott:

“Would the Executive Member please confirm how much the Council will receive from the sale of the lease of the Barbican auditorium to Absolute Leisure compared to the offer received, and supported by, the Council’s Executive in 2002?”

(xvii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When will a report be brought forward setting out a timescale and strategy for offering waste recycling collections from apartments and similar developments within the City?”

(xviii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“How many days do you consider is reasonable time to elapse following the end of a period of flooding before the

riverside cycle / footpaths to the south of the City are cleared of mud?”

(xix) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When do you expect the leaves / detritus from 2006 might be removed from City paths, verges and gutters?”

10. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of SMC (Pages 41 - 42)

To receive a report from Cllr Kirk, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC.

11. Activities of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view on the Council’s website, at

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.asp?bcr=1>

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (tel. 01904 551088).

- Association of North Yorkshire Councils (minutes of meeting 13 November)
- North Yorkshire Police Authority (minutes of meeting 6 November)

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council’s representatives on any of the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 10(b).

12. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 43 - 44)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

13. Urgent Business

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

Principal Democracy Officer:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551024
- E-mail – fiona.young@york.gov.uk

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

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.