



Notice of a public meeting of

Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee

To: Councillors Fenton (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Ayre,

B Burton, Coles, Healey, Melly, D Myers, Rose, Rowley,

K Taylor, Waller and Widdowson

Date: Monday, 10 March 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 7 - 8)

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 9 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 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, 6 March 2025.

To register to speak please visit 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

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates

(www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

5. Review of the Scrutiny Function (Pages 15 - 42) This report provides Members with the final Centre for Governance and Scrutiny recommendations and proposed action plan.

6. Finance and Performance Monitor 3, 2024/25 (Pages 43 - 58) This report sets out the projected 2024/25 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024.

7. Council Motions

(Pages 59 - 110)

Members will consider the latest Council Motions information.

8. Work Plan

(Pages 111 - 118)

To consider the work plans for the committee and for the scrutiny overview.

9. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer:

Jane Meller

Contact details:

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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
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

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Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish) - په معلومات آپ کې اپنې زبان (بولی) میں چمې مهیا کی جامکتی بیر (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) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote unless 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 only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting unless 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,

Page 6

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
Meeting	Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date	20 January 2025
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Merrett (Vice-Chair), Ayre, B Burton, Coles, Healey, Melly, D Myers, Rose, Rowley, K Taylor, Waller and Widdowson
In Attendance	Cllr Lomas, Executive Member Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion Cllr Kilbane, Deputy Leader and Economy & Culture Councillor Jenny Kent, Executive Member Councillors Jenny Kent
Officers Present	Lindsay Tomlinson, Head of Democratic Governance Chloe Wilcox, Head of Procurement Debbie Mitchell, Director of Finance Claire Foale, Interim Director, City Development Katy Peeke-Vout, Head of Regeneration Shaun Gibbons, Head of Carbon Reduction

44. Apologies for Absence (6.01 pm)

None were received.

45. Declarations of Interest (6.02 pm)

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

None were declared.

46. Minutes (6.02 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 December 2024 were approved as a correct record.

47. Public Participation (6.02 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 to raise her concerns regarding the York Central project and the recent planning decision to allow occupancy of the Government Hub prior to the completion of step free access for the NRM and station parking to the rear. She stated that the decision failed to meet the public sector equality duty and that it should have been mentioned during the briefing at December's meeting.

48. Social Value Policy (6.06 pm)

The Head of Procurement presented her report on the council's draft Social Value Policy (SVP). She was joined by the Interim Head of City Development who outlined the Social Value Outcome Framework which had been produced in collaboration with colleagues from the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Members asked a number of questions on the draft SVP covering the core social value objectives, the percentage of bid scoring allocated to social value, barriers for small businesses, measuring real social value, building social value in to every contract not solely those mandated contracts of £100k or more, notice periods for upcoming procurement contracts, measuring and tracking policy effectiveness and the resources to manage this, metrics vs creativity, clarity of the written policy.

In response to questions, it was reported that SV requirements must relate to the procured item. The ten percent contribution to SV was the minimum required amount, as per legislation, and can be higher. Procurement officers work with small businesses to ensure that the questions and process are proportionate to the business and what is being procured. A five-year pipeline of procurement projects would be published, a range of market events including meet the buyers would be held. Measuring the success of the procurement policy through gauging the evidence was an importance piece of ongoing work.

Cllr Lomas noted that the consultation on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy, which would bring strands included in various other strategies together, was being launched this month.

In relation to the outcome framework, Members asked questions covering the scope and wording of the health and wellbeing criteria, the wording of the in-scope, out of scope table, carbon off-setting, working with smaller orgs, public sector facilities, carbon emissions, biodiversity outcomes in relation to long term sustainability and financial/volunteer contributions.

Members comments were noted, and it was reported that the framework was based on the Health & Wellbeing strategy, CYC was working with public and private organisations, some of whom had national SVP frameworks in place. Contract managers would determine what the priorities are for each procurement exercise.

Resolved: That the feedback provided by Members be incorporated into

the final version of the SVP.

Reason: To give Members oversight of the SVP.

49. Major Projects - Castle Gateway Update (6.38 pm)

The Interim Director of City Development outlined the changes since the item last came to the Committee and the Head of Regeneration highlighted the key points in the report relating to the Castle and Eye of York, noting that there was to be an updated planning application to be submitted and a report due to go to Executive in May.

Members asked a range of questions which covered future funding streams, the allocated budget and what was included for that stage, the event space and the impact any changes made on the projected income, when work would start on the site, secure cycle parking, parking provision, including the plans for Blue Badge Holders and the impact of lost parking revenue, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) funding review, the plans for the play park, the ongoing maintenance of the site and reliance on volunteers.

Officers reported the following:

- Immediate funding routes were in place and work was ongoing with the Mayoral Combined Authority to identify future sources of funding from the mayoral fund.
- The stage three cost plan had been subject to an external assessment by Turner and Townsend and updated to £16m to account for inflation, subject to the start date.
- Changes to the entertainment space meant that it was smaller in scale and there would be no hard paved area.

- Work was expected to start in 2026, subject to Council approval and the procurement of a contractor to undertake the works.
- The bridge and Castle Mills area was a separate part of the scheme.
 Funding remained in place for the bridge.
- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) review related to internal projects and no concerns had been raised.
- The details for the play park had not been finalised and residents would be involved in shaping the plans. Landscaping would be kept simple to ensure maintenance was manageable and it was anticipated that a paid element would be necessary alongside the support of volunteers and external organisations.

Cllr Kilbane, the Deputy Leader and Economy and Culture Executive Member, noted the changes in the project and the alternative options for an event space. He highlighted the work with external partners such as YMT, the Minster and the Civic Trust to develop the city centre spatial strategy covering all of city centre.

He explained that there were plans to reduce parking in the city centre but not displace altogether and that scheme improvements to the Park and Ride and opening Coppergate car park for longer would mitigate a reduction in parking. He noted that it was important to reduce reliance on parking revenue.

Cllr Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion explained that the plan was to reprovide a similar level of blue badge parking spaces, she noted the inherent difficulties in calculating the usage levels of blue badge parking.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the committee apprised of progress to date.

[7.24 – 7.30 pm, the meeting adjourned]

50. Development of a Carbon Offsetting/Insetting Strategy (7.30 pm)

The Interim Director of City Development and the Head of Carbon Reduction presented the report and gave a presentation on developing a carbon offsetting/insetting strategy. Members were invited to ask questions or provide comment to assist in determining the direction of the strategy.

Members raised questions or concerns on the likelihood of achieving net zero by 2030, the number of community woodlands needed to offset local carbon emissions, the amount of time allocated to developing the strategy, CYC transport emissions and employee use of EVs through the Enterprise car rental scheme, partnership / Combined Authority working, the links with this strategy and biodiversity net gain strategies, and the likelihood of buying agricultural land for insetting.

Cllr Kent, Executive Member for the environment noted that the focus would be on projects within York and North Yorkshire, and as the 2030 target becomes closer this would be reassessed with improved data. The main priority was to reduce carbon emissions.

Officers reported that CYC was working with the Combined Authority on the latest available data to more accurately assess 2030 targets.

There was scope to use credits from the woodland to offset CYC emissions by 2030. Purchasing more agricultural land to create additional woodland was an option. The Executive Member noted that the benefits for local organisations to buy in to community woodland projects were more than financial and included improving employee well-being.

Decarbonising the HGV fleet was difficult and there was not yet a plan for this.

There were opportunities to work with the Combined Authority to meet carbon reduction targets through developing natural capital, and to work with city partners to correctly capture and quantify their carbon reduction projects.

[8.30 pm, Cllrs Widdowson and Healey left the meeting. 8.32 pm, Cllr Coles left the meeting]

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure Members have oversight of the possible

offsetting/insetting strategy.

51. Work Plan (8.25 pm)

Members considered the Committee's work plan and the scrutiny overview work plan for the four scrutiny committees.

Page 12

It was noted that the scrutiny review item would be received in March and requests were made for the following:

- a briefing from officers on the changes to Business Rates and
- a task and finish group on the subject of Procurement be further considered.

Resolved: That the work plan be noted.

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

Cllr S Fenton, Chair [The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 8.31 pm].



Corporate Services Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee

10 March 2025

Report of the Director of Governance and the Chair of the CSCCSM Committee.

Review of the City of York Council Scrutiny Function

Summary

- 1. 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."
- 2. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) was commissioned to undertake a Scrutiny Impact Review of the City of York Council. The review was conducted in November and December 2024.
- 3. This report provides members with the final CfGS recommendations following the Scrutiny Impact Review, and a proposed action plan to address each of the recommendations, for members' consideration.

Background

4. Overview and scrutiny committees were established in English and Welsh local authorities by the Local Government Act 2000. They were intended as a counterweight to the new executive structures created by that Act. Their role was to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the council. Relevant councils must have at least one overview and scrutiny committee.

- 5. The legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees for England are set out in Section 9F of the Act as amended by Localism Act 2011. These state:
 - Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committee has power (or its overview and scrutiny committees, and any joint overview and scrutiny committees, have power between them)—
 - to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
 - to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
 - to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
 - to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
 - to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 6. Overview and scrutiny committees must have the power to 'call in' decisions made by their executives but not yet implemented. The statutory minimum requirement is that "call in" enables the scrutiny committee to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.
- 7. Local authorities also have limited powers of 'external scrutiny', where their committees look at issues which lie outside the council's responsibilities, with specific powers to scrutinise health bodies, community safety partnerships, and Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 8. The City of York council Scrutiny structure consists of four Scrutiny Committees, each of which has 10 scheduled meetings each year:

- Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee
- Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
- 9. The Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee acts as the overarching committee, meeting separately as a "calling in" committee to consider call in requests.

The CfGS Review Recommendations

- 10. The Review process ran through November and December 2024, and consisted of an online, written survey of all members, and then a series of interviews, mainly in person but with some conducted via Teams/hybrid, with the following:
 - Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs
 - Executive Members
 - Leader of the Council
 - Deputy Leader of the Council
 - Labour Group members
 - Liberal Democrat and Conservative Group members
 - Liberal Democrat Group Leader
 - Conservative Group Leader
 - Former Scrutiny Chairs
 - Independent Member
 - Chief Operating Officer
 - Monitoring Officer
 - Chief Finance Officer
 - Labour Group Political Assistant
 - Liberal Democrat Group Political Assistant
- 11. The interviews consisted of questions and discussions, designed to identify views on the effectiveness of Scrutiny; the operating culture, behaviours, relationships, and mindset within the authority in relation to Scrutiny; the level of skills and capacity in the organisation and the desire to change and improve the way that Scrutiny is undertaken.
- 12. The lead reviewer offered all Scrutiny and non-Executive members an opportunity to hear the draft recommendations at a briefing on 20

- January 2025, and provided a separate briefing for Executive members on 28 January.
- 13. The draft recommendation report was received on 14 February and was circulated to Scrutiny Chairs, the three Group Leaders and the Chief Operating Officer, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, with requests for comments and observations by Friday 21 February. The final recommendation report was received on Monday 24 February and is appended to this report at Annex A.
- 14. There are twelve recommendations contained within the report. The aim of the recommendations is, in very general terms, to change the culture of the organisation in the way that it conducts scrutiny, to develop a shared vision across the authority and to ensure application of best practices along with statutory and non-statutory guidance, to ensure scrutiny processes are effective and aligned with national standards.
- 15. At Annex B is a proposed action plan, drafted by officers, for members to consider which recommendations they support and how they consider they can best be implemented. These are only suggestions; it is for members to determine the actions they wish to see implemented. It is also important to remember that no change is "final"; if a change is tried and is unsuccessful, it can be altered.
- 16. One of the very strong recommendations from all members interviewed, was the need for a dedicated Scrutiny Officer to properly support and advise members to deliver good scrutiny across the organisation. There is potential capacity and some resource within Democratic Governance to deliver this, however, this is partly dependent upon delivery of some of the other recommendations which impact the number of committees and the frequency of formal meetings.
- 17. Members will note the proposed shift in focus of the format and purpose of the Scrutiny Committees, so that the bulk of the pre scrutiny work is undertaken by Task and Finish Groups (TFG). The Committees would be responsible for setting work plans, and for receiving the recommendations of the TFGs. Undertaking scrutiny in this way does not necessarily mean that scrutiny will be less visible; members have the power to decide whether it wishes to hold TFG meetings in the public domain. Further, membership of TFGs is not restricted to scrutiny members; any elected member with the interest, expertise and knowledge of the topic to be

scrutinised may be appointed to a TFG. External participants may also be appointed. This therefore represents an opportunity to open up the interaction with the scrutiny process to a much wider audience.

- 18. Recommendation 8 concerns the structure of scrutiny committees, which it states should be better aligned to reflect council business and goes on the explain that this means fewer committees, not more. The suggested structure set out in the action plan reflects best practice as set out in the Good Scrutiny Guide and is based on a split between "People" and "Place", with the "Place Committee" holding the statutory powers of call in, currently held by this Committee. However, this is just an officer suggestion, and it is for members to determine what that structure should be.
- 19. Recommendation 9 concerns the frequency of meetings, and members may recall the discussion at the briefings where it was suggested that bimonthly meetings would afford the opportunity for informal member briefings in the intervening months. The scrutiny agendas currently contain a lot of information items, and the review recommends that these should be presented to members in a different way, rather than taking up valuable space at business meetings. Along with member briefings, there is also work being undertaken within Democratic Governance to develop and strengthen the member training and development programme, with the potential to enhance the member internet portal to provide a library for information notes and briefings.
- 20. Many of the recommendations will require an ongoing programme of work, to develop the vision for scrutiny and the protocols and procedures that will provide the framework with which to deliver that vision. It is proposed that a working group be formed, and it is suggested that this comprises the current Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, to work with the Statutory Scrutiny Officer and relevant officers from the Democratic Services team, to develop those plans. At a suitable point, the Leader and Deputy Leader will be invited to meet with the Working Group to seek agreement on the shared vision, and on the protocols for collaboration and work planning.
- 21. Finally, the report recognises the need for robust training for members. It is proposed to commission appropriate training for scrutiny members, for Executive members and for officers.

22. The comments from this meeting will be reported to Executive at its meeting on Tuesday 11 March. The intention, depending upon the Executive's recommendations, will be to submit a report to the meeting of Full Council on 27 March, for Council to determine any matters relating to the structure and makeup of the scrutiny committees, along with any changes members may wish to make in respect of named substitutes (Recommendation 3).

Implications

- 23. **Financial** There will be costs associated with the provision of training for members and officers. These can be met from existing budgets. The cost of adding a Scrutiny Officer post to the Democratic Services team can be partly met from within the current staffing budget of the Democratic Governance service, however, additional resource may be required depending upon the outcome of the Grading/ evaluation process.
- 24. **Human Resources (HR)** The appropriate processes will be followed in respect of the establishment of a Scrutiny Officer post.
- 25. **Legal** The Council has a statutory duty to operate a scrutiny function.
- 26. **Equalities and Human Rights** None directly arising from the report.
- 27. **Reputational** Failing to review the way in which Scrutiny operates at CYC, and the structures and resources that support Scrutiny, may have a detrimental effect, both internally and externally, on the reputation of the authority in terms of the effectiveness of the Scrutiny function.

Proposal

28. Members are asked to consider, and make comment on, the twelve recommendations of the Scrutiny Impact Review, alongside the proposed action plan, for presentation to Executive on 11 March.

Contact Details

Author: Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Bryn Roberts
Director of Governance

Report Date 27/02/25
Approv ed

Wards Affected: All ✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

LGA Peer Review Report: <u>LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Final Report</u>
(york.gov.uk)

Statutory Guidance, Overview & Scrutiny:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-combined-authorities-and-combined-county-authorities/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-combined-authorities-and-combined-county-authorities

CfGS the Good Scrutiny Digest: Resources - CFGS

Annex A: York Scrutiny Impact Report

Annex B: Draft Scrutiny Review Action Plan



Scrutiny Impact Report City of York Council



Chief Operating Officer
City of York Councill
Jan 2025

Dear Ian Floyd,

Scrutiny Improvement Review - CfGS consultancy support

I am writing to thank you for inviting the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to carry out an evaluation of City of York Council's Scrutiny function. This letter provides feedback on our review findings and offers suggestions on how the Council could further develop its scrutiny process.

Background to the review

City of York Council commissioned CfGS to advise and support its members and officers in the review of the Council's scrutiny function. City of York Council has recently undergone a change in political control. A recent Corporate Peer Challenge exercise carried out by the LGA highlighted the Council's new political ambitions but also noted the capacity and capability challenges associated with delivery against those ambitions. It also noted the need for action in respect of governance and culture – particularly in ensuring that members had the support needed to be able to carry out their role. There was a sense that the overview and scrutiny function needs resetting and rationalising to ensure that its impact can be maximised.

It is in this context that the Council has invited CfGS's assistance in undertaking a review of the function. The aim is to ensure that scrutiny is effective in delivering accountability, improving policy and decision making, and that the scrutiny function makes a quality contribution in the delivery of Council plans and overall improvement.

The review investigated four specific areas of scrutiny:

- Organisational commitment and clarity of purpose.
- Members leading and fostering good relationships.
- Prioritising work and using evidence well.
- Making an impact.

York has four scrutiny committees, meeting monthly, whose work is augmented with task and finish groups. In common with a number of other councils, there is no dedicated officer policy support for the scrutiny function.

Methodology

CfGS undertook a thorough review of the scrutiny arrangements, involving evidence gathering in person with Members and Officers on 25th and 26th November 2024.

CfGS met with elected Members and Officers, including the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Scrutiny Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, Scrutiny Members, and the Council's

senior leadership team. We ran a survey for Members from Tuesday 12th November to Monday 9th December with 26 responses. How representative was this data set?

We also undertook observations of the Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee in person and other scrutiny committee recordings and documents online.

The review was conducted by:

- Camilla de Bernhardt Lane Director of Practice, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
- Antony Mullen Research Analyst, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

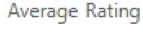
The findings and recommendations presented in this letter are intended to advise City of York Council in how to strengthen the quality of Scrutiny activities, increasing the impact of its outputs, and to develop a strong and shared understanding of the role and capability of the Scrutiny function.

Findings

The large majority of those who engaged with the review commented upon the desire and commitment to make Scrutiny work. However, the majority of views shared in the interviews were negative about the current impact and approach of Scrutiny. Comments ranged from saying that it was inefficient to being actively hostile we heard that 'Scrutiny doesn't work'. This sentiment is clearly summarised in the question from the survey:

How would you rate the effectiveness of scrutiny overall:















1. Organisational commitment and clarity of purpose

1.1. Creating a robust organisational culture supportive of Scrutiny is essential for effective governance. It is necessary to establish an environment that not only acknowledges but also values the role of Scrutiny in enhancing accountability and public service delivery. In turn Scrutiny is expected to use its delegated authority, soft powers of access and influence to hold the Cabinet to account, support policy development, contribute to improved decisionmaking, and channel the voice of the public. This is achieved through collaboration and strong constructive challenge, based on quality information and robust questioning strategies. A good Scrutiny function is one that provides not only effective challenge but is recognised and valued as a body that positively informs policy development.



1.2. Currently at York there is a tendency to see Scrutiny through the lens of political challenge. This in turn results in frayed relationships and in reciprocated defensive behaviours.

There were several underlying causes for these challenges raised in the conversations:

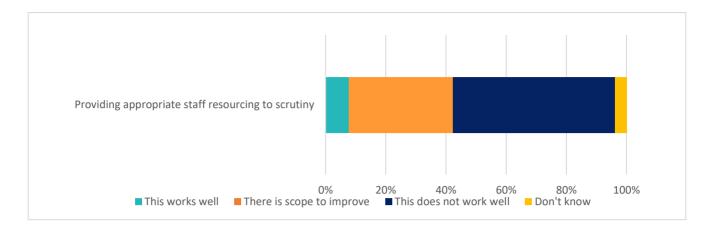
- A long-established culture of the politicisation of Scrutiny in York. This makes it difficult for Members to break from the pattern. New Members learn about Scrutiny through the experience of current practices often feeling the expectation to replicate this model.
- > The public context of Scrutiny means that Members' contributions can be readily shared and promoted through engagement and media reporting.
- ➤ Not having dedicated independent officer support to neutrally promote the value that scrutiny can bring, particularly to policy and direction setting and task groups.
- > Frequent Scrutiny meetings with lengthy papers and unclear impact. This creates high demands on staff, both to support the meetings and to attend to provide information and presentations with unclear outcomes.
- > Poor attendance and engagement at meetings.
- > Frustration at the lack of task groups, and the general lack of contribution to policy development.
- 1.3. We suggest that by working to support and develop clarity over the role of scrutiny, the Council has the opportunity to step outside political machinations and develop a mature relationship where all members of the council feel that they have a valued role in good governance at York.

Recomendation 1. The Council should work to develop a shared vision and understanding of scrutiny.

Officer support for Scrutiny

- 1.4. There is currently a small democratic services team which supports Scrutiny and policy committees. In practice the support given is in the form of committee administration, preparing minutes and agendas and sourcing and administering reports for formal meetings. This support is welcomed and valued. However, a comment that was repeated in both the survey and in conversations was that democratic services was under resourced.
- 1.5. In the survey, more than 50% respondents say providing appropriate support did not work well with 35% saying there is scope to improve, and less than 10% saying it did work well, as demonstrated below:





1.6. A need was expressed for a dedicated role which provides the specialist skills needed to support policy development and critical friend challenge. This point was most pertinent when discussing task and finish groups. York in the large part does not currently run task groups. If they occur, they are entirely at Member's discretion as they have no support from democratic services officers.

'Without dedicated Scrutiny officer time, Scrutiny has struggled in the past 5 years.'

'Task Group reviews are few and far between, most probably because of the absence of any officer support.'

1.7. There needs to be a development and application of methodology, approach and clear management of task and finish groups for this way of working to add value. It is likely that specialist officer support could help to provide this rigour as well as to provide research and learning from other councils to inform policy.

Recomendation 2. The Council should employ a dedicated Scrutiny officer to enhance the impact and practice of Scrutiny, in particular task group investigations. Skills for this role would include research, project management and policy development. On-going training and support for the Scrutiny officer should also be considered particularly if recruited internally, to support the role to achieve good Scrutiny.



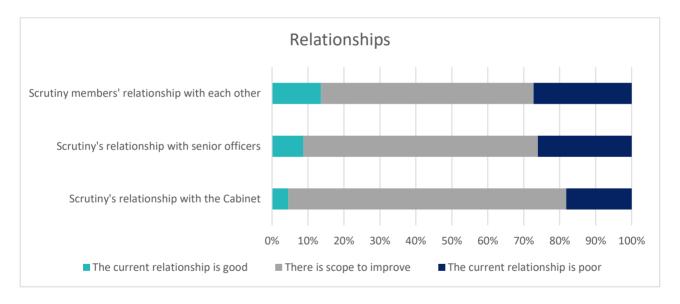
2. Members leading and fostering good relationships.

Steps to take the politics out of scrutiny.

- 2.1. It was expressed that members of scrutiny committees are there first as party members, and second as scrutiny members. This is demonstrated in committee members sitting on party lines when in committee and in the approach to substitute members on committees.
- 2.2. We heard that substitutes are often found to make up numbers to ensure that if there is a vote taken then the majority party can ensure success. This approach runs contrary to developing a team beyond politics, where issues and evidence are of most importance.

Recomendation 3. Substitute members of committees should be limited in number and named individuals, rather than allowing any Cllr to act as a substitute at any given time.

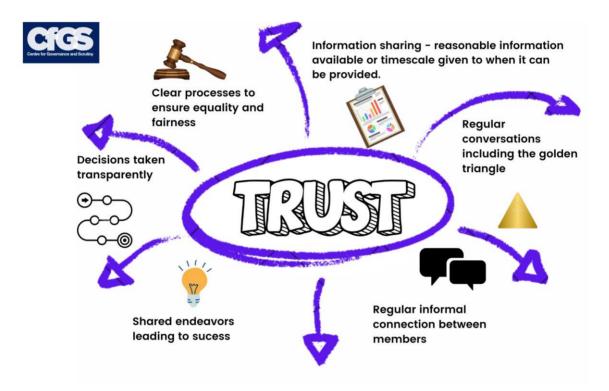
2.3. Relationships are a key element that contributes to the success of scrutiny. It is clear through the interviews and the survey findings that there is room for improvement on how well relationships currently function. This is demonstrated in answers on the chart below. Scrutiny Member's relationship with each other, scrutiny officers, senior officers and Cabinet is seen as poor or has scope to improve in 90% of respondents.



- 2.4. Trust is the foundation of effective governance, scrutiny, and collaboration. It is built and sustained through intentional actions and behaviours that prioritise transparency, fairness, communication, and shared purpose. Decisions should be made through clear, accessible, and well-documented processes that involve input from relevant stakeholders. Sharing the rationale behind decisions, including the options considered and the criteria used, helps others understand and accept the outcomes, even if they may not fully agree.
- 2.5. Clear processes should be in place to ensure that everyone is treated consistently and equitably. Sharing relevant updates and decisions proactively prevents misunderstandings and fosters a sense of inclusion. If certain information cannot be immediately available, it is



- important to communicate realistic timelines for when it will be shared. Working with senior officers to foster personal connections helps build rapport and mutual understanding.
- 2.6. Collaborative discussions, where all voices are valued, allow for collective problem-solving and strengthen cohesion. Informal interactions between members also play a significant role in building trust. Networking opportunities, casual conversations provide space for individuals to connect on a personal level, developing camaraderie and reducing barriers to communication.
- 2.7. Finally, collaborating on shared goals and celebrating successes strengthens trust and reinforces the value of working together. Clearly defined objectives give everyone a sense of purpose and direction. Creating a culture that values shared endeavours leads to stronger bonds and more successful outcomes.



2.8. An approach to invite conversation and to strengthen relationships beyond politics is through a meaningful revisit of the Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol. A review of this type can provide an opportunity to reflect on how well the Protocol is supporting the relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive, ensuring it remains relevant and effective. In approaching this review, we would suggest a process to encourage open dialogue starting by discussing how the protocol has been used in practice, and how it could usefully be applied in future. In this approach both sides can identify areas where it has supported positive collaboration and where improvements are needed.

This shared reflection allows for the development of solutions that are informed by past experiences and rooted in shared goals.

Consideration should be given to:



Page 28

Draft Report - Not for publication

- > Mutual respect and understanding and recognition of each other's roles
- > Regular, structured communication
- > Transparency and openness in sharing information
- > Collaborative approach to policy development
- > Regular briefings with the Executive to stay informed and aligned with the direction of the council.

Recomendation 4. 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.

Approaching budget scrutiny

- 2.9. A structured approach to scrutinising council finances is essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making. It helps build public trust by demonstrating responsible management of funds while detecting inefficiencies, waste, or fraud. Additionally, structured scrutiny supports the development and monitoring of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), ensuring that financial decisions align with long-term priorities and sustainable service delivery. By taking a forward-looking approach, councils can assess future funding pressures, allocate resources efficiently, and maintain financial stability. Structured scrutiny also promotes consistency and fairness by objectively examining all financial aspects, preventing bias or selective oversight.
- 2.10. Members have been having quarterly finance reports to committee. However, these do not appear to have tangible impact on good decisions or governance of the authority. It is difficult to ascertain what has changed as a result of these reports being presented to scrutiny. When reviewing the minutes of these reports they are only 'noted'. No recommendations are made to the Executive on proposed different direction, or to highlight areas of concern. Instead, they appear to be used as a gateway to discuss the effective running of the service area in question. This takes up committee time in discussion but adds very little value.
- 2.11. We have heard that for the first time this year scrutiny had the opportunity to review the results of the budget consultation. However, the conversation tended to focus more on Member's views of how the questions were arrived at, than looking at the trends and views of the public.
- 2.12. Scrutiny should focus on key areas that ensure effective resource management by reviewing how resources are allocated, monitored, and used, paying close attention to the council's budgeting process from planning to delivery. Financial and service planning should be aligned, and it is here where scrutiny can add value. Asking questions about delivery and service planning, informed by financial understanding. In this way scrutiny should prioritise strategic oversight rather than getting lost in minor details. This includes assessing whether resources are being used wisely, ensuring they align with priorities and deliver value for money, fairness, and social benefits.



Recomendation 5. Scrutiny taking a more deliberate and planned approach to budget scrutiny throughout the year. This should include a focus upon service delivery beyond finances.

2.13. Further clarity on the respective roles and the relationship between the Scrutiny committee and the Audit committee would also be valuable, particularly in the areas of finance and assurance frameworks. Below is an infographic which describes the difference between the functions of audit and scrutiny as well as where they overlap.

Audit vs Scrutiny

Audit:

- · Assurance on good governance and decision making
- Improving value for money Improving public reporting and accountability
- Embedding ethical values and countering fraud
- · Effective risk management
- · Effective internal controls
- · Effective audit and assurance

Scrutiny

- May look at anything which affects the area or the area's inhabitants:
- Range of methods to do this taking reports or carrying out research in "task and finish" groups.
- Scrutiny makes recommendations to the council's executive, or to other local bodies.



- Reviewing regular finance and performance reports;
- Reviewing council commercial activity, including oversight of procurement;
- > General review of value for money arrangements

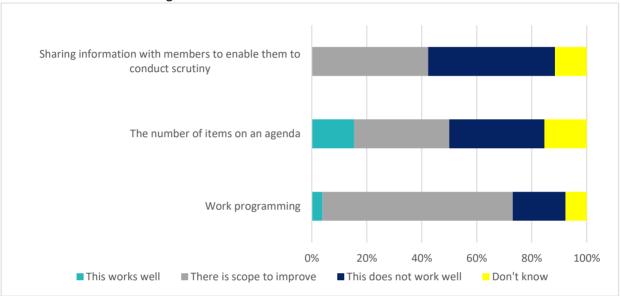
3. Prioritising work and using evidence well.

- 3.1. Developing a comprehensive work programme enables Scrutiny committees to structure their activities methodically. Prioritising issues of strategic importance ensures that Scrutiny efforts are directed towards areas with the greatest potential for impact. This strategic focus enables authorities to allocate resources efficiently and address pressing concerns effectively. It is important to ensure Members can coordinate their questions and contributions with the work programme.
- 3.2. Current work programmes are thin, with only one or two items for future meetings. Many of the items on the work programme are 'for information' or are update reports. For these items it would be difficult for scrutiny to do more than 'to note' the reports, and therefore scrutiny can add little value. It is also unclear why issues are chosen for scrutiny to look at. It is equally unclear what members would like to focus upon and why. At best this approach allows a skimming over the surface of issues, but not a structured or focussed approach to Scrutiny. It is unclear if scrutiny considers why issues should come to committee. It was also drawn to our attention that the



Executive forward plan could be more detailed to support Scrutiny intelligence about the issues that the Executive will be considering.

3.3. As demonstrated on the chart below, respondents to the survey also did not find work programming to be effective, with 7% saying that work programming works well, but about 75% saying there is scope to improve, and 20% saying that it does not work well. The majority of respondents also saw scope to improve or not working well for sharing information and the number of items on the agenda.



3.4. We suggest there are opportunities to consolidate and coordinate meetings more efficiently to enable Scrutiny to focus on a more focused set of priorities. In the first instance we would recommend establishing a more robust work programme across all the thematic areas to guide this work. This would help identify the core purpose and activities for Scrutiny.

The following elements should be present in good work programming practice:

- ➤ Using a consistent work planning tool to support each body to create a balanced work plan that is manageable and logical.
- Focusing on key issues where Scrutiny can make a significant impact.
- Working closely with senior Officers and Cabinet Members to understand the most challenging issues around Council delivery and outcomes.
- ➤ Identifying the areas where there are already robust forms of accountability and Scrutiny in the Council and wider system where possible avoid replication or where added-value is minimal.
- Less is often more focusing on two or three substantive issues in a meeting.
- Linking the work planning to the scoping process for specific review topics.
- > Embedding public engagement activities more centrally to the planning process.

More guidance on approaching work programming is available here: <u>Planning and Priority Setting - A Practice Guide - CFGS</u>



Recomendation 6. Review and enhance the scrutiny work planning process – supporting a Member-led work plan to include:

- 6.a. A refreshed annual process that uses systematic scrutiny tools to identify and prioritise agenda items, key lines of enquiry and potential impact.
- 6.b. The justification for inclusion of items on the work programme needs to be clearer, and subject to a set of criteria agreed by members cross-party.
- 6.c. Scrutiny agendas, as far as practicable, exclude items which are for basic information sharing or 'approval' or where scrutiny cannot clearly add value. Freeing capacity on agendas for more substantial items.
- 6.d. The Executive forward plan to be more detailed and planned so that scrutiny can have sight of issues that may be of interest in appropriate timeframes to meaningfully contribute.
- 6.e. Consideration to be given to how written reports to the scrutiny committee can be presented in ways that enable Members to identify key issues, areas for challenge and opportunities for service improvement this includes reviewing the ways that information and data is presented.

4. Making an impact.

Call in

4.1. The situation with call-in is symptomatic of the wider political nature of scrutiny in York. Call-in can be a useful tool for scrutiny, but it is not the only approach. We heard that there have been seven calls-in in 18 months, with no call-ins upheld. It was reported that call-in is used as a mechanism for political point scoring and to send the message; 'we don't like the decisions that you have made'. This is observable in the minutes from these meetings as well as watching the webcasts of the meetings themselves. It is our judgement that this is not an appropriate or productive use of the call-in mechanism.

'Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed). It should, however, be regarded as a measure that is only needed in exceptional circumstances, rather than day-today. It sits in the context of a range of other tools at Scrutiny's disposal to influence decision making.

The law says that Scrutiny has a power to review or scrutinise decisions made but not implemented by the executive, which includes a power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it. Statutory guidance exists to govern how councils carry out call-in work.'

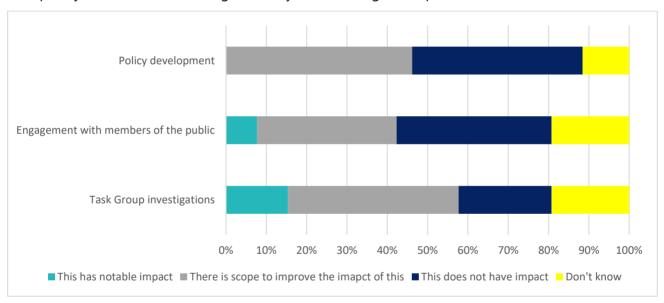
[CfGS Good Scrutiny quide]



4.2. Better practice would see pre-decision scrutiny, where scrutiny has sufficient time to meaningfully contribute recommendations and change to executive plans. This would involve a positive working relationship between senior leaders, both officers and members and scrutiny where there are open lines of communication. Scrutiny should be able to have clear sight of policies and developments that will be decided.

Scrutiny contributing to good governance

4.3. York would benefit from gaining greater clarity on how scrutiny contributes to the good governance of the organisation. When asked, Members and officers had difficulty pointing to a consistent and developed impact that scrutiny has made. This is demonstrated on the chart below showing responses to the survey. Only 15% of respondents said that task group investigations have notable impact, this is likely because they rarely occur. Engagement with members of the public has less than 10% of respondents saying that it has notable impact. While policy development has no respondents at all saying that it has impact. It is clear that despite the frequency of committee meetings, scrutiny is not having the impact that it should have.

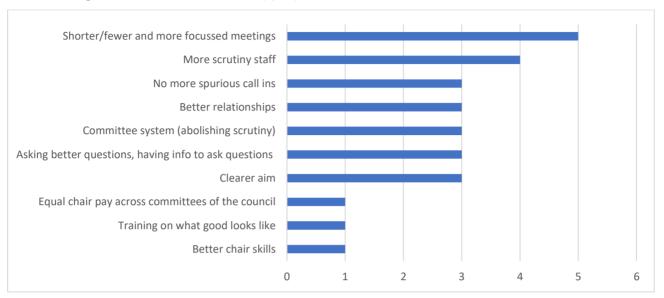


4.4. Allied to recommendation 2, 'employing a dedicated scrutiny officer', York should take a deliberate approach to instigate task groups. We would recommend that focussing upon policy development, at least for the first task groups undertaken would help to move the focus of scrutiny to a position beyond politics. This should be done in liaison with Exec Members so that scrutiny can appreciate where there is a need for policy development or review.

Recomendation 7. Undertake policy development in the form of task groups. This move would also require the timely awareness of scrutiny in issues that are being developed or decided upon, as scrutiny would need to undertake deep-dive work on areas where it could make a tangible difference.



4.5. In the survey when we asked in a free text box what would make the difference in scrutiny, the following answers were given. For ease of presentations and for inferences to be drawn they have been amalgamated where it was felt appropriate to do so.



Committee structure

- 4.6. In the interest of further supporting good planning, we suggest a review of the current arrangements of scrutiny committees. Our research highlights that there is no 'ideal' scrutiny structure or optimum number of committees. There is not a prefect correlation between the size and number of committees and their effectiveness, but there is a clear connection between having a clarity of purpose and a function that adds value and realises impact. In York we were told that Exec Members's portfolios do not match the arrangements of scrutiny committees, nor does the organisation of the council. This leads to inefficiencies where there is a lack of clarity and senior officers, and portfolio holders may be required to report to go to several scrutiny committees within a short amount of time. However, there are frequent changes to Exec portfolios, and potentially to departmental structures so it would be unhelpful to shackle the arrangement of scrutiny to these.
- 4.7. In any change, York should consider the balance of the impact of scrutiny activity. By this we mean that deep dive work in the form of task groups and policy development should make up a much greater portion of scrutiny endeavours. The role of the committee is important in ensuring transparency and making recommendations to the Executive. However, it is only one approach to scrutiny working, where different approaches should be used together to best effect and ultimately to achieve impact.

Recomendation 8. That the Council consider reviewing the alignment of committees to better reflect the business of the Council. This would bring greater clarity as to which officers or lead members were accountable to which committee. As part of this work the Council should consider reducing the number of committees and possibly the number of councillors on those committees.



Frequency and organisation of Meetings

- 4.8. A frequent concern that was raised in the conversations was the amount of time taken up sitting in scrutiny committees. Scrutiny committee meetings for all four scrutiny committees take place almost monthly. This leads to somewhere in the region of forty public meetings each year. However, the impact of scrutiny is limited, despite the large organisational commitment to service these committees. We suggest a rethink of the frequency of these meetings, with a view to having more impact and less time in last-minute discussions.
- 4.9. We heard that there is often little difference in papers that go to Cabinet and those to Scrutiny, because of the time limited proximity of Scrutiny meeting before Cabinet. This gives limited scope for Scrutiny to make detailed and considered recommendations, as the substantive part of the policy, or decision has already been worked out. Subsequently Scrutiny can be critical, and there is room to make political points, but in essence what is reported is mostly a 'fait accompli'. A more effective, and potentially less political, approach would see Scrutiny as an important part of the decision-making process. With this approach we would expect that Scrutiny members would be engaged in decisions or policy at a substantially earlier stage than currently occurs.

Recomendation 9. That the frequency of Scrutiny Committee meetings be reviewed with a view to having fewer formal meetings, but developing scope for greater focus, preparation, including briefings and review work.

- 4.10. In a separate but related point, reports to Scrutiny committees would benefit from a review of their form and structure to enable the committee to access the key information and data they need to formulate effective questions. The length, usability and timeliness of reports can support effective Scrutiny meetings. Both Members and Officers identified the challenges of ensuring the Scrutiny committee has the right level of detail. Proposals around creating a Scrutiny-focused structure for reports with strong cabinet summaries were recognised as being helpful.
- 4.11. To develop enthusiasm for policy development and for scrutiny in its own right it is important to demonstrate the impact that scrutiny has. Telling the narrative of scrutiny activity and impact is useful to reinforce the self-identity of the function. An annual report can help in this respect to promote the impact and share the learning from scrutiny.

Recomendation 10. Introduce a formal process to track recommendations that Scrutiny makes.

Recomendation 11. Reinstate the process of having an annual scrutiny report but update the format to focus on the impact and difference that scrutiny has made.



Member training and development

- 4.12. We heard that many Members in York are newly elected councillors because of the cyclical nature of political control. Members learn how to undertake scrutiny from the existing practices in the authority. This means that poor practices can often be reinforced with new councillors. Whilst there is an induction programme, which many members have benefitted from, it was clear in our research that more training would be desirous.
- 4.13. There was a clear divergence in answers in the survey when asked about training, with some members being very clear about the offer, and others quite unsure about whether training in scrutiny had been offered. When asked about the effectiveness of member training and development, no respondents said that it was 'very' effective, with 80% of respondents saying that it was either somewhat effective or ineffective. In the free text box it was it was particularly mentioned that examples of 'what good scrutiny looks like' would be helpful.



Recomendation 12. A programme of ongoing training for members in undertaking good scrutiny, which could include work programming as well as coaching for chairs.

Thank you and acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Chairs, Members of Scrutiny Committees, Executive Members and Officers who took part in interviews for their time, insights and open views.

Yours sincerely,

Camilla de Bernhardt Lane

Director of Practice

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CYC SCRUTINY IMPACT REVIEW PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

	ACTION	PROPOSAL	wно	WHEN
1.	The Council should work to develop a shared vision and understanding of scrutiny	A working group be established, to develop proposals. The working group to then meet with the Leader & Deputy Leader to discuss and agree.	Current scrutiny chairs and vice chairs (May choose to co- opt others from time to time, e.g. Chair and deputy of A&G)	Commencing March 2025 and ongoing
2.	The Council should employ a dedicated Scrutiny officer to enhance the impact and practice of Scrutiny, in particular task group investigations. Skills for this role would include research, project management and policy development. On-going training and support for the Scrutiny officer should also be considered particularly if recruited internally, to support the role to achieve good Scrutiny	The structure of the DS team is being reviewed to add a dedicated Scrutiny Officer to the establishment.	LT/BR	Implement May/June 2025
3.	Substitute members of committees should be limited in number and named individuals rather than allowing any Cllr to act as a substitute at any given time	Members to determine if they wish to change the current arrangement for CSCCSM which is that the requirement for named subs can be overridden by the COO, MO /HODG if requested.	Council, following recommendation by Executive with Scrutiny views taken into account	March 2025

4.	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	Working group established under Rec 1 above, to take this work forward and discuss/agree with Leader and Deputy Leader once proposals have been developed.	Working Group/LT/DSO/Scrutiny Officer	Commencing March 2025 and ongoing
5.	Scrutiny taking a more deliberate and planned approach to budget scrutiny throughout the year. This should include a focus upon service delivery beyond finances	Scrutiny cttees to develop proposals in consultation with Chief Finance Officer	Working Group/Scrutiny Cttees/DM/LT/Scrutiny Officer	Commencing March 2025 and ongoing
6.	Review and enhance the scrutiny work planning process – supporting a Member-led work plan	Working Group to lead; other members, eg Leader /Executive members to be co-opted to the group as appropriate	Working Group/Scrutiny Cttees/LT/Scrutiny Officer	Commencing March 2025 and ongoing
7.	Undertake policy development in the form of task groups. This move would also require the timely awareness of scrutiny in issues that are being developed or decided upon, as scrutiny would need to undertake deep-dive work on areas where it could make a tangible difference.	As above – structured approach to TFG work throughout each year	Scrutiny/Executive	Commencing May 2025

8.	That the Council consider reviewing the alignment of committees to better reflect either the departmental organisation, or Cabinet portfolios. This would bring greater clarity as to which officers or lead members were accountable to which committee. As part of this work the Council should consider reducing the number of committees and possibly the number of councillors on those committees	Proposal to restructure: two scrutiny committees – • Overview and Place Scrutiny Committee (11 members) – this committee to have call in powers • People Services Scrutiny Committee (9 members) Elected member and wider resident and partner involvement to be strengthened and enhanced through participation in properly supported Task and Finish groups.	Council, following recommendation by Executive with Scrutiny views taken into account	March 2025
9.	That the frequency of Scrutiny Committee meetings be reviewed with a view to having fewer formal meetings, but developing scope for greater focus, preparation, including briefings and review work	Formal meetings to be scheduled bi-monthly. Information reports to be made available by alternate means, eg bi-monthly briefing sessions (Teams/hybrid) and member portal library	Executive, with Scrutiny views taken into account	March 2025
10.	Introduce a formal process to track recommendations that Scrutiny makes.	Modern Gov action tracking functionality to be utilised	DSO team/LT/Scrutiny Officer	May 2025
11.	Reinstate the process of having an annual scrutiny report but update the format to focus on the impact and difference that scrutiny has made	Scrutiny Officer will liaise with scrutiny chairs to produce annual report detailing work undertaken throughout the year, benefits and value realised etc	Scrutiny Officer/LT/Scrutiny Chairs	March 2026

ANNEX B

		and a look forward to the coming year.		
12.	A programme of ongoing training for members in undertaking good scrutiny, which could include work programming as well as coaching for chairs	Working with LGA to develop training programme to encompass: • Scrutiny member training • TFG training • Executive member training • Officer training	LT/DSO team	To begin delivery May 2025





Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Scrutiny Committee

10 March 2025

Report of the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Finance Officer

Finance and Performance Monitor 3, 2024/25

Summary

- This report sets out the projected 2024/25 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024. This is the third report of the financial year and assesses performance against budgets, including progress in delivering the Council's savings programme.
- 2. This report outlines the Council's continued challenging financial position with a forecast overspend for 2024/25 of £2.6m which is a huge improvement on the c£11m forecast overspend we have previously seen at this stage in the financial year. The forecast also assumes we can release some earmarked reserves to offset the overall position.
- 3. However, this is still a forecast overspend and therefore, whilst it is incredibly positive that the position is much improved, there is work still to do to ensure the continued financial resilience of the Council. It remains that the Council cannot afford to keep spending at this level. The general reserve is £6.9m and, whilst we have other earmarked reserves that we could call on if required, continued overspending will quickly see the Council exhaust its reserves.
- 4. 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, both within the current financial year and 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 latest forecast 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.

- 5. If we continue to take action and make any difficult decisions now, this will ensure the future financial stability of the Council and that we can continue to provide services for our residents. It is vital that mitigations are delivered, and the forecast overspend is reduced.
- 6. 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.
- 7. We are listening to residents within **Our Big Budget Conversation**, a consultation on budget priorities taking place over 4 stages during 2024-25. The final stage of the consultation closed at the end of Q3 and asked people to provide thoughts on proposals to help the council balance its budget based on feedback from the previous two stages. York remains committed to improving stock condition and tenant experiences, and results from the 2023-24 Regulator for Social Housing return were published for residents with the current consultation underway.
- 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 current forecast is that there will be an overspend of £2.6m. This is despite the additional budget allocated through the 2024/25 budget process and ongoing action being taken by managers across the Council to try and reduce expenditure. Adult Social Care remains an area of concern, however action is being taken within the directorate to mitigate against this forecast overspend.
- 10. If the Council continues to spend at the current level, and no action is taken, then we will continue to overspend and will exhaust our reserves and any other available funding. The current level of expenditure is unaffordable and therefore we must continue the work started in the

previous financial year to identify and take the necessary actions to reduce expenditure.

- 11. As outlined in previous reports to Executive, we have continued to see recurring overspends across both Adult and Children's Social Care. However, the underspends and mitigations that have allowed us to balance the budget at year end have generally been one off. Whilst the use of reserves to fund an overspend is appropriate as a one-off measure, it does not remove the need to identify ongoing savings to ensure the overall position is balanced. The budget report considered by Executive in February 2024 also included an assessment of risks associated with the budget, which included the need to secure further savings and effectively manage cost pressures.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Given the scale of the financial challenge, and the expected impact on budgets in future years, it is vital that every effort is made to balance the overall position. It is recognised that this will require difficult decisions to be made to protect services for vulnerable residents. The Financial Strategy report elsewhere on this agenda outlines proposals for balancing the budget in 2025/26.
- 14. Corporate control measures are in place, but it is possible that they will not deliver the scale of reduction needed within the year. Other savings proposals, including service reductions, may also be needed. Officers will continue to carefully monitor spend, identify further mitigation, and review reserves and other funding to make every effort to reduce this forecast position. However, it is possible that it will not be reduced to the point that the outturn will be within the approved budget. The Council has £6.9m of general reserves that would need to be called on if this were the case. As outlined in previous reports, any use of the general reserve would require additional savings to be made in the following year to replenish the reserve and ensure it remains at the recommended minimum level.

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

Financial Analysis

16. The Council's net budget is £149m. Following on from previous years, the challenge of delivering savings continues with c£14m to be achieved to reach a balanced budget. The latest forecasts indicate the Council is facing net financial pressures of £2.6m and an overview of this forecast, on a directorate by directorate basis, is outlined in Table 1 below.

Service area	Net budget	2024/25 Q2	2024/25 Q3
	£'000	Forecast	Forecast
		Variation	Variation
		£'000	£'000
Children & Education	28,659	1,111	994
Adult Social Care & Integration	46,807	3,286	3,608
Transport, Environment & Planning	23,464	-610	-859
Housing & Communities	6,779	790	711
Corporate & Central Services	42,983	-132	-149
Sub Total	148,692	4,445	4,305
Contingency	576	-576	-576
Use of earmarked reserves		-1,089	-1,089
Total including contingency	149,268	2,780	2,640

Table 1: Finance overview

Directorate Analysis

Corporate & Central Services

17. The forecast outturn position for the remaining areas of the Council is a net underspend of £149k and the table below summarises the latest forecasts by service area.

	2024/25	Forecast	Forecast
	Budget	Outturn	Outturn
	£'000	Variance	Variance
		£'000	%
Director of Finance	3,296	-275	-8.3%
CO HR & Support Services	11,628	161	1.38
Director of Governance	3,795	64	1.69
City Development	710	0	0
Public Health	13	0	0
Other Corporate & Treasury Mgt	23,541	-99	0.4
Total	42,983	-149	-0.3

18. Within the corporate services directorates it is forecast at that expenditure can be broadly contained within budgets.

Performance – Service Delivery

- 19. 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
- 20. 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.
- 21. 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.

Housing: Increasing the supply of affordable housing (City)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
% of dwellings with energy rating in A-C band in the EPC Register - Snapshot	45.3% (Q2 2024/25)	45.6% (October 2024)	↑ Good	Monthly	National Data 2023/24 59.7% Regional Data 55.3%	available in February
The DoT (Direction of Travel) is calcul All historic data is available via the Op		hree data points w	hether the	y are annual o	or quarterly.	

22. **% of dwellings with energy rating in A-C band in the EPC register –**An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) gives a property an energy efficiency rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) and is valid for 10 years. Apart from a few exemptions, a building must have an EPC

assessment when constructed, sold or let. Whilst the EPC register does not hold data for every property, it can be viewed as an indication of the general efficiency of homes. The rating is based on how a property uses and loses energy for example through heating, lighting, insulation, windows, water and energy sources. Each area is given a score which is then used to determine the A-G rating and a rating of A-C is generally considered to be good energy performance.

The % of properties on the register for York with an EPC rating of A-C at 23. the end of October was 45.6%. This measure has increased incrementally month on month since CYC began reporting on the information in March 2023 when 42% of properties were rated A-C. The largest changes in York continue to be in the middle categories with around 3% less properties rated D-E and around 3% more rated C. Data is based on the last recorded certificate for 62,027 properties on the register for York, some of which will have been last assessed more than ten years ago. When looking at certificates added or renewed in the past year only for 2023-24, 58.5% of certificates were rated A-C for York compared to 59.7% Nationally and 55.3% Regionally.

	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
The average of maximum annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide concentration recorded across three areas of technical breach (at points of relevant public exposure) - Calendar year	44.1 (2022/23)	38.8 (2023/24)	⇒	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in April 2025
Carbon emissions across the city (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) - (Calendar Year)	816 (2020)	906 (2021)	₽	Annual	Not available	2022 data available in November 2025

24. Average of maximum annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide concentration recorded across three areas of technical breach - this indicator considers an average of the maximum annual mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in 3 areas of the city where we have recorded exceedances of health-based air quality objectives in recent years (Gillygate/Lord Mayor's Walk, Blossom Street/Holgate Road and Rougier Street/George Hudson Street). The baseline 2022 figure for this indicator is 44.1µg/m3 and in the 3 specific areas mentioned there has been around a 25% reduction in this figure since 2012. Whilst the rate of improvement has not been consistent (it has slowed considerably in recent years), CYC's Fourth Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP4) aims to maintain a continued average 2.5% annual reduction in this indicator over its lifetime.

- 25. Within the 5-year lifetime of AQAP4, it is expected that this indicator (and all 3 areas respectively) will be confidently below 40μg/m3 and within health-based standards. The target for 2023 was 43μg/m3, which was met based on an indicator value of 38.8, which is a positive result.
- 26. Despite the overall indicator being 38.8, there was still one area that was above the health-based objective of 40 in 2023 (the maximum concentration of NO2 recorded on Gillygate was 43µg/m3). We aim to improve air quality further in this area through measures such as further electric buses and the traffic signal trial due to commence in January 2025.
- Level of CO2 emissions across the city and from council buildings 27. and operations - Emissions associated with council operations have been reducing across every category we measure, due to the work underway to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and fleet electrification. However, improvements to the scope and accuracy of our reporting methodology mean that new emissions are now being recorded, resulting in an overall increase in reported operational emissions. Fully understanding our emissions is an important step in managing and mitigation our impact. Further details are available here: https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s179414/Report.pdf. City-wide emissions have experienced a small increase in 2021, following post-covid restrictions. While this rebound is not unexpected, emissions have not returned to pre-covid levels following the long-term trend of emissions reduction since 2005. The rate of reduction over this time, however, is not sufficient to meet our net zero by 2030 ambition and significant emissions reductions are needed over the remaining years. Further details are available here:

https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s179439/EMDS_City%20Wide%20Emissions%202024.pdf

	How the	Council will	operate	(Council)	
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to In time - (YTD)	98.06% (Q2 2024/25)	98.04% (November 2024)	↑ Good	Monthly	Not available	Q3 2024/25 data available in January 2025
% of 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	73.66% (Q2 2024/25)	91.78% (November 2024)	↑ Good	Monthly	Not available	Q3 2024/25 data available in January 2025
The % of the Talkabout panel reporting an 'excellent' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	11.07% (Q1 2024/25)	11.36% (Q3 2024/25)	⇧	Quarterly	Not available	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	29.07% (Q1 2024/25)	27.76% (Q3 2024/25)	⇧	Quarterly	Not available	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	37.02% (Q1 2024/25)	38.17% (Q3 2024/25)	Ŷ	Quarterly	Not available	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	22.84% (Q1 2024/25)	22.71% (Q3 2024/25)	仓	Quarterly	Not available	Q1 2025/26 data available in July 2025
Average Sickness Days per FTE - CYC (Excluding Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	11.17 (November 2023)	11.66 (November 2024)	⇧	Monthly	CIPD (Public Sector) 2022/23 10.6	Q3 2024/25 data available in February 2025
York Customer Centre average speed of answer	00:01:05 (Phone) (Q2 2024/25)	00:00:25 (Phone) (November 2024)	⇧	Monthly	Not available	Q3 2024/25 data available in January 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

- 28. **FOI and EIR % of requests responded to in-time (YTD) –** 98% of requests were responded to in-time during the year up to the end of November 2024 which is the highest figure seen for a number of years.
- 29. **% of 4Cs complaints responded to in-time –** In 2023-24, there had been a large decrease in the number of corporate complaints received compared to 2022-23 (1,310 in 2023-24 compared to 1,866 in 2022-23). This decrease has continued into 2024-25 with 759 corporate complaints received in the first eight months of 2024-25 (compared to 948 in the first eight months of 2023-24). The percentage of corporate complaints responded to in time during November 2024 was 91.8% which is a large increase from 73.7% in Q2 2024-25.
- 30. % 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.

- 31. Average sickness days per full time equivalent (FTE) employee At the end of November 2024, the average number of sickness days per FTE (rolling 12 months) had increased slightly to 11.7 days from 11.2 in November 2023. Recently released benchmarks show that the CIPD public sector benchmark is 10.6 days per FTE, putting us in line with national trends.
- 32. York Customer Centre average speed of answer Phones were answered, on average, in 25 seconds in November 2024 by the York Customer Centre. This is the shortest time of answer seen since May, when the volume of calls received by the Customer centre increased due to garden waste calls.

Consultation

33. Not applicable.

Options

34. Not applicable.

Analysis

35. Not applicable.

Council Plan

36. Not applicable.

Implications

- 37. 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

- 38. 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.
- 39. The current financial position represents a significant risk to the Council's financial viability and therefore to ongoing service delivery. It is important to ensure that the mitigations and decisions outlined in this paper are delivered and that the overspend is reduced.

Recommendations

- 40. The Committee is asked to:
 - a. Note the finance and performance information.
 - b. Note that work will continue on identifying savings needed to fully mitigate the forecast overspend.

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

Contact Details

Author:
Debbie Mitchell
Chief Finance Officer
Ext 4161

Ian Cunningham Head of Business Intelligence Ext 5749 Chief Officer Responsible for the report: lan Floyd Chief Operating Officer

Report
Approve

✓

Date 7 February 2025

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None.

Annex 1: CSCCSM Q3 24-25 Scrutiny Committee Scorecard





Scrutiny - Corporate Services and Climate Change 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 January 2025

					Previous Year	s			2024/2025				
			Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
01. Business	BPI110	Forecast Budget Outturn (£000s Overspent / - Underspent) - CYC Subtotal (excluding contingency)	Quarterly	£2,638	£4,887	£3,661	£3,896	£4,445	£4,305	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutral
ness	BUR01	Business Rates - Rateable Value	Monthly	£255,734,051	£252,801,976	£242,602,745	£242,054,821	£242,673,321	£243,513,996	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutral
0	CFS01	Overall Customer Centre Satisfaction (%) - CYC	Monthly	93.48%	72.10%	84.40%	83.60%	84.00%	84.60%	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ▶ Neutra
02. Customer Service	OCC06B	Number of days taken to process Housing Benefit new claims and change events (DWP measure)	Monthly	3.19	3.72	4.16	6.27	6.01	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
mer		Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	6.05	6.32	4.69	8.62	-	-	-	-		
Servic	YCC030a	Footfall in Customer Centre - Average wait time (Minutes)	Monthly	12	9	9	2	1	NA	-		Up is Bad	▼ Green
ĕ	YCC057	YCC Average Speed of answer - Operators	Weekly	00:01:28	00:01:42	00:00:13	00:00:42	00:01:05	-	-	-	Neutral	Neutr •
	STF01	Staff Headcount - CYC Total (Excluding Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	2,500	2,546	2,597	2,587	2,638	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutr
83		Staff Headcount - CYC Total (Including Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	3,359	3,405	3,368	3,358	3,373	-	-		Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutr
Huma	STF08	Staff FTE - CYC Total (Excluding Schools) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	2,096.10	2,148.92	2,212.08	2,205.88	2,249.66	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra
03. Human Resources	OCC09	CYC stand-alone apprenticeships (excluding schools) - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	24	24	21	18	20	21	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ► Neutra
ources	STF100	Average Sickness Days per FTE - CYC (Excluding Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	Monthly	11.73	11.96	11.2	11.49	11.58	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutra
-		Benchmark - CIPD (Public Sector)	Annual	NA	10.6	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	STF107	Voluntary Turnover (%) - CYC Total (Including Schools) - (Rolling 12 Month)	Monthly	10.45%	11.38%	8.33%	8.70%	8.55%	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra
	CORP02L a	Red rated Large Projects - CYC - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	0	0	2	2	3	2	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra
	CORP02L b	Amber rated Large Projects - CYC - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	11	11	8	7	9	6	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra
94.		Large Project - Carbon Reduction	Quarterly	-	-	-	Green	Green	Green	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra
04. Risk Management		Large Project - HR System Transfer to Cloud	Quarterly	-	-	-	Green	Green	Green	-	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutra
lanage		Large Project - Green Waste	Quarterly	-	-	-	Green	Complete	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ► Neutra
ment	CORP10L	Large Project - Mansion House	Quarterly	-	-	-	Green	Green	Green	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ► Neutra
		Large Project - Retrofit One Stop Shop York (ROSSY)	Quarterly	-	-	-	Green	Green	Green	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutra

				F	Previous Year	s			2024/2025				
			Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
		Large Project - CRM Replacement	Quarterly	-	-	-	-	Amber	Green	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ▶ Neutral
05. Financ	BPI110	Forecast Budget Outturn (£000s Overspent / - Underspent) - CYC Subtotal (excluding contingency)	Quarterly	£2,638	£4,887	£3,661	£3,896	£4,445	£4,305	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ► Neutral
	TAP02	% of panel satisfied with the way the council runs things	Quarterly	50.58%	47.30%	43.84%	41.47%	-	48.46%	-		Up is Good	⋖ ▶ Neutra
		Benchmark - LG Inform	Quarterly	63.00%	62.00%	-	-	-	0.00%	-	-		
06 R		% of the panel reporting an 'excellent' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	10.92%	11.07%	-	11.36%	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ► Neutra
OS Resident Surveys	TAP37	% of the panel reporting a 'good' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	34.86%	29.07%	-	27.76%	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ► Neutra
urvevs	TALO	% of the panel reporting a 'satisfactory' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	34.51%	37.02%	-	38.17%	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ► Neutra
		% of the panel reporting a 'poor' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	19.72%	22.84%	-	22.71%	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutra
	CAN038	The average of maximum annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide concentration recorded across three areas of technical breach (at points of relevant public exposure) (ug/m3) (Calendar Year)	Annual	43.8	44.1	38.8	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ► Neutra
07 \$116	EPC01ac	% of dwellings with energy rating A-C band on the EPC Register (where A is the most energy efficient) - (Snapshot) - All dwellings on the register	Monthly	NC	42.00%	44.60%	45.10%	45.30%	-	-		Up is Good	Gree
07 Custainability	EPC01aci	% of dwellings with energy rating A-C band on the EPC Register (where A is the most energy efficient) - Dwellings added/renewed in the past	Annual	51.26%	49.39%	58.47%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	Green
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	52.69%	56.77%	59.71%	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	46.96%	50.33%	55.26%	-	-	-	-	-		
	GCC02	Carbon emissions across the city (kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) (Calendar Year)	Annual	906 (2021)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ► Neutra
	FOI01	FOI & EIR - Total Requests Received	Monthly	1,685	1,291	1,640	427	409	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ► Neutra
	FOI02	FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to In time - (YTD)	Quarterly	81.20%	85.50%	88.99%	97.64%	98.06%	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	1 0102	FOI & EIR - % Requests responded to In time	Monthly	81.05%	85.48%	88.99%	97.03%	95.95%	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
2	FOI05	DP (Data Protection Act) / SAR (Subject Access Request) - Total Received - (YTD)	Monthly	117	132	175	48	94	-	-	-	Neutral	⋖ ► Neutra
oforma	1 0103	DP (Data Protection Act) / SAR (Subject Access Request) - % In time - (YTD)	Quarterly	72.10%	64.39%	72.00%	45.83%	40.43%	-	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ► Neutra
<u>.</u>	IG14da	% of 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	Monthly	84.15%	94.56%	85.54%	51.79%	73.66%	-	-	-	Up is Good	▼ Red
08 Information Covernance	IG22a	% of Grade 1 4Cs Complaints responded to 'In Time'	Monthly	80.71%	86.15%	66.32%	48.25%	73.19%	-	-	-	Up is Good	⋖ ▶ Neutra
8	lG35h	Number of EIR Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing")	Monthly	-	-	20	21	20	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutra
	IG35k	Number of FOI Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing")	Monthly	-	-	54	29	55	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutra

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			F	Previous Years			2024/2025					
		Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
lG36h	Number of EIR Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing") - > 30 days	Monthly	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
IG36k	Number of FOI Requests which are incomplete ("no response sent" or "ongoing") > 30 days	Monthly	-	-	10	5	8	-	-	-	Up is Bad	⋖ ▶ Neutral

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Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee

10 March 2025

Report of the Director of Governance

Monitoring and Tracking of Approved Council Motions

Summary

 This report provides information on approved Council motions since November 2024, when the Committee last received an update. Wherever possible, the Committee endeavours to monitor approved Council Motions biannually.

Background

- 2. At its meeting in May 2022, this Committee confirmed its aim to ensure a transparent and regular monitoring process was in place in relation to approved Council motions. It also noted that the Corporate Management Team (CMT) continued to monitor motions agreed at Council meetings to ensure delivery of any agreed actions. The Committee felt that receiving a bi-annual report on progress, following on from consideration by CMT, would provide a robust and transparent platform for ensuring delivery of agreed Council motions and actions.
- 3. Annex A to this report includes details of motions approved by Full Council since November 2024, showing progress against implementation of any agreed actions, as well as progress on all ongoing live motions.

Analysis

4. The approved resolutions relating to motions have, where possible, been split down in Annex A into easier to read actions. Each action has been assigned a relevant directorate 'owner', and each responsible Officer has agreed to keep relevant Members informed of progress. In addition, CMT are able to review the schedule attached after every Council meeting, setting appropriate actions.

Consultation

5. CMT has been consulted on the process of monitoring approved Council motions and have acknowledged collective responsibility for ensuring appropriate implementation of agreed motions. CMT will continue to monitor the attached schedule and progress and set appropriate action owners after every Council meeting.

Options

6. This report is provided for transparency purposes and is therefore for information only.

Council Plan 2023-27

7. Whilst this report does not in itself materially affect how the work of scrutiny can support and develop the Council's overall priorities set out in the new Council Plan 2023-27, the proper and effective implementation of approved Council motions can contribute to those priorities, dependent upon the area of concern being addressed in those motions.

Implications

8. There are no financial, equalities, legal, information technology, crime & disorder, sustainability or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However, there may, of course, be implications associated with the implementation of any of the motions listed in Annex A, which will be addressed by responsible officers.

Risk Management

9. Clearly, if the implementation of approved Council motions is not satisfactorily monitored, there is a risk to the organisation around the delivery of democratically taken resolutions.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to note the contents of Annex A to this report.

Reason: To ensure that processes for monitoring and implementing approved Council motion resolutions remain sufficiently robust.

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Author:

Lindsay Tomlinson Head of Democratic Governance

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bryn Roberts

Director of Governance

Report Approved ✓

26/02/2025 Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A - 'Live' Council Motions



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Council Meeting	- 27/4/2022			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Addressing York's Dental Crisis	This Council therefore resolves to: Ask the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care to bring regular reports on the state of local dentistry to decision sessions, seeking input from relevant scrutiny committees.	Jamaila Hussain / Sharon Stoltz	It is more appropriate for the Health and Wellbeing Board to receive regular reports on the state of local dentistry given that there is NHS representation and cross party membership. The Health and Wellbeing Board reports regularly to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and to Council via the Executive Member updates. Therefore it is considered inappropriate to use Executive member Decision Sessions for this purpose.	Completed
	Ask that the Executive Member makes the case for harnessing opportunities to improve dental service provision locally through the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICS).	Jamaila Hussain / Sharon Stoltz	The responsibility for commissioning dental services sits with NHS England & Improvement (NHSE/I) and not the Integrated Care System. In York the Council's Public Health Team are already working with NHSE/I commissioners to ensure that we realise the benefits of Flexible Commissioning within the constraints of the national contract for provision of NHS Dentistry.	Completed
	Ask all group leaders and local health and NHS partners to write a joint letter to the Health Secretary outlining concerns over local provision and access to services, outlining urgent reforms which need to take place, including boosting spending, reforming commissioning to tackle the twin crises of access and affordability, recognising overseas dentistry qualifications and implementing	Jamaila Hussain / Sharon Stoltz	The Director of Public Health, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, has already been in contact with the Secretary of State and sent a letter to the Chief Dental Officer on 1st November 2001 explaining the Board's concerns about access to dental services in York and including reference to the Healthwatch York reports. The Chief Dental Officer referred our concerns to the NHSE/I North East & Yorkshire Regional Team responsible for Primary Care Commissioning (including dentistry). The Director of Public Health has met with this team	Completed

	an urgent programme to recruit and retain more NHS dentists.		who have since attended Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee to discuss the challenges around access to dentistry etc. This work is ongoing as described above but is constrained by the NHS Dental Contract. The Department of Health and Social Care is aware of the need to review the contract and the need for training etc and the government is being lobbied by a group of MPs representing constituencies across England to bring forward the timescale for this work. There is, therefore, nothing to be gained by writing a further letter from group leaders and local health and NHS partners when the matter is already being lobbied at central government.	
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
End 'Fire and Rehire'	Council therefore resolves to: • ask the MPs for York Central and York Outer to write to the Prime Minister, demanding he acts now to outlaw fire and rehire, and to keep his promise to York residents to protect their terms and conditions of employment;	Cllr Aspden / Ian Floyd / Will Boardman	draft letter to York MPs.	Completed
	ask the council's Chief Operating Officer and Council Leader to write to all businesses in York employing 100 or more staff, inviting them to sign up to the Good Business Charter and its 10 componens;	Cllr Aspden / Ian Floyd / Simon Brereton	Letter sent and continue to promote.	Completed
	 and to call on the council's Executive to: not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and through updated council procurement policy, both prevent its use by council contractors as well as ensuring that the council only contracts 	Debbie Mitchell	This Council's procurement strategy and processes already outlines that we will use procurement to achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes. Our suppliers have to support our commitment to equalities, be responsive to the needs of our	Completed

those with good employment, trade union, equalities and environmental records:

communities, ensure services are accessible to all groups and appropriate to those with differing needs and commit to developing a diverse and inclusive workforce.

All our suppliers are required to demonstrate their commitment to maintaining and promoting high ethical standards, reminding them of their duty of care in the use of public funds.

We ensure that opportunities to promote and encourage local economic growth are built into appropriate contracts whilst ensuring compliance with legislation. When contracting with national/international suppliers we encourage them to engage local providers in the delivery of services.

We ensure that sustainability criteria are built into our procurements to tackle climate change and reduce waste.

The requirement for payment of the Foundation Living Wage is explicitly made in the tender documentation, and the contract conditions that are issued with the tender.

CYC will ensure that all possible and viable options will be considered when proposing to change an employee's terms and conditions. We have positive and constructive relationships with our trade unions to ensure that our employees are supported during times of change and we always aim to ensure that changes implemented are financially viable, consider equalities impacts and follow all national and local employment procedures.

 promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and wellbeing; 	Tracey Carter / Simon Brereton	As above.	
work with York's anchor institutions and the council's key partners to bring forward plans for model employment practices, in partnership with recognised trade unions;	Ian Floyd / Helen Whiting	The Council will continue to work with partners across the council and share good practice in terms of employment initiatives and good practice. As an employer we work with the Council's recognised trade unions for our own employees and national trade unions as part of collective bargaining of employee's terms and conditions. The Council operates within the existing employment regulations and will consult with recognised and relevant trade unions on employment matters that seek to end an employees' employment.	Completed
support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.	Ian Floyd / Helen Whiting	The council works to ensure that we are an employer of choice offering a fair pay which is governed by national bargaining, local negotiation and polices and measures to ensure fair application. We have strong relationships with our recognised trade unions and we strive to ensure that we offer a safe and respectful working environment and services where employees are proud to work for the Council and serve our residents. These are all key elements of the New Deal for Working People campaign and these are also embedded in our Values and Organisational Development Plan	Completed

Council Meeting - 14/7/2022									
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status					
Opposing Fire Service Cuts to the North side of York	to formally oppose cuts to Huntington Station fire cover by submitting a City of York Council consultation response, outlining the city's view that current crewing and fire appliance arrangements at Huntington Station must be retained;			Completed					
	to have that draft response published for public comment and decision at an Executive Member Decision Session prior to the consultation deadline of 14 August;	Janie Berry		Completed					
	Council further resolves to write to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and MPs for York Central and York Outer, asking them to collectively write and seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to:	Cllr Aspden / Janie Berry / Will Boardman	Letter sent on 11/08/22.	Completed					
	 carry out a comprehensive funding review of fire and police services in North Yorkshire, in order to futureproof sustainable service provision; 	Cllr Aspden / Janie Berry / Will Boardman		Completed					
	 make NYFRS's case for greater Government grant that address the unique challenges of delivering services across a large rural county, with diverse risks and very low levels of reserves; 	Cllr Aspden / Janie Berry / Will Boardman		Completed					

	 push for NYFRS to be given the option of agreeing the £5 precept flexibility, consistent with the other lowest charging fire authorities nationally. 	Cllr Aspden / Janie Berry / Will Boardman		Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Declaring a Cost of Living Emergency	 Consequently, Council resolves to: Declare a 'Cost of Living Emergency' in York. 			
	 Ask the Executive to commit £200k towards the YFAS to issue additional food and fuel vouchers to approximately 4,000 residents on the lowest incomes. 	Pauline Stuchfield	Finance to advise on mechanism for executive to make this decision. Completed	Completed
	Host a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, and Chambers of Commerce and organisations working to support residents facing hardship.	Pauline Stuchfield	In planning for mid October 2022 Completed	Completed au
	Call on the Government to act immediately to tackle the cost of living crisis by cutting the standard rate of VAT to 17.5%, restoring the Universal Credit supplement of £20, expanding the Warm Home Discount and introducing a home insulation fund to cut heating bills and carbon emissions.	Pauline Stuchfield	Completed	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Creating a more collaborative council	This Council therefore resolves:	Claire Foale	Meeting has taken place with Cllr Ayre and he has asked for across party working group to be established and to meet in August /	Completed

	to request Executive to begin the necessary preparatory work that would explore the various alternative governance models to identify the most suitable, deliverable and finically viable model, taking in account the governance implications of the creation of a combined authority in York and North Yorkshire. This work would include the creation of a cross party task group, identification of the necessary funding, consultation with the Local Government Association and authorities which currently operate some type of committee system, such as Kent, Wirral, Bristol and Liverpool. A report would be brought to a meeting of the Executive to outline the financial and governance implications and possible next steps, enabling a decision on the formal adoption of any alternative forms of governance to be made in May 2023.		September 2022. Group Leaders have been contacted for nominees and to also provide availability for a meeting of the working group. As of 24.08.22 a nomination has been received from Green Group and awaiting responses from the other Group Leaders. As of 9.3.23, no further nominations have been received.	Page 6/
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Stop Unfair Parking Enforcement at Tower Court	Council therefore resolves that:	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Corporate Director of Place met with a representative of Boultee Brooks Real Estate Ltd on 22 September - awaiting written response of agreed actions. No written response received but agreed a set of verbal actions. No further action.	Completed

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Protecting and Improving Local Bus Services	Council therefore resolves that: • Officers should continue negotiations with bus providers to retain as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in service provision, while recognising that when Govt funding stops in March, this can only be guaranteed if the Lib Dem-led council is willing to subsidise and secure such services.	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Executive to consider a report on Bus Service Network Update on 16 March 2023 outlining progress to date and a number of recommendations going forward.	Completed
	Officers should actively engage with all elected councillors, including transport spokespersons and user groups as part of their work with operators to review bus routes and timetables.	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Enhance Partnership agreed by Executive in October 2022 – a route for engagement between Councillors, Community with bus operators.	Completed
	The Executive should use all opportunities, including working with regional political leaders, to continue to lobby Government for long-term funding to support public transport networks, including support for driver recruitment and training schemes.	Cllr D'Agorne	Update to the Executive in November 2022 and March 2023. Funding has been extended to June 2023. Ongoing discussion with bus service users and operators through the enhanced partnership governance. Regular collaborative meetings with DfT to raise issues and explore support and funding opportunities.	Completed
	Whilst the agreed 'Enhanced Partnership' approach should be pursued, alternative feasible models should be kept under review and lessons learned from the experience of other cities and regions, including the bus	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Complete, as members agreed the Devolution deal which provides for the Combined Authority Mayor to introduce Bus Franchising.	Completed

	franchising systems being pursued by Labour Metro Mayors in Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester.			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Controlling the Concentration of Short Term & Holiday Lets	agree to commence the process of compiling an evidence base, from which the council can consider adopting a new policy in the future on controlling the spread of short term and holiday let accommodation, postadoption of the Local Plan;	Alison Cooke	Will be included in the Local Plan Housing Needs Assessment updates from time to time. 13.04.23 - Government issues consultation on amendments to planning regulations to allow article 4 directions to control airbnb. Officers responding, this action will be informed by government proposals which have been committed for implementation before end of 2023, alongside a registration scheme that will provide the evidence base for any article 4 decision. 19.02.24 – Government response to consultations released confirming introduction of new licensing and planning requirements (introduction of new use class). Now awaiting details of new legislation. Briefing sent to Cllr Pavlovic.	Completed Page 69
	consider bringing forward, in a report to Executive in due course, options for s106 planning conditions that include, but are not restricted to:	James Gilchrist Tracey Carter	Subject to the below lobbing government result in legal powers. Any planning restrictions would require an evidence base (from the Local Plan Housing Needs Assessment)	Completed

	 consider the impact of short term and holiday lets in the development of the council's various housing policies, including the loss of ordinary family and other housing in York; ensure the council lobbies Government, through the Local Government Association and its two MPs, to alter the tax regime to ensure parity between short term lets operating as businesses, and long term lets, removing preferential treatment for the former 	James Gilchrist / Cllr D Craghill	Review Scrutiny response to Government consultation on holiday lets and work with members to lobby government.	Completed
Motion York Opposes Fracking	Resolutions This Council resolves to: • Ask the COO to write on behalf of the Council to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Minister for State (Minister for Climate) to make them aware of the opposition to fracking in York, in light of the Government's statement that it will only progress with fracking where there is local support.	Lead Officer / Executive Member Ian Floyd / Will Boardman	Actions taken	Status Page 70
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Equality for Disabled People	This Council resolves: • to adopt the Social Model of Disability and embed it into every area of its working, operation, policy and practice, including in how it communicates;	Pauline Stuchfield / Laura Williams	Work to commence on actions when Access Officer is in post working on an integrated action plan. Integrated Action Plan is in development. Work has started with comms on updating accessible information guidelines in line with	Ongoing

		commitments in response to Health Watch Report. Social Model of Disability Adopted. A report titled 'Implementing the Social Model of Disability' was approved at a Decision Session of the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights and Equalities on 24 January 2024. The recommendations were: 1) approve the policy statement on implementing the Social Model of Disability at City of York Council, 2) commit to the council providing elected Members and officers with appropriate Disability Equality Training; and 3) note the York Access Forum update, Terms of Reference, and the next steps in appointing a new forum Chair	
to review the extent to which disability awareness training, inclusive and universal design training and disability equality is embedded across the organisation in how the council delivers services, making recommendations as appropriate;	Pauline Stuchfield / Laura Williams	As above, the paper approved on 24 January included a recommendation to provide training. It stated that 'To further embed the Social Model of Disability it is essential that Disability Equality Training is made a mandatory part of the council's training and induction package, for both officers and elected Members.' It also stated 'There are already resources within the Customer and Communities Directorate working on Access. However, work is ongoing to address meeting the council's statutory equalities and human rights responsibilities, and it is recognised there is the need for additional training resources to support the delivery of these responsibilities, including training on disability.' The lack of funding for this work as a result of the council's ongoing challenges has meant implementation of this training has been delayed. In the proposed Financial Strategy 2025/26 there is £50k budget growth for disability equality	Page 71

		training. We also have a new role of Head of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion who will take up post on 5 March 2025.	
 to prepare and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on building design, post Local Plan adoption, in order to deliver accessible and inclusive new developments in the future; 	Pauline Stuchfield / Laura Williams	As above. To follow formulation of Independent Advisory Group (IAG below) and local plan adoption. Alison Cooke to update?	
to commit to genuine co-production on all council developments, where disabled people's views are incorporated alongside those of appropriate professionals when considering inclusion and accessibility;	Pauline Stuchfield / Laura Williams	City of York Council committed to employ an Access Officer as part of the motion and they have been in post since November 2022. One of the Access Officer's first acts was to convene a disability advisory group in March 2023. This became known as 'York Access Forum'. As above the Terms of Reference for this group were approved in January 2024 (Annex A York Access Forum Terms of Reference Final Draft.pdf) and it was also agreed CYC would appoint an Independent Chair, who is now in place. The group are working with council officers on various consultations and council developments, however both the forum and CMT recognise that there is still significant work to be done to ensure there is genuine co-production on appropriate projects, and the roll out of Disability Equalities Training will help with both this, and a wider understanding of the barriers facing disabled people in the city.	York Access Forum in place
 upon the appointment of an Access Officer, to convene a quarterly Access Forum, resourced so that it will work in an entirely inclusive and accessible way, supporting a genuine commitment to co-production. 	Pauline Stuchfield / Laura Williams	As above.	Complete

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Delivering Effective Customer Services to York Residents	Council resolves to request that the Executive, including as part of its current budget preparations: • publicly acknowledges the hard work of customer services staff and the impact of increased workloads on their ability to meet resident expectations, and apologises for the council's ongoing inability to effectively respond to residents' issues in a timely way; • commits to reinstate the customer services call-back service to residents once current vacant positions are filled and new staff have been trained; • commits to reviewing the functioning of the relevant council services as a priority, with a focus to include: staffing and operating hours of the customer call centre; • ensuring access to non-digital council services is an easy, straightforward process; • categorisation of services on, and user-friendliness of, a council website a significant number of residents struggle to navigate; • a more effective and simpler system for monitoring and recording of abusive calls to staff, including a clear structure for escalation, response and staff well-being support.	Pauline Stuchfield	Call- back service on track to be back in place by early summer 2023. Regarding abusive calls the steps being taken, monitoring and a team stress risk assessment approach were all outlined at Customer & Corporate Management of Scrutiny Committee on 6th March 2023. All other elements will be built into a coproduced Customer Strategy for approval in 2024. Update: policy under development regarding customer behaviour. Customer strategy delayed to be built into Customer Experience work following the restructure.	Ongoing

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
York Opposes Voter ID Requirements	Council therefore resolves to: Request the Chief Operating Officer writes to the Cabinet Office to express the Council's serious concern as to the introduction of mandatory Voter ID in any UK elections.	Ian Floyd / Bryn Roberts	Letter sent on 03/03/2023 to Government from West Yorkshire Chief Executives, which York supports, aimed at raising significant concerns relating to the implementation of the requirement for electors to show photographic identification in the polling station from 04/05/2023.	Completed
	Request a report is brought to a public meeting of the council's Executive outlining: the plans and update on preparations to introduce mandatory voter ID for the May 2023 local election in York	Ian Floyd / Bryn Roberts	Report to be tabled at March's Executive Meeting. Completed.	Completed
	the potential cost as well as consideration of any practical issues involved in issuing postal vote application forms to every eligible voter on the Electoral Register in York. Use the council's communications function to regularly promote postal voting, and frequently in the months prior to an election.	Ian Floyd / Bryn Roberts	Completed.	Completed Page /4
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Introduction of Council Tax Premium for Second Homes	Council therefore resolves to: Request officers to bring a paper to a meeting of the Executive outlining the implications and options for implementing a 100% council tax premium of second homes in York, with a view to implementing the policy once national legislation has been granted Royal assent.	Pauline Stuchfield	The council is required to take any decision a year in advance of being able to apply any change in the liability for second homes. The decision was taken in last years budget paper however the Act (Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill) has not yet been passed to allow LA's the power to do this.	Completed

		The same decision is being included in this years budget papers to come into effect on 1st April 2025 should the Act be passed in time.	
Request the Chief Operating Officer to write to relevant Minsters on behalf of the Council in support of the introduction of the council tax premium for second homes and seek assurance that loopholes that could see second home owners avoid the payment of the premium will be addressed.	Pauline Stuchfield/lan Floyd	Completed	Completed

Council Meeting- 23/03/23						
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status		
Care Leavers' Transport Costs	Council therefore resolves to request that following May's elections, the new Executive consider what additional offer could be made to Care Leavers including assessing the feasibility of also offering care leavers the option of: • Financial assistance with annual bus travel, a 16–25 rail card and discounted access to the TIER ecycle/ e-scooter scheme up to the age of 25; • Free urban cycle skills training; • A contribution towards a bicycle and appropriate protective clothing and through working with partners, find ways to cover the full costs of a new bicycle and appropriate accessories.	New Administration / Martin Kelly	During the review of the Local Offer for care leavers transport options were explored. Care leavers were most favourable to an extension of the bus pass to age 25. The Local Offer has now been approved and bus passes are available to care leavers up to 25.	Completed		
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status		
Return to Community Policing	The Council consequently resolves to: • Request that Group Leaders write to the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner calling for a reversal of the current freeze in PCSO recruitment and commitment to significantly increase the number of PCSOs in the region.	Group Leaders Political Assistants				

	Request that Council officers work with the North Yorkshire Police to produce a report to the Executive Member on how neighbourhood improvement plans can be developed, which review how best to holistically design out anti-social behaviour in the area.	James Gilchrist / Jane Mowat	A new community strategy has been developed with partners which includes a focus on safe and supported communities and is due to be approved by Exec.	Completed
	 Invite the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to a public meeting to answer councillor questions and set out plans to improve community policing in York. 	Bryn Roberts	Invitation issued to the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire & Crime, who has indicated that she would be happy to consider attending a public meeting, but already answers Councillor questions via the police and crime panel so would need to understand what might be needed that would be different. Further clarity has been provided, and any subsequent response will be updated as and when received.	Completed
	Call on Safer York Partnership chair to explore best ways to embed Community Safety Officers within the Community Safety Hub.	James Gilchrist / Jane Mowat	Community safety officers are now embedded within the Hub.	Completed Page 7.
	 Request that the Safer York Partnership representatives engage and consult ward councillors in the development of the Community Safety Strategy 2023-2026. 	James Gilchrist / Jane Mowat	For the First Time it is proposed that the Community Safety Strategy developed by the Council and partners is approved at Executive and Council.	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Removing Barriers to an Education and Educational Attainment	Council resolves: • to request the Executive commits the council to a policy of working with external organisations to provide FSM to all primary school		2 Primary schools have piloted universal free school meals and free school breakfasts from January 2024. The Community Fund has been established to support the York Hungry Minds Project.	Completed

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pupils, starting with those schools			
most in need;			
to write to all York secondary schools, highlighting the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) 'Cost of the School Day' project to ask that students eligible for FSMs are able to use their allowance at any time during the school day, and to agree to the rolling over of any unspent money to be used in the future;	Martin Kelly / Maxine Squire / Pauline Stuchfield	York Schools and Academies Board have adopted poverty proofing as one of their priorities for 2023-24.	Completed
to commit to a twin track approach of working through the LGA on FSM automatic enrolment as well as expanding eligibility for FSM by increasing the income threshold, and through the NEU on ensuring FSM provision becomes universal for every primary school child;	Martin Kelly / Maxine Squire / Pauline Stuchfield	Auto enrolment has been piloted with two primary schools in September 2023. The council is continuing to work with the Fix Our Food Project to scale up auto enrolment to include all schools in 2023-24. Work is taking place to roll out auto enrolment across all schools for the academic year 2024-25. The two pilot schools are being evaluated and results reported to CCC Scrutiny on 5th November. The York Hungry Minds Steering Group is continuing to meet but evaluating future work following the current government confirming they intend a national roll out of primary school breakfasts. Future work in York will be directed by the Steering Group.	Completed
 to write, through the Corporate Director for Children's Services, to all local authority-maintained schools and academy schools: requesting information on how	Martin Kelly / Maxine Squire	A letter has been sent to all schools reminding them about government statutory guidance on school uniform. Schools are following this guidance when reviewing uniform. A large number of the city's schools have implemented school uniform exchange schemes. Ordinarily available provision for SEND guidance has been drafted and published via the SEND local offer. The new guidance	Completed

Motion	schools are not excluding students based on income and are genuinely open to all; - inviting all schools to work with the local authority in developing a York protocol which describes 'What should be ordinarily available' for pupils with SEND ensuring there is a fair and consistent application of the SEND Code of Practice by schools to protect the rights of these pupils. Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	document is being launched with all schools at the SEND conference on 20 th November. Actions taken	Status
Council Backs Haxby Station Project	The Council therefore resolves to: • Endorse and commit to the Haxby station project, and fully back it to ensure its success.	James Gilchrist / Cllr Ravillious	The original Outline Business Case was submitted back in March 2023, this has been updated several times in response to Department for Transport questions. Despite several political announcements the Business Case for funding has never been approved. The project is now part of the new Governments review of transport projects. The Council remains committed and has the match funding in place and awaits the match funding from government to make this a deliverable project.	Ongoing - Awaiting Government decision
	Request that all group leaders send a joint letter to the Department for Transport and Network Rail supporting the project and urging for the remaining Government funding to be released from the Restoring Your Railway Fund to enable to proceed with the project at pace.	Group Leaders Political Assistants		

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Safeguarding York's future	The council resolves to request that the Lord Mayor and Executive Members begin Full Council, Executive meetings and Executive Member Decision Sessions respectively by reminding Members of the remaining days until 1st January 2030, by which time we have pledged to be carbon neutral and requesting that Members keep this at the forefront of their minds when taking decisions;		Lord Mayor at the start of every Council reminds attendees of the number of days, counting down to net zero on 1 January 2030	Completed
	that the Leader writes to our local MPs urging them to sign up to support the Climate & Ecology Bill, or thanking them for already doing so; and write to Zero Hour, and organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Climate & Ecology Bill, expressing its support;	Cllr Douglas / Claire Foale	Claire Foale actioning tbc	
	that the Executive develops a process that demonstrates clear commitment to a strengthened York 10-year Climate Change Strategy by exploring a series of intermediate carbon reduction targets, following exploration of the topic at Corporate and Climate Scrutiny Committee and following receipt of an options report to Executive;	Executive Members / Claire Foale	Discussion to explore intermediate targets held at October 2023 Scrutiny, report going to EDMS in January 2024	Completed

	that the Executive Member for Transport brings forward an updated Local Transport Plan that reflects the latest science and which includes ambitious targets in line with a strengthened York 10-year Climate Strategy;	Cllr Kilbane / Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Report went to October Executive 2023 with Policy Focus Areas, detailed consultation will take place during winter 2023/24 on detailed policies before adoption by Exec/Council in the Summer of 2024	Completed
	that the Executive Members for Environment and Climate Emergency take steps to implement the actions that deliver on the Pollinator Strategy to achieve a measurable increase in biodiversity.	Councillors Jenny Kent and Kate Ravilious	Executive Member for Environment agreed changes to public realm management in February 2024	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Highway Maintenance	Council resolves to request that the Executive: • Expedites the review of the Highways Safety Inspection Manual.		To be considered as part of future review of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management. Being developed for devolution and the new Mayoral Combined Authority. The legal requirements for maintenance varies depending on the highways status.	Ongoing age 81
	 Explores as part of this review, a change to the 'investigatory level' for potholes to 30mm vertical face depth is secured. 	James Gilchrist	Review of above will consider this	Ongoing
	Ensures that the relevant scrutiny committee and special interest groups (such as those relating to cycling and disability rights) are consulted to better understand the impacts of the current approach to highway maintenance	James Gilchrist	Adoption of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan will go through public decision making. Scrutiny agenda topics are not within officer control, but it will be suggested to the chair as part of decision making.	Ongoing

	That the strategic active travel network (as identified in the draft LCWIP) is prioritised for highway maintenance treatment and allocated a specific budget to complete maintenance to a safe standard throughout the year.	James Gilchrist	To be considered as part of future review of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management. Being developed for devolution and the new Mayoral Combined Authority. The legal requirements for maintenance varies depending on the highways status.	Ongoing
	Trials a more efficient use of the Ward Highways Budget in 2023-24, reallocating it to establish a dedicated team that will have the flexibility to patch larger sections of road surface at a time, thereby delivering a longer lasting fix and better use of limited resources.	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist	Decision made at 20 July full council to suspend ward highway funding and spend on road repairs	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status Page 82
Getting York Moving Fairly	For the next four-year administration, Council asks the Executive to commit to: 1. Look wherever possible to improve the cycle network, including better linking of villages 2. Reverse the City Centre Blue Badge ban 3. Rule out a Congestion Charge 4. Address the stalled work on the dualling of the A1237 by working with stakeholders to deliver a scheme that meets the transport commitments within York's Climate Change Strategy and the emerging Local Transport Plan. 5. Calling on the new Mayoral Combined Authority, once	Executive Members	A new local transport strategy has been adopted and places cycling second on the transport hierarchy and an ongoing review of existing approaches to ensure we deliver that hierarchy at all times. Blue badge access has been reinstated to the footstreets through Executive decision in 2023. Planning permission has since been gained for the A1237 and a gateway review of next steps is currently underway. The devolution deal makes the Mayoral Combined Authority responsible for buses	Complete

	established, to make taking back control of our buses a priority.		although transition arrangements are in place.	
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
A city response to Food Insecurity	This council resolves to ask the Executive to: • write a letter to the Prime Minister and relevant ministers about the importance of introducing auto-enrolment for those entitled to free school meals;	Executive Members / Martin Kelly / Maxine Squire / Pauline Stuchfield	See below – auto-enrolment introduced.	Completed
	 promote enrolment for free school meals to support children, young people and their families to help combat food insecurity and shortage in York; 	Martin Kelly / Maxine Squire / Pauline Stuchfield	The CYC admissions team promote FSM support for children as do schools. The scale up of auto enrolment is designed to ensure all those eligible receive the entitlement.	Completed
	 encourage larger food providers in and around York to sign up to York's Good Business Charter, including paying the Real Living Wage; 	Claire Foale / Garry Taylor	Not started	
	work more closely with Parish Councils and groups like Edible York and YACIO (York Allotments Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to develop ideas for increasing the number of public green spaces available for food production by communities across York;	Pauline Stuchfield / Claire Foale / Garry Taylor	See below but can also tie into the York Neighbourhood model	Ongoing
	 request that the council's scrutiny function undertakes a review of community food growing opportunities and makes 		Food Scrutiny review in progress	ongoing

recommendations to Executive to expand these opportunities, including considering the prospects for expanding an Edible York project in Tang Hall to other parts of the city to bring more underused gardens into use for food	
into use for food growing.	

Council Meeting- 21/09/2	23			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Improving York's Air Quality	This Council resolves to request Executive: urgently completes and consults on a draft Air Quality Action Plan 4 in parallel with the emerging draft Local Transport Plan 4, taking into account the Council's Climate Change and Health and Well-being strategies given the significant interrelationships for some key pollutants;	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun Gibbons	Air Quality Action Plan 4 has been to scrutiny and conusited upon and adopted by Executive at July 2024 Exec	Completed
	 includes within this work the WHO principle of progressively reducing average exposures to air pollution in York and to set its own interim WHO-based targets for pollutants within the authority's influence, such as PM10 and NO2. 	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun Gibbons	This is reflected in the new strategy	Completed
	ensures York prioritises actions that will end exceedances of the current English statutory air quality targets as soon as possible within the AQAP 4 period;	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun Gibbons	Political choice within the framework of emerging policies that officers will operate within. The consultation will inform future reports.	Completed
	Works together with York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and other counterparts to address regional sources of air pollution.	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun Gibbons	Already work with regional colleagues through the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group which includes Air Quality. Part of the consultation on the development of AQAP4 was to consult neighbouring authorities.	Completed
	 and Council resolves in writing, with copies to York's MPs, to call for the Government to: adopt site-specific targets with the aim of improving air quality in vulnerable locations 	Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale /	Executive/Political Assistant should be lobbying, This is our approach locally	

	such as schools, hospitals, care homes, sites of special scientific interest and similar other ecologically vulnerable sites; • address the shortcomings of the National Planning Policy Framework and Building regulations with respect to air pollution from buildings including construction projects, gas boilers, solid fuel fires and stoves, from poor ventilation of buildings and from the impact on air quality of transport emissions associated with new developments and from agricultural practices; • address the shortcomings in other legislation with regard to household furnishing, cleaning and other products used in residential and workplace settings which can adversely affect indoor air	Shaun Gibbons Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun Gibbons Neil Ferris / James Gilchrist / Claire Foale / Shaun	Executive/Political Assistant should be lobbying Executive/Political Assistant should be lobbying	
	quality.	Gibbons		(
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Motion Get me home safely	Council resolves to • Fully support Unite's "Get me Home Safely" campaign;	Executive Member		Status Completed
	Council resolves to • Fully support Unite's "Get me Home Safely"	Executive	The BID now lead on Purple Flag. The Bid have recently access OPFCC funding to improve and light up some of the darkest alleyways to improve safety. Looking also at short messaging videos on people getting home safely	Status

when the Statement of Licensing Policy is next reviewed;		h) as staff working in licensed premises can finish work late at night and/or into the early hours of the morning, consideration should be given to having arrangements in place to make sure they get home safely, such as providing free transport and offering appropriate additional training. Following concerns raised by workers, especially women, Unite launched the Get Me Home Safely campaign, which City of York Council fully support.	
Support the introduction of legal requirements for training transport workers on preventing gender-based violence, sexual assault and harassment on public transport and private hire vehicles;	James Gilchrist	Statement of Licensing Policy being updated see above	Completed
Publicly call for improvement to late night and off-peak transport service provision to provide extra night services, as well as work with employers to discuss funding for supplementary taxi travel;	Executive Members	First York and York University are launching upgraded late night routes connecting York University with the City Centre from 13 th September 2024.	Completed
Publicly call for the lowering of bus fares and opposition to any cuts to public transport funding and write to our two Members of Parliament to outline the Council's support for the Get Me Home Safely campaign and ask them to use their positions to achieve these aims and resolutions;	Executive Members	Government have been funding £2 bus fare since Jan 2023 and runs until the end of 2024. CYC has reduced young persons fares to £1 per single trip to the end of December 2024 through the Bus Service Improvement Plan programme. Young people are eligible up until their 19 th birthday. We will promote continuation of reduced fares to the Mayoral Combined Authority as part of developing a BSIP for the wider York and North Yorkshire area.	Completed
Publicly call for the municipal ownership of buses to be actively considered and lessons	Executive Members	Through the develoution process this was called for. The Mayor for York and North	Completed

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learned from the experience of other cities and regions, including the bus franchising systems being pursued by Labour Metro Mayors in West Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, in order to lower prices and improve service provision, especially for night-time and off-peak services;		Yorkshire has these powers. Discussions are ongoing about the best model across the region.	
Make representation to appropriate sub- regional and national government to bring forward national minimum standards for taxis and private hire, as per the recommendations of the 2018 national Task and Finish Group, and in support of this motion and its demands on behalf of our local community.	Executive Members	New Minimum Standards are in place and DfT Best Practice Guidance has been incorporated into the draft of a new taxi licensing policy to go before Licensing Committee in October 2024.	Completed

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Council Meeting - 23/11/23				
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Recognising and supporting York's neurodivergent adults	To write to encourage the ICB to use the public engagement process to communicate more openly how the assessment pathway process works, the challenges with it and how information on outcomes could be provided for those completing the North Yorkshire and York online Platform for Adult Autism and ADHD Referral.	Peter Roderick	ICB written to.	Completed
	To request an update report be presented to Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the work of council services in supporting neurodivergent adults in York, including child to adult transitions.	Peter Roderick	An updated needs assessment is planned to be presented to HHASC Scrutiny in November 2024 alongside an update on the production of the autism neuro diversity strategy. Scrutiny Committee in November 2024 received the draft Autism and ADHD Health Needs Assessment alongside an update on an Autism and ADHD Strategy. Strategy development is underway and consultation, including a draft strategy to Scrutiny, will be in May.	Completed
	To request that the Head of Paid Service communicates with all staff expressing the importance of removing barriers wherever possible, such that neurodivergent staff and residents are enabled to better access Council support and services.	Ian Floyd / Helen Whiting Peter Roderick	The HoPS regularly writes and updates the whole workforce about equalities duties as part of embedding the core principles which includes Equalities (as well as Affordability, Climate and Health). Equalities is also embedded into everyday practice and service provision as part of the Council's Equality Duty which includes removing barriers. Key	Completed

		training modules also offer a focus on equalities as well as providing quality services to our residents and service users. In the widest sense, services to all colleagues as well as York residents, tourists, visitors and citizens are on a continuous journey as part of our One Council – Working as One City programme and our core values (Working together, to improve and make a difference) to ensure our diverse services are accessible whether this be in a personal or online contact.		
To renew the city's Autism Strategy and use this opportunity for City of York Council to reaffirm and widen the city's commitment to autistic and neurodivergent people in York, learning from the challenges of the current NHS pilot to ensure there is meaningful engagement with local groups about how to improve support to meet the needs of neurodivergent residents accessing its services.	Peter Roderick	Development of the Autism strategy has been agreed through CMT. Public Health are completing a Health Needs assessment between April and November. CYC and ICB officers are working in regards to the strategy throughout the Spring and Summer of 2024.	Completed	Page 90
To ensure national Government is made aware of the perfect storm of increased demand for adult assessment, diagnosis and support for autism/ ADHD set against the backdrop of low levels of funding to support neurodiverse adults and to local authorities like City of York Council to provide the support they would like for their residents.	Peter Roderick	York has worked alongside other local authorities through the local government association and ADASS to ensure that representations are being made including representations for the autumn budget and spending review.	Completed	

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
The Fair Game campaign for football clubs	To declare its support for Fair Game, and call on other councils to join us in our support.			Completed
	 To ask the Chief Operating Officer to write to the Minister for Sport, local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, to lobby for the following to be included in the new remit of the Independent Regulator: Football's financial flow (particularly over: proportion of broadcast revenues given by the Premier League, the abolition of parachute payments, and the allocation of funds from the Premier League); Owners' and Directors' Test to include an 'ethics' dimension, particularly around human rights; Implementation of a Fair Game Index to accurately measure club's progress; To include National League North and South clubs under their control; To have stronger powers to implement and enforce governance; and Measurement of equality standards and environmental standards. 	Ian Floyd	Letter sent 22.01.24. Closed.	Completed

	To ask the council's Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee to discuss at a meeting in the current municipal year the important role that York City Football Club plays in the culture and heritage of the city and to explore ways in which we can work together to support the club and York City Football Club Foundation with its work in the local community.	Martin Kelly	Completed in April 2024	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Working to improve Mental Health	Council resolves to: express its disappointment at the shelving of planned reforms to the Mental Health Act in the recent King's Speech, reforms designed to address amongst other issues, the inappropriate detention of different groups of people against their will.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach.	Completed
	call on relevant bodies and stakeholders to support preventative mental health measures, such as mental health support for children and young people and support for counselling services that take into account cost of living pressures.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach. The Mental Health Partnership is developing a children's subgroup to take this forward.	Completed
	work with local healthcare partners to encourage them to ensure patients have a holistic triage on admission with a mandatory Safety Plan on return to the community.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach.	Completed

	work with health partners to end out of area transfers where practical so that mental health patients are supported as close to home as possible.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach. Dynamic Support Register is active in York as the mechanism to ensure people are supported as close to home as possible.	Completed
	explore how it can support and build on the work of York Ending Stigma (YES - https://www.yorkcvs.org.uk/york-ending-stigma/) to reduce stigma and improve attitudes on mental health issues in both its staff and the residents it serves.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach. Reducing stigma and improving attitudes to mental health is being driven through the health and wellbeing strategy including 'making york a mentally healthy city	Completed
	ask that relevant council officers, the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social care and commissioned services consult fully with mental health charities and service users when planning changes to mental health support services.	Michael Melvin	These issues are now raised, through the York Mental Health Partnership, with partners within York who will take forward through a system approach. Through the place board and joint commissioning forum, the CYC system is working to this approach	Completed
	 Encourage all members of the Council to support the Movember campaign to raise funds for men's mental health. 	Michael Melvin	Campaign has been undertaken.	Completed.
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Withdrawal of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)	To ask the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee to include as an agenda item at a meeting of that committee or another scrutiny committee in the next three months, consideration of York's level of	Pauline Stuchfield		Completed

preparedness for this change. Participants in the discussion could include local authority, telecoms, NHS, care, voluntary sector and other partners as appropriate.			
To ask the relevant Executive Members to ensure that all front-line staff working with groups who may be particularly affected by this change are suitably briefed in order to be able to direct residents and their families/carers to sources of information and support.	Helen Whiting / Roy Grant	The timeline for the withdrawal of PSTN services has been reset and is now 31 January 2027. Our work with Service area colleagues to mitigate the direct impact of this switch over on front line and other support services is continuing which includes awareness raising activities. We are scheduled to take an update report to CSCCSMC in September	In progress

Council Meeting – 21/03/				
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Making York a Trauma Informed City	Council resolves: • To take steps to become a Trauma-Informed City and commits to working in partnership to embed Trauma-Informed frameworks across services and partner agencies, working in co-production with trauma survivors;	Martin Kelly Cllr Steels- Walshaw	Trauma informed training has been provided through the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to a range of practitioners in the council. We are completing a skills audit to understand the extent of this. Further training has been arranged to upskill Executive and CMT in February 2025. Following this training we will discuss the opportunities to upskill different aspects of the workforce and develop a wider city strategy. Such an ambitious strategy is likely to take several years and funding would need to be considered. Furthermore, a trauma informed subgroup has been developed to help inform a future strategy.	In progress
	 To ask the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and Executive colleagues to explore the introduction of a Trauma-Informed framework across Council services; 		In progress as per above.	
	To request the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care explore the introduction of training for staff and councillors, including e-learning modules, that enables City of York Council to become a Trauma-Informed organisation;		Pilot of in house training being held in June 2024 with cohort of customer and housing officers and CMT	
	To work with partner organisations to implement a city-wide approach to raising awareness of the impact of trauma and how becoming Trauma-Informed can help to support trauma survivors;		The Council is adopting the Poverty Truth Commission's Charter and Organisational Standards – see March 2025 Executive – across all council services.	

	 To consider the implications of making it a requirement in commissioned contracts and services that partner organisations can demonstrate they have, or are implementing, a Trauma-Informed framework; To recommend the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee request a report from TEWV NHS Trust on its prior application and progress in moving beyond the use of the BPD+ protocol, an assessment of current staff understanding and the outlining of any trauma-informed approaches it is implementing. 	Chloe Wilcox / Zoe Metcalfe Peter Roderick		
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Safeguarding future library provision	To ask the relevant Executive Member and council officers to continue engaging proactively in the next three months with York Explore, service users and, through Scrutiny, elected members of all parties in order to ensure that future library provision in York continues to meet residents' needs and expectations, including reforming the mobile library service and retaining the number of staffed libraries and library services, including to outlying areas not covered by Gateway or Explore libraries across the city;	Pauline Stuchfield	Any changes to library services need to eminate from an updated library needs assessment which includes the current early engagement process. This will inform confidential commercial negotiations ahead of proposals for further consultation prior going back to Executive for approval.	In Progress
	To request the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and the Leader of the Council write to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Arts Council, to clarify the council's financial position and to reassure them of		Letters issued 30 May 2024	Completed

	the council's commitment to York's libraries and archives.			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Affordable Housing Motion	Council resolves: • That following adoption of York's Local Plan, the relevant officers, scrutiny and executive should examine examples elsewhere in the country that seek to make housing more affordable for their residents, including through any powers available at Mayoral Combined Authority level;	Michael Jones / Garry Taylor Cllr Pavlovic	The Local Plan was adopted by full council 27/02/25.	
	 This should include consideration of broadening the affordable housing criteria to include residents paying no more than a set percentage of their incomes in mortgages. It should also compare such an approach with existing council policy of homes for sale valued at a more traditional reduced level of market value, arising from s106 developer contributions; 			
	Further, to request Executive reviews the council's policy on developer social housing contributions, with an assessment of whether adding new council homes through this mechanism would improve the supply and quality of nationally-defined affordable homes to York residents.			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
My Vote, My Voice	Council resolves to request the Returning Officer: considers the city's polling stations for any accessibility improvements; 	Bryn Roberts	Comprehensive comms plan underway including radio, leaflet door drop, media releases/press, social and targeted social delivered in partnership with NYC	Completed

 considers how greater awareness of voting rights through social media activity can be advanced, particularly for hard-to-reach groups; provides as much detail as possible on the different roles for which individuals stand for election, to encourage greater voter participation, subject to relevant legislation. 			
And requests write to the relevant Minister within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on: • ways to make registering to vote easier, while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, in order to increase voter participation.	Bryn Roberts	Current government consultations ongoing with industry professionals in relation to a review of the electoral process. Progress will be reported to Members once clear proposals have been developed by government.	Completed

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
York Public Spending	 To request the Chief Finance Officer and Executive Leader jointly write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request urgency in concluding the Fair Funding Review, first signalled by the Government in 2016, detailing why this is necessary; To request this opportunity is used to also highlight service pressures and to request long-term funding certainty to enable the council to plan its services over the period of each four-year electoral cycle; To request the Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care write to the Secretary of State for Health, pushing for early reform of the NHS dental contract to open up greater access to NHS dentistry in the city as soon as possible; To request Executive works collaboratively with other parts of the public sector locally, including York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to consider how each can make efficiencies and save money by reviewing how services are delivered; To put on record its thanks to staff and partners for their work over several years in such challenging circumstances, and for their continued commitment to service delivery to the city. 	Debbie Mitchell / Cllr Douglas	The 2025/26 provisional local government finance settlement was announced in December 2024. Alongside this, the government also launched a consultation to seek views on updating how local authorities are funded through the local government finance settlement from 2026-27 onwards. The Council will respond to both the consultations, and responses will include the concerns raised by Council.	Completed

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Giving York's children the best start in life	 Ask the Council Leader to write to Members of Parliament representing York Central and York Outer, expressing the Council's support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap. Ask the Council Leader to write to the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to encourage them to scrap the two-child benefit cap. 	Nick Wharton / Cllr Douglas	Letters in progress	
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Ending disenfranchisement in elections	 Ask Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State with responsibility for Local Government and to the Minister with responsibility for elections to support the calls of the AEA in requesting a review of current postal and emergency proxy vote rules, including revising the timetable for postal vote registrations, to ensure everyone who registers can vote; Request the Government scraps the Voter ID requirement for voting completely. 	Bryn Roberts / Cllr Douglas	A draft letter was prepared and circulated to Group Leaders, but there was resistance to signing it by one Group Leader. In any event, this has been overtaken by events, as the new Government has committed to working with professional bodies to revise current legislative requirements.	Completed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Fair Funding for York	Request the Council Leader and Leader of the Liberal Democrat group write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge the government to take action to resolve York's chronic underfunding by central government by	Debbie Mitchell / Cllr Douglas	The 2025/26 provisional local government finance settlement was announced in December 2024. Alongside this, the government also launched a consultation to seek views on updating how local authorities are funded through the local government	Completed

closing the funding gap between York and	finance settlement from 2026-27	
the national average within this parliament.	onwards.	
Request the Council Leader to write to York's		
Labour MPs to request that they urgently		
lobby the government to introduce a fair	The Council will respond to both the	
funding solution to close the gap between the	consultations, and responses will	
most and least funded Council areas in	include the concerns raised by Council.	
England		
 Request the Council to engage with the F20 		
group of the lowest funded Council areas in		
England to build an England wide campaign		
for fair funding and enact their principles in		
the next funding settlement		
Call on the new government to commit to a		
funding floor of 90% in the next financial		
settlement.		

Council Meeting- 19/09/2				
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Community response to Israel-Gaza conflict	 We, the Council and people of York, in keeping with our city's status as the first Human Rights City in the UK, resolve to urgently call for: An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel based on recent peace proposals. Immediate access within Gaza to water, medical and food supplies, restoration of electricity, and provision of proper shelters for all impacted by the war. The immediate release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees. 	Nick Wharton / Councillor Lomas		Closed
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Reforming Residents' Priority Parking in York	Council resolved to request Executive: Simplifies the process for implementing and modifying ResPark schemes by: Developing a set of standardised criteria for ResPark eligibility; Developing a streamlined consultation and implementation process for ResPark schemes, in accordance with current legislation; Conducting a city-wide review of the Respark process;	James Gilchrist/Cllr Ravilious	Discussions are ongoing with the Executive Member of how best to approach this.	Ongoing

	 Working to reform the turnout guideline in Residents' Parking consultations to reflect area-specific issues for some streets, including consistently unoccupied properties, short-term and part time occupancy properties, and HMOs; Reviewing the pricing structure for ResPark permits to ensure fair pricing for residents. 				
	Asks the Executive Member for Transport to work with council officers to present a detailed plan and timeline for expanding and reforming ResPark, in accordance with existing legislation, to the Executive, when capacity exists;	James Gilchrist/Cllr Ravilious	Discussions are ongoing with the Executive Member of how best to approach this.		
	Commits to implementing a reformed ResPark system, having considered the measures proposed in this motion and in accordance with existing legislation.	James Gilchrist/Cllr Ravilious	Discussions are ongoing with the Executive Member of how best to approach this.		Page 103
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status	_ \(\overline{\pi} \)
York's Local Plan	Council resolved: To ask the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities to approve a council response to the Government consultation referred to above which expresses support for annual housing targets, including affordable housing targets, that are based on evidenced need, including latest household formation figures; the response should urge the government to reassess the way in which student housing is deemed to meet housing demand, given the	Claire Foale/Cllr Pavlovic	Response submitted to government following EMDS on 23 September 2024 Agenda for Decision Session - Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities on Monday, 23 September 2024, 3.00 pm (york.gov.uk) item 9	Completed	

	 many logical differences between the two supplies. To ask the Executive Member to reaffirm his commitment, as reported in The Press on 13 June 2023 (https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/23583238 .will-no-extra-new-housing-green-belt-says-york-labour/), that within his powers and outside of the independence of the Local Planning Authority, the only housing development allowed on green belt land will be on those sites already allocated for development or otherwise allowed for in the Liberal Democrat-led draft Local Plan. 	Claire Foale/Cllr Pavlovic	Letter written to Deputy Prime Minister October 24, confirming commitment to permanence of green belt	Completed
Motions	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Dignity in retirement	To ask the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Council's opposition groups and York's two MPs to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask them to review the Winter Fuel Allowance eligibility threshold.	Cllrs Douglas/Ayre Steward	Letters in progress	
	To request that the Executive Members for Finance, Major Projects and Equalities work with officers to create a plan for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) which sets out a range of measures that could be taken to mitigate the impact of the above decisions on York's pensioners, including maintaining financial support for warm spaces in York through allocation of Household Support Fund grants.	Debbie Mitchell/David Walker Councillor Katie Lomas	A range of support provided in 2024/25 through Household Support Fund for e.g. warm spaces. Nothing agreed with scrutiny as yet	

To request that officers continue writing to all	Pauline Stuchfield	Extensive work completed and	Completed
470 pensioners who are currently entitled to Pension Credit and do not claim it, informing	Councillor Katie Lomas	ongoing in this field. 168 pensioners have now claimed Pension Credit,	
them of the Winter Fuel Payment changes and encouraging them to claim for the		putting over £1,338,597.84 into the pockets of residents in first year of	
benefits they are entitled to.		claiming. Work is ongoing to support people in claiming.	

Council Meeting – 21/1		T	<u> </u>	
Motions	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status
Protecting more of York's Community Assets	 Council resolved: To support individuals and community groups interested in protecting or acquiring an asset by sharing information with them on local and national funders. This includes making links with and working with organisations such as Plunkett UK, Music Venue Trust and Power to Change. To commit to supporting further work to ensure processes for protecting and acquiring community assets are as accessible as possible. To request its scrutiny function considers how best the council can: Promote adding to the local register of Assets of Community Value; Make it easier for residents and community groups to nominate an ACV; Celebrate the success stories of ACVs in our community to encourage new nominations; Prepare for law changes on the Community Right to Buy in securing a wider range of ACVs." 	Debbie Mitchell Cllr Lomas		

Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status	
Protecting York's Primary and Social Care providers	Council resolved: To ask the Group Leaders to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that charitable social care providers, hospices and primary care providers including GPs, Dental practices and pharmacies are carefully considered for exclusion from her increase to Employers National Insurance contributions.	Political assistants Cllr Steels- Walshaw			
Motion	Resolutions	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Actions taken	Status	
Renewing York's commitment to Fairtrade	 Council resolved: To renew its commitment to Fairtrade and to York's status as a Fairtrade City, continuing to raise awareness and supporting actions that make global trade fairer. To continue to appoint a named councillor to York Fair Trade Forum, to provide a strong link with the council and to support its work. To work with York Fair Trade Forum to ensure York continues to meet and exceed the requirements necessary to maintain its status as a Fairtrade City. To consider offering Fairtrade goods wherever possible and available, for example in any catering and in-house café provision. To ensure Fairtrade remains a feature following the current update of the council's Social Value Strategy, so it is considered through its procurement processes, and those of its suppliers, where applicable. 	Claire Foale / Debbie Mitchell Cllr Lomas			Page 107

To promote Fairtrade issues and practices among local businesses, commercial and other	
organisations.	
To share best practice about Fairtrade and	
sustainable development with other public bodies,	
stakeholders and partners.	
To request the Executive Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade to request their support for the Fairtrade Foundation's 'three	
asks' of the new Government:	
 Develop trade policy that works for people and planet. Policies that must improve resilience for the smallholder farmers and workers producing food overseas, and support innovative business approaches to enhance environmental and social sustainability; Legislate to ensure responsible business. The legislation must ensure that businesses address human rights and environmental violations in supply chains, including deforestation, while taking full account of the needs of farmers and workers; Strengthen UK aid by responding to the needs and priorities of farmers and workers who make a crucial contribution to the global food system. 	rage 108

Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee Work Plan 2024/25

Theme	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Scope
13 May 2024			
	Ten Year Strategies	Claire Foale Cllrs Kilbane, Kent, Ravilious, Coles, Douglas	Stocktake on the status of these strategies
Regular Report	Petitions Schedule Council Motions	Bryn Roberts / Dawn Steel	Review of petitions schedule and progress with implementation of Full Council motions
10 June 2024			
	York pipeline of proposals for the Y&NY Combined Authority	Sam Blyth	
08 July 2024			
	Corporate Improvement Framework	Claire Foale Cllr Douglas	Pre-decision scrutiny
	HR policy and terms and conditions approval journey	Helen Whiting Cllr Douglas	
	York pipeline of proposals for the Y&NY Combined Authority	Sam Blyth Claire Foale Cllr Douglas	

09 September 2024			
	Acomb Front Street	Kathryn Daly/ Cllr Kilbane	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Scrutiny process – Issue arising from the LGA	Lindsay Tomlinson	For information
	peer review	Cllr Douglas	
07 October 2024			
	F&P 2023-24 Outturn	Debbie Mitchell / Ian Cunningham	
	Finance & Performance Monitor Q1	Debbie Mitchell / Ian Cunningham	
	Budget setting process	Debbie Mitchell / Ian Cunningham	Briefing paper
	Scrutiny Review	Lindsay Tomlinson	
11 November 2024			
	Annual Report Complaints/Compliments	Lorraine Lunt	
	Workforce Strategy	Helen Whiting Cllr Douglas	
	Budget proposals	Debbie Mitchell	
Regular reports	Council Motions and Schedule of Petitions	Bryn Roberts / Lindsay Tomlinson	Review of petitions schedule and progress with implementation of Full Council motions
09 December 2024			
	Finance & Performance	Debbie Mitchell / Ian	
	Monitor Q2	Cunningham	

	York Climate Commission	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	At the May 2024 meeting it was agreed that the committee would receive a report on the refreshed
			Climate Commission to better understand its role
	Major Projects - York Central	Claire Foale/James Gilchrist Cllr Lomas	Update report last received in March 2024
20 January 2025			
	Carbon Offsetting/Insetting	Shaun Gibbons	At the April 2024 meeting it
	strategy		was resolved that the strategy
		Cllr Kent	be brought to the committee
	Major Drajasta Castla	Katia Daaka Maut	for comment prior to approval
	Major Projects - Castle Gateway	Katie Peeke-Vout Cllr Lomas	Update report last received in September 2023
	Procurement, Social Value	Chloe Wilcox, Debbie	
	Policy	Mitchell Cllr Lomas	
10 March 2025			
	Scrutiny Review	Bryn Roberts	
		Lindsay Tomlinson	
	5. 0.5 (Cllr Douglas	
	Finance & Performance	Debbie Mitchell / Ian	
	Monitor Q3	Cunningham	
	Council Motions and Petitions	Bryn Roberts	
14 April 2025	Schedule V&NV Combined Authority Not	Lindsay Tomlinson	Lost discussed at the
14 April 2025	Y&NY Combined Authority Net	Shaun Gibbons	Last discussed at the December 2023 meeting at
	Zero Projects	Cllr Kent	which it was resolved that the
		OIII INGIIL	willou it was resolved that the

		committee would monitor the progress of these and other Net Zero projects
Intermediate Carbon Reduction Targets	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	Rescheduled for July

Unallocated items

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
Telecoms digital switchover	Discussed at January 2024 meeting at which it was resolved that the committee receive further updates as the switchover progresses	Roy Grant / Pauline Stuchfield	September 2025
Improving Customer Experience	Last discussed at the September 2023 meeting when it was resolved that a report be brought to the committee prior to approval by Executive	Pauline Stuchfield Cllr Douglas	On hold due to internal restructure.
Emissions Reporting Climate Change Action Plan	Exec Member	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	October 2025
Harewood Whin Green Energy Park Business Case	Neil Fletcher, Renewable Energy Project Manager	Neil Fletcher, Cllr Kent	July 2025
Community Woodland update from Forestry England	Cllr Kent	Shaun Gibbons Cllr Kent	

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and	Notes
		Exec Member	
Equalities Diversity and	Pauline Stuchfield	Pauline Stuchfield	May 2025
Inclusion Strategy		Cllr Lomas	-

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		

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Page 115

Scrutiny Work Plan

Meeting Date	Committee	Agenda Item
10/03/25	CSMC	Scrutiny ReviewFinance & Performance Monitor Q3Council Motions
12/03/25	HHASC	 Finance and Performance Monitor 3 2024/25 Asset Management Investment Plan (including a breakdown of budget forecast spending on contractors, apprenticeships, and an update on training to up-skill and cross-skill existing staff).
25/03/25	EPAT	 Finance and Performance Monitoring Report (Q3) Park & ride re-tender Car parking provision across the city
01/04/25	CCC	 York Museums Trust Update York Theatre Trust Update REACH Progress Update
02/04/25	HHASC	Dentistry UpdateAdult Social Care Strategy Update
14/04/25	CSMC	 Y&NY Combined Authority Net Zero Projects Intermediate Carbon Reduction Targets

The Forward Plan can be found <u>here</u>.

Committees

CSMC	Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny
	Management Committee
EPAT	Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny
	Committee
HHASC	Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
	Committee
CCC	Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee

