

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at **The Guildhall, Coney Street, York, YO1 9QN**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 17 July 2025 at 6.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive and note apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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.

- (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 unless 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)*

Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate, and vote

OR
*Non-Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

*unless the matter affects the
financial interest or well-being:
(a) to a greater extent than it
affects the financial interests 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 not 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, 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.*

3. Minutes (Pages 13 - 46)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 27 March 2025 and 22 May 2025.

4. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

5. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Tuesday, 15 July 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 public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

6. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order B5. Notice has been received of seven petitions to be presented by:

- i) Councillor Warters regarding the maintenance of Fulford Cemetery.
- ii) Councillor Warters regarding capping the numbers of university students in the city.
- iii) Councillor Mason regarding parking charges.
- iv) Councillor Hook regarding a 20mph speed limit in Poppleton.
- v) Councillor Fenton regarding replacing the zebra crossing on Beckfield Lane in Acomb with a push button crossing.
- vi) Councillor Merrett regarding parking charges and Traffic Regulation Orders in relation to parking in the Groves.
- vii) Councillor Hollyer regarding dualling York's Outer Ring Road.

7. Report of the Leader and Executive (Pages 47 - 70)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader on the work of the Executive.

8. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members

To question the Leader and/or Executive Members in respect of any matter within their portfolio responsibility, in accordance with Standing Order B8.

9. Audit and Governance Committee - Chair's Annual Report 2023/24 and 2024/25 (Pages 71 - 72)

To receive a report from Councillor Hollyer, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, on the work of the Committee.

10. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (Pages 73 - 76)

To receive a report from Councillor Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, on the work of the Committee.

11. Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee 2024/25 (Pages 77 - 84)

To receive a report from the Joint Standards Committee on the work of the Committee during the 2024/25 municipal year.

12. Recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee: Primate Licensing (Pages 85 - 92)

To receive and consider for approval the recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	10 April 2025	Minute 95: Primate Licensing Report https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clid=606&MId=15184

13. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 93 - 94)

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

14. Motions on Notice

To consider the following Motions on Notice under Standing Order B10:

Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order B10:

i) From Councillor Rose:

Improving equality of access to elections

“Council notes:

- its approved council motions in recent years on voter engagement and participation, including the December 2022 motion opposing new rules imposed on electors, including the new photo ID requirement, in March 2024 backing the ‘My Vote My Voice’ campaign on equal access to voting, and in July 2024 highlighting disenfranchisement problems resulting from a flawed postal vote system;
- Elections Act 2022 nationality requirements resulting in a lottery of who can vote in different elections, with different treatment of different EU and other citizens in different domestic elections;
- that groups that are more likely to be disenfranchised than others include those with physical mobility challenges, mental health challenges, learning disabilities and neurodivergence; younger people; people from poorer backgrounds; people with fewer educational qualifications; ethnic minorities; residents with other nationalities and primary languages; and private tenants in high-turnover-rate areas (such as high rent or high short-term-lets rates areas);
- that according to 2021 census data York has many people in more highly disenfranchised groups, with a population that are approximately 20% private renters, 17% disabled people, 16% with bad or middling health, 14% 18-24 year olds, 14% social renters, 11% born overseas, 6% widowed, 4% single parents, 4% non-white British, 4% non-white non-British, 3% white non-British, and 0.3% Gypsy, Roma or Traveller;
- the January 2025 IPPR report: Modernising Elections: How To Get Voters Back that recommended many changes including automatic

voter registration, removal of Photo ID requirements, non-working day elections, voting rights for permanent residents, compulsory voting, £100k limits for political donors, votes for 16-17 year olds, and sortition for poll workers;

- That Scotland and Wales have implemented residence-based voting rights that give equal rights to vote to all residents, with Manchester, Cambridgeshire, several London boroughs, Liverpool, Sheffield and others all supporting the same rights for England.

Council believes all residents should have equal rights and access to voting, and that the creation of new barriers to voting through the Elections Act 2022 was wrong. Complex voting eligibility and voter ID requirements have since disenfranchised voters.

Council further believes that the government and local authorities should fully engage with the IPPR recommendations and maximise support and encouragement for engaging with democratic processes, and that partners including educational institutions and landlords should do more to encourage voter registration and participation.

Council resolves:

- to request the Council Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Deputy Prime Minister, making the case that local election franchising be applied equally to all residents in England, in line with Scotland and Wales;
- to request the Council Leader writes to letting agencies and landlords with significant numbers of properties in York, the University of York and York St John University, seeking greater support in registering more residents to vote, including consideration of automatic registration;
- to request the Council, through the appropriate committee, considers those recommendations of

the IPPR in which there is local discretion, and any other viable opportunities to increase voter participation, before making recommendations to the Returning Officer for their consideration, prior to the Local Elections in 2027.”

ii) From Councillor Mason:

Supporting York’s small businesses

“Council notes:

- The Labour Government’s increase to employer’s contribution to National Insurance from 13.8% to 15%, and a reduction in the threshold of which they start to pay it from £9,100 to £5,000 per year.
- The Liberal Democrat campaign to urge Britons to buy locally made products to support businesses in the wake of Donald Trump’s tariffs
- The adoption in November 2024 of the City of York Council Local Transport Strategy Implementation Plan which included commitments to:
 - review parking capacity within a 2km radius of the city centre on an off street, within the Council’s ownership and managed by the private sector, the demand for that parking and the charges for that parking; and
 - then specify the parking provision which is needed and the charges which should be levied
- Feedback from the 2025/26 council budget-setting consultation which indicated a preference among respondents for a balanced approach which included revenue-raising, efficiency improvements, and making cuts only as a last resort
- The adoption through the 2025/26 council budget of significantly increased parking charges
- The subsequent Executive decision to amend some of these charges at some locations and to increase the discount for the Minster Badge to 30 per cent of the standard parking charge, at an

estimated cost of £115,000

- The petition signed by over 8,000 people prompted by the Bishopthorpe Road parking charge increase which calls on the council to engage meaningfully with local residents, traders and community groups to find a fairer, balanced solution that supports sustainable travel without punishing people
- The campaigns that have been established in response to concerns about the impact on local businesses of higher parking charges in areas such as Micklegate, East Parade and The Groves
- The reduction in city centre footfall of 30,000 people from May 2024 to May 2025

Council believes:

- That efforts to reduce car dependency, tackle congestion and improve public transport reliability in and around York are to be welcomed
- That key to the success of these efforts will be the availability of affordable, reliable, accessible and safe alternatives to private car use
- That it was a mistake to have significantly increased parking charges without first having undertaken the promised review of parking provision and demand for that provision
- That businesses were not adequately consulted prior to the detail of the parking charge increases being agreed
- That the triple hit of National Insurance increases, Donald Trump's tariffs and increased parking charges have put serious strain on local businesses

Council resolves:

- To request the Executive to instruct officers to undertake an urgent piece of work to estimate the cost of restoring a lower cost 30-minute stay option at on-street parking sites where this had been available prior to April 2025

- To request that Executive (or an Executive Member Decision Session) seeks a decision paper within 3 months, setting out options for the reinstatement of a lower cost 30-minute stay at these locations
- To ask that the Executive works with local business groups and representative organisations, such as the York Business Improvement District and the Federation of Small Businesses, to understand the impact of recent National Insurance changes in order to be able to lobby Government for mitigation measures.”

iii) From Councillor Merrett:

Non-proliferation of Fossil Fuels

“Council notes its 2019 approved motion declaring a Climate Emergency, supported at that time by each of the council’s main political parties. Much good work has taken place here in York since that time, across multiple council administrations, in the transition towards becoming a net zero city.

Council notes York’s position as one of only 112 cities globally with an A rating from the independent Carbon Data Programme, for the third year running this year.

Council further notes:

- that the impacts of climate change affect everyone everywhere, including York, through hotter summers, longer periods without rain and more flood events;
- improvements made nationally in UK energy consumption, with a trend away from fossil fuels towards renewables and low carbon energy sources;
- and welcomes the ambition for energy security and renewables embodied in Great British Energy;
- the UK’s still significant reliance on gas and oil,

which represent around 75% of the UK's total energy consumption;

- the role advanced economies should play in the transition towards cleaner energy generation and consumption;
- the ongoing Non-Proliferation Treaty on Fossil Fuels campaign, as part of national and international efforts to achieve a just transition to net zero, and to ensure global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels (COP21 Paris Agreement);
- The campaign's three key fossil fuel aims of non-proliferation, a fair phase out and a just transition.

Council:

- believes all Local and Combined Authorities should do all they can to progress this transition;
- welcomes the Government's position on stopping new licensing of fossil fuel extraction;
- believes use of fossil fuels needs to be phased out and therefore opposes any new extraction of fossil fuels, including the 'proppant squeeze' gas extraction method currently proposed in North Yorkshire.

Council resolves to request the Council Leader:

- give York's written support to the Non-Proliferation Treaty on Fossil Fuels campaign, confirming York's position to the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero;
- write to the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire and the city's two MPs confirming the council's position on non-proliferation of fossil fuels, and seeking their support in achieving this goal, through both regional decision-making, national energy policy and support for the MP for York Central's Early Day Motion 111 in support of the above Treaty."

15. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the

Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

James Parker / Jane Meller

Contact details:

- Telephone: (01904) 553659 / (01904) 555209
- Email: james.parker@york.gov.uk / jane.meller@york.gov.uk

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We can also translate into the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on Thursday, 27 March 2025, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr Margaret Wells) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward

Lomas
Rose

Bishopthorpe Ward

Nicholls

Clifton Ward

D Myers
Wells

Copmanthorpe Ward

Steward

Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward

Fenton
Mason
Widdowson

Fishergate Ward

Whitcroft
Wilson

Fulford and Heslington Ward

Ravilious

Guildhall Ward

Clarke
Melly
Merrett

Haxby & Wigginton Ward

Cuthbertson
Hollyer
Watson

Heworth Ward

B Burton
Douglas
Webb

Heworth Without Ward

Ayre

Holgate Ward

Kent
Steels-Walshaw

Hull Road Ward

Baxter
Moroney
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick Ward

Cullwick
Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osballdwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley
Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Smalley
Wann
Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Fisher
Healey

Westfield Ward

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Taylor.

71. Apologies for Absence (6:35 pm)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Taylor.

72. Declarations of Interest (6:36 pm)

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

In relation to Agenda Item 17 (Motions on Notice), specifically the motion titled 'Working to tackle the growing epidemic of violence against women and girls (VAWG)', Cllr Coles noted that as the Deputy Mayor for Police, Fire and Crime for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority her role included holding the police to account for the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. She had requested and received special dispensation from the Monitoring Officer to participate in the debate and vote on the motion.

73. Minutes (6:37 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Budget Council meeting and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 27 February 2025 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

74. Civic Announcements (6:37 pm)

The Lord Mayor noted that this would be her last ordinary meeting of Council in the Chair and thanked all members for their support during her term of office.

She then updated Members on the recent activities of the civic party, having attended a range of events which showed York at its best and demonstrated the city's diversity in celebrating cultures from all over the world. These included the Chinese New Year celebrations, a showcase of Sri Lankan dance and customs, Bollywood dancing, sharing the breaking of fast at the Mosque, sharing stories with residents and members of the Armed Forces

on Commonwealth Day, and coming together to remember victims and survivors of the Holocaust, as well as visits to schools, older people's residential homes, and sharing music with people with special educational needs.

The Lord Mayor concluding by drawing attention to the York Community Woodland, noting that she had visited several times over the course of the year and would continue to do so privately. She noted that the Woodland was a peaceful gem in the busy lives of many York residents which represented the city's promise and commitment to achieve net zero, and she urged all members to visit.

75. Public Participation (6:40 pm)

It was reported that seven members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

The first six public participants all spoke in relation to the motion on 'Changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits' at Agenda item 17 (Motions on Notice).

Flick Williams stated that the proposed changes presented an existential threat to disabled people, and accused the government of seeking to balance the books on the back of the poorest. She noted that many disabled people had been subject to abuse and urged Members pick a side on the issue.

Anne Norton noted that the announced changes had caused many disabled people profound distress. She suggested work and worth had been falsely equated and highlighted the underfunding of research into chronic conditions, arguing that the cuts were inhumane and that any savings would be short-lived.

Ben Ffrench argued that the motion did not go far enough, noting that the proposed changes would harm council services and the local economy. He suggested that there were alternatives including a wealth tax, and urged Members to join the MP for York Central in using their influence to oppose the cuts.

Lali Hewitson noted that Government figures suggested that cuts to Personal Independent Payments (PIP) would push 250,000 people into poverty. Highlighting the impact on those who were

unable to work, they noted that the financial burden would be shifted onto disabled people and their families and friends.

Hilary Conroy suggested that the root of the issue was a societal belief that disabled people should put up or shut up, noting that ableism represented an everyday violence in which all were complicit. They urged the Council to consider how to show its support for disabled people in practical, tangible ways in future.

Luca Wollny observed that accessing PIP was already a high bar, including for many neurodivergent people, highlighting an existing epidemic of mental health issues. He noted that recipients of PIP lacked the means, not the desire, to get into work, and that cutting their support to do so would prove counterproductive.

Gwen Swinburn spoke in relation to governance matters within the remit of the Council, noting that no community governance review had taken place since 1996. She suggested that parish councils being able to access funding which was denied to unparished inner wards was a democratic disgrace and called for change.

76. Petitions (7:03 pm)

It was reported that notice of no petitions had been received under Rule B6.

77. Report of the Leader and Executive (7:03 pm)

A written report was received from Cllr Douglas, Leader of the Council, on the work of the Executive.

Cllr Douglas was joined by the other Group Leaders in offering their appreciation to the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of York Cllr Wells, as she approached the completion of her term of office.

78. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (7:14 pm)

Members were invited to question the Leader or Executive Members. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members, and replied to as indicated:

Questions to Cllr Douglas, Leader of the Council

From Cllr Widdowson: The Labour government has announced plans for a 15% head-count cut in civil service jobs. Can you explain whether you believe this will support plans to locate a government hub on the York Central site which will help to create the high-skill, high-wage jobs that we all want to see in York? York Central is predicated on civil service jobs going there; what is your plan for ensuring we get those high-skill, high-wage jobs from the government onto York Central?

Response: I will tell you what I can and then perhaps Cllr Kilbane can answer some of it as the jobs aspect is his role too. We're in constant conversation with the Government Property Agency with that tenancy on York Central, it is very much still a high priority. The developers, Homes England, Network Rail, the partnership are still working on that, so we're expecting to get an update as the comprehensive spending review decisions are made, but at this point in time we're still feeling very optimistic, and it will be great to see such an instrumental and impressive building over there. York Central is not predicated totally on government jobs, there's a great deal of opportunity there around other forms of work; we're looking at the innovation hub, which is really exciting, to bring scientific lab space in there and growth hub space for new and growing businesses, which is really important for our city, because there's an absolute dearth of that availability. As you might imagine, the interest in the buildings on York Central is really high; we've just had the closing of the procurement for the hotel space there and the interest to take that up was really quite impressive, so to be quite honest we are very optimistic about what opportunities York Central can continue to bring into the city, and I'm not sure that we fully understand exactly what that will look like yet given that it is a long-term project. So, a huge opportunity, we're open for business and are encouraging inward investment. Cllr Kilbane would you like to add anything?

Cllr Kilbane: Only if Cllr Widdowson wants me to because the question was to the Leader?

Cllr Widdowson: Thank you for the offer, but no.

Questions to Cllr Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

From Cllr Widdowson: I was puzzled by the mention in your report of the number of missed waste collections having gone down, as the EPAT Scrutiny scoresheet presented this week suggested the opposite is true, with the direction of travel being red for both the number of missed collections and the number

meeting criteria for recollection per 100,000 collections. Is the Executive Member correct, or is the scrutiny scorecard correct?

Response: Based on the information I had when the report was written, there were fewer reports of missed waste collections. I think there's some digging behind the scenes to be done because whilst the same crews are collecting from all properties the green waste is also included in that so there is probably a higher propensity to report if you pay for something, and those figures are not separated out, but the crews are not reporting any increase in missed waste. The number of reports may be going up but I will delve into those figures and give you a written response.

Supplementary from Cllr Widdowson: Your report also mentions that fly-tipping is down, but official statistics from the Council show that the incidence of fly-tipping went from 2,368 cases in 2022-23, to 2,500 in 2023-24, and after eleven months this year is already at 2,675. Are you getting incorrect statistics given to you?

Response: Again, I'm going to delve into those figures and get back to you with a written response, but the figures I was given when I wrote the report suggested that the figures were down.

Questions to Cllr Kilbane, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economy and Culture

From Cllr Crawshaw: I'd be interested to know what conversations you've had around supporting the cultural sector in the city, thinking not only about the larger cultural organisations but in particular some of the smaller spaces in the city? This is with particular regard to the challenges that those small spaces face, often from somewhat predatory developers who perhaps seek to take them over, close them down and turn them into something that doesn't speak to the cultural vibrancy of the city.

Response: I could talk on this subject for 35 minutes but will try to keep it a little briefer. Tonight while we sit here, people are assembling in Tempest Anderson Hall for Reignite VIII, a project the Council has been supporting through government UKSPF money. It brings together all the cultural and creative sectors and other businesses in the city, so that all businesses realise what an incredible creative sector we've got. The kinds of jobs people do in these sectors don't require academic qualifications, but can earn around £50,000 a year on average, so we are looking for this sector to offer pathways for our residents, especially those without academic qualifications, into decent jobs, where they can afford to live in York and raise a family here, or whatever it is they want to do. That process has been so successful we are now looking for space in the city that sector can grow into; it's also brought

together all of the cultural institutions, so we are considering setting up a cultural advisory board along the same lines as the Tourism Advisory Board, because that's been so successful, to bring all those organisations together and help it grow in the city. However, challenges do remain for the smaller venues; we are still in spite of all of our best efforts without a 500-capacity venue that the city so desperately needs, and we continue to explore opportunities for that. We are also still having to work to save our smaller venues – as you may be aware, in our ward we are currently campaigning to try and save the Victoria Vaults as a music venue. It has been a very successful venue over the last few years, a lot of up-and-coming bands and student bands played there. Unfortunately, it has been bought and I think the intention is for development rather than reopening, so we will continue to campaign for those venues because they are the lifeblood of culture in the city. I could go on!

Questions to Cllr Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality, and Inclusion

From Cllr Fenton: Without wanting to pre-empt discussion coming later, in light of the announcements in relation to the government's plans for long-term sickness benefits and other welfare reforms, can you set out what steps you've given initial thinking to in terms of how the Council can respond to the challenges these changes will present?

Response: I share your concern about the broader impact of changes to a system that was already creaking under the weight of demand on it. As you know, as a Council we cannot make direct changes to statutory benefits set at government level, but we can make sure the services we are able to provide directly can support people where other systems might have gaps. We've proven our ability to do this in response to the removal of winter fuel allowance from people who were not claiming pension credit; we started a campaign to directly target people who might be eligible for pension credit but were not claiming it, and we have gained over £10 million lifetime support for those people who we directly targeted and supported to claim pension credit which also allowed them to access winter fuel allowance. At the same time we were targeting people who might just miss out on the threshold for pension credit, using our household support funding and our York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS), and you'll all know from sitting here discussing the budget last month that in the coming

financial year we have put additional money into YFAS so that we can help those residents in York who need us most.

From Cllr Nelson: I would like to ask about the improvements that I have been very pleased to see on Acomb Front Street. I'm sure every councillor in the room has been to Acomb to look at our new mural, and it's fantastic that such significant investment is being put into such an important area of our city in what I would call the 'benches not bollards' approach. I would like to ask how the UKSPF has played a part in the improvements and the reasons for it being targeted in the way it has been?

Response: We must thank the Lord Mayor for joining us to unveil the mural on Front Street last Saturday, she spoke very eloquently about the importance of place, and the importance of places like Acomb. As Cllr Nelson knows very well, I am very proud of Acomb, proud to be from Acomb, proud to live in Acomb, and proud to represent Acomb. During my almost six years as a councillor, I have done my best to share that pride with all of you; in almost every speech I made to Council as a backbencher I mentioned Acomb. The UKSPF funding was given for promoting pride in place, and that's why I have just mentioned the word 'proud' about seventeen times, because I'm really happy to see so many people sharing that pride now in our space. We have thinned out the bollard forest that so many people found to be unwelcoming, harsh, not conducive to a shopping space where people wanted to linger. The improvements that we've made, thinning out that forest and replacing it with planters, green stuff, and benches, with some genuinely community-designed public realm, has really made it a welcoming place that people want to linger. They want to spend time there, they want to spend money there, they want to meet friends, use services and have fun. The banking hub is now open in its temporary home in the library, ousting local councillors for their surgery to a different room temporarily. I'm delighted to announce that the market provider has just announced a second market per month, Flourish and Feast, on the second Saturday of the month; I know Cllr Nelson knows about that as I spied a quote from her in the press release about it. I've always believed that Acomb had the potential to be the place to be for out-of-town shopping, and it's great that we're now seeing a bustling shopping high street. I'd like to thank all who contributed to the public engagement over the last year, as well as those who worked on it, including council officers and especially Art of Protest for the work they did, not only to engage the community in designing and delivering the removal, but also to work hard with young people from across Acomb, Westfield and surrounding areas to get

involved in art and to truly believe that art is something for them, because we know how important that is in our young people's futures.

Questions to Cllr Pavlovic, Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities

From Cllr Whitcroft: I'd like to ask about the new funding the government has just announced for affordable housing; £2 billion across the country – what does this mean for York, particularly for our affordable housing drive in replicating the successful work done, such as the Ordnance Lane development in my ward?

Response: York has benefitted from the Affordable Homes Programme in recent years; a number of projects including the James House hostel were delivered via the programme. This is very welcome news; there had been top-up money for the existing programme since Labour took power in July, but this new announcement of £2 billion to deliver up to 18,000 additional social homes is to be welcomed. I'm very much hopeful that York will be able to benefit, as you say we have a number of affordable housing projects, not just those being delivered by ourselves, but also those being delivered by registered providers and other housing associations also entitled to benefit from applying for this funding. In addition to the funding the Mayoral Combined Authority will have for brownfield affordable housing, we're in a strong position to benefit, but we haven't been allocated the funding, neither has the MCA, but we will be applying to Homes England for that funding as the projects go along.

Supplementary from Cllr Coles: I was in Chapelfields this morning talking to residents about the work taking place to improve the existing council housing stock, could you update us on the work taking place around improvements to our existing housing, particularly around damp which was an issue raised by a number of residents with me this morning. We had York Community Energy there this morning and they are also working with residents to try and reduce energy bills, but it was the improvements to housing which was the big issue people wanted to talk to us about.

Response: In addition to the housing delivery programme, £12 million is invested this year in capital works, including replacement bathrooms, kitchens, windows and doors, not just in Westfield and Dringhouses. Damp and mould is a really significant issue and since we took power in 2023, we have reduced the number of properties across the city that have damp and mould. Work is ongoing, there will be completion of work in Bell Farm, for example, specifically around damp and mould, and we will

continue to focus on that, and as Awaab's Law has identified, we will respond to notifications of damp and mould quickly and promptly. I'm pleased to hear from your residents that they have noticed the difference.

Questions to Cllr Ravilious, Executive Member for Transport

From Cllr Healey: Please can you explain why no apparent progress has been made in responding to the recommendations of the scrutiny task and finish group on Dial and Ride which was completed nine months ago?

Response: As you'll know we put some money aside in our budget to start looking at the model we need to develop for a dial and ride service; officers are currently working on appointing consultants to develop that model. We are absolutely committed and realise it is a vital service, but we're not going to rush into just doing what happened before; there were problems with the last model and we know we know we have to develop a different model. We're also working with the Mayoral Combined Authority to look at working across boundaries to serve North Yorkshire and York at the same time. We're committed to doing it, it's underway, there will be a report coming forward, but we're not ready to do that yet. We're not going to rush into it, we're going to get it right.

Supplementary from Cllr Healey: At Tuesday's EPAT Scrutiny Committee we were told that the Park and Ride tender was not yet completed or on track due to lack of officer capacity, are you confident that there are enough members of staff in this area to complete the task you've just outlined in a reasonable amount of time?

Response: I am confident because officers briefed me this week on dial and ride that they are progressing to appoint a consultant to develop that model for us. So yes, I'm confident, yes, we have got a lack of capacity in some parts of Transport and Highways, but we are managing that; we will move forward with the priorities, and dial and ride is a priority.

From Cllr Mason: I believe that the dualling of the outer ring road is a vital part of our efforts to reduce city centre through-traffic, creating safer, more pleasant areas for cycling, wheeling and walking, and improving public transport reliability. Can you please confirm whether you remain committed to delivering in full the dualling scheme for which planning permission was granted and secured with cross-party support?

Response: Firstly, we are delighted that we now have a Local Plan, but we absolutely recognise that part of that Local Plan is to

deliver the upgrades that are necessary for development around the city. We are absolutely committed to doing that, of course we are. At the moment we have consultants assessing the options for how work on the outer ring road can be phased so we can deliver it with the budget that we have. There will be a report coming forward soon to look at how we deliver the outer ring road, but in short, my answer is yes, we are committed to delivering those improvements to support our sustainable travel strategy and to enhance the city for everybody and allow our fantastic city to progress and achieve its full potential.

Supplementary from Cllr Mason: Can you confirm personally that you are committed to the full dualling scheme?

Response: What I said was that I am committed, obviously we can't commit when we don't know what the budget is for doing what was approved in the planning permission. What we have to look at is the budget that we have and how we can phase the works to deliver what is necessary to enable those developments first of all, and then bring about the improvements that we all want to see. So yes, I have a commitment, but I can't possibly commit to something when we don't know what the budget available is and how much that's costing. The consultants are currently looking at the costing and how it can be phased.

Supplementary from Cllr Steward: When is your best guess for when spades will first be in the ground?

Response: Again, I can't answer until I've had that report from the consultants – I haven't seen it yet.

The Lord Mayor sought clarification whether it was the Executive Member's intention to let Members know when she had received the report.

Response: Yes, as soon as I've had that report from the consultants, it will be brought to Executive and made public and we will all be able to scrutinise it and see what the recommendations are.

From Cllr Rose: The report references the public consultation on Park and Ride and we've heard about the re-tendering, I wanted to understand what you think we are able to achieve with that, particularly around accessibility?

Response: The Park and Ride is a really great opportunity because when we re-tender we can think about how we can improve what's already a fantastic service. I'm delighted to report that this morning I visited the production line at Castleford to look at how the buses are produced and what kind of options we could have to arrange interiors to be as accessible as possible. Our Access Officer came with me and we had a really interesting and

productive visit. Our commitment now is to be engaging with the disabled community, to bring them on board to help us understand what kind of layout and features will make buses as accessible as possible, and I think there's a real opportunity for us in that Park and Ride tender to bring forward a public transport system that is so much more accessible for everybody. There's something exciting there, and in addition we're going to be looking at other improvements we can bring about with the tender; we could be looking at cross-city services, better links to villages, evening services and greater integrated transport options with things like overnight parking. There are a lot of good things that will come, and some of that will come in combination with the development of the Park and Ride hubs, which is coming out to consultation soon. I think there's a really bright future for our buses and a lot of positive things coming forward, which I'm looking forward to sharing with you all soon.

Supplementary from Cllr Rose: Would you be able to confirm/promise that the public consultations will directly engage the disabled communities of York and ensure we're referring to and talking about those aspects?

Response: I absolutely will confirm that, it's really important to us to get this right and to make sure it is as accessible as possible in all of our public transport.

Questions to Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

From Cllr Ayre: What conversations have you had with colleagues from the Integrated Care Board about the impact of the proposed 50% budget cuts that they are facing in the third quarter?

Response: Those budget cuts are at the very beginning stages, and I have begun to speak to them, but at the moment there is nothing set in stone about what's going to happen or what that's going to look like, or indeed what changes are proposed.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: The ICB is entirely back-office, they will lose 50% of all of their staff, basically – what planning are you doing and what implications do you think that will have on our Adult Social Care services, losing that resource from the NHS at such a crucial point?

Response: It's very early days; we are in conversation with the ICB and with Adult Social Care as to the effect it would have as there is potential for the whole restructure to work in a very different way, but at the moment we do not know what that looks like.

Questions to Cllr Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

From Cllr B Burton: The Public Health report that is coming to Council tonight highlights a number of challenges facing children, can you set out what we're doing to respond to these in the city please?

Response: We'll talk more about that report later; it is great to see a real focus on children but a real shame to see the challenges that children are facing in the country at the moment, and particularly in York. What are we doing, well we're doing quite a bit actually. Firstly, the York Healthy Schools Award, a project working between York and North Yorkshire Public Health teams. It has three different levels, bronze, silver and gold, and they are very much focused not just on physical health but mental health within schools and indeed to get the higher awards you have to show support for staff wellbeing too, which has a huge impact on children's wellbeing. So that is one avenue we are looking at, and I really want to thank the staff in schools who have taken the time to do what they can to gain that status, because it is an effort, and it does take time, but is certainly something that is welcome. As well as that, on the York Place Board, York Health and Care Partnership I have consistently advocated for children, and they have put me on the Board now to continue to advocate for children because I think that has been a focus that has probably been missed and I'm really glad that is something we can now move forward on. It's worth saying that we also have a SEND Employment Forum; supported internships for children and young people with education, health and care plans, working in collaboration with Aviva, York College and the national charity Project Search. Those internships have started and are running this year which is fantastic for young people to access those projects, giving them a sense of achievement, a sense of what it's like to be in work environments, which is a real positive for them and their families. The health and wellbeing surveys will continue in schools this year so we can continue to identify particular trends in York and then tackle those accordingly; as well as that recently schools have been working through the ADHD-friendly status and a number of schools have been successful in achieving that status, to support children around neurodiversity; we have a long way to go in the school system but I will always applaud any staff taking the time and commitment to supporting those young people, because school is a challenge and I'm sure as we all know has got more challenging, so I really welcome the focus on that. I could carry on but will stop there.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: Talking of challenges facing children, given the government's own calculation says that the spring statement will put 50,000 children into poverty, what calculations have you done of the impact on York? How many children do you think will be affected directly in York and put into poverty, and what steps are we taking quickly to be able to support them in future?

Response: A good question which is really nice to see from you. It is quite early stages on what the effects will be on children in York, we have to be clear that the number of children in poverty in this city has risen considerably over time, and if you look for example at figures around pupil premium percentages within schools, they have consistently risen over time. There is an awful lot of work going on already to combat the poverty that's been created over the last few years, but that's not to say that these cuts will not have an effect, and we should acknowledge that and prepare for what we can do moving forwards. For my part, I was in conversation with officers today about how we poverty-proof our classrooms, how we poverty-proof schools. There was also a headteachers termly briefing focused on how we poverty-proof schools, and the Council's role in that is convening those schools from different trusts and from the maintained sector, bringing everyone together to make sure that whatever we do in one school in York we're doing across all schools in York. There are things we can look at, uniform costs for example, obviously free school meals to look at what we can do to support there. We were an early adopter of supporting auto-enrolment within schools for pupil premium and free school meals, because that has a huge benefit for young people and their families. As well as that we can talk about the transition between primary and secondary school and the costs associated with that, going into specialist lessons for example, digital access – I've been working with IT ReUse and am trying to get to a point where we could do a mobile phone drive to get old mobile phones, clean up the technology, and redistribute those to young people who need them. So there are a variety of things that we are working on, a variety of things that we want to push forward, because as you well know, I am absolutely dedicated to doing what we can for young people in poverty in the city.

79. Recommendations of the Executive: Review of the City of York Council Scrutiny Function (7:54 pm)

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Fenton seconded, the following recommendations of the Executive made at its meeting held on 11 March 2025, as set out from page 51 in the agenda papers.

Recommended:

- i. That Council endorse the proposed actions as set out in Annex B in respect of Scrutiny Review Report recommendations 1-2, 4-7 and 9-12, noting that a cross-party working group will be established to lead on and oversee the work;
- ii. To recommend that, in respect of recommendation 8 of the Scrutiny Review Report, Full Council resolves to implement a revised Scrutiny structure, comprising an overarching Scrutiny Committee (including calling in functions) with nine seats, a Place Committee with nine seats, and a People Committee (to include Housing) with nine seats. These changes to take effect at the 2025 Annual General Meeting and will be reviewed in 12 months;
- iii. To recommend to Council that Recommendation 3 of the Scrutiny Review Report is not adopted.

Reason: To seek Full Council's approval for changes to how Scrutiny operates at the Council.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendations and take any action required. BR/LT

80. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (7:56 pm)

A written report was received from Cllr Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the committee.

81. Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee: Polling District and Polling Place Review (7:57 pm)

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Hollyer seconded, the following recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee made at its meeting held on 17 March 2025, as set out from page 87 in the agenda papers.

Recommended:

- i. That Council agree the final recommendations to the polling places and districts as set out in Annex 1 of this report until the next statutory review, or until it is superseded by any subsequent review of any polling place or district;
- ii. That Council agree to publish the revised electoral register on 1 May 2025. (Where the ERO has decided to revise their register by republishing it to incorporate the changes, the law requires that they publish a notice 14 calendar days before the publication of the revised version of the register in a local newspaper, at their office and at some other conspicuous place or places in the area);
- iii. That Council agree to delegate to the Chief Operating Officer, in their capacity as the Council's Returning Officer, the power to make urgent changes to the polling scheme during a statutory election period, where time does not permit a report to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee. Where such urgent changes are proposed, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee will be consulted, along with the relevant ward councillors. This will ensure that polling arrangements in the City remain fit for purpose for each election called.

Reason: To comply with statutory requirements and to give better flexibility with making decisions regarding polling places between statutory reviews.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED, and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendations and take any action required. LT/EC

82. Recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee: Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Assessment and Statement of Licensing Policy (7:59 pm)

Council received a report which presented the recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at its meeting held on 5 March 2025, as contained in the reports set out in the Council agenda from page 141. Cllr Melly moved, and Cllr Cuthbertson seconded the following recommendations contained in the report:

Recommended: That it be recommended to Council that the draft Policy and/or CIA is amended with alternative wording agreed by members.

Reason: To meet the legislative requirements of the Licensing Act 2005.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED, and it was

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendations and take any action required. LC

83. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25 (8:00 pm)

Cllr Steels-Walshaw moved, and Cllr Webb seconded, the following recommendation contained in the report of the Director of Public Health at page 244 of the agenda papers.

Recommended: Council are recommended to publish this Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25.

Reason: To fulfil their duty under the Health and Care Act 2012, and to progress work on improving the health of young people in the city.

Following a brief debate, on being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendation and PR
take any action required.

84. Proposed Change to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference (8:13 pm)

The following recommendations contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at page 349 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Steels-Walshaw and seconded by Cllr Douglas.

Recommended: Council is recommended to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reason: In order to update the terms of reference in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board's requirements.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendation and BR
take any action required.

85. Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures (8:13 pm)

Council received a report of the Monitoring Officer on the use of General Exception and Special Urgency Procedures, as set out from page 369 of the agenda papers.

Resolved: To note the report.

Reason: To comply with legislative and constitutional requirements, and ensure full transparency.

86. Appointments and Changes to Membership (8:14 pm)

Resolved: That the appointments and changes to membership set out in the agenda at pages 373-374 be noted.

Action Required

1. To note approval of the appointments list, JP/JM
make the changes on the system and
inform organisations as required.

[The meeting adjourned between 8:18pm and 8:37pm].

87. Motions on Notice (8:37 pm)

i. Introduction of a Visitor Levy

Moved by Cllr Whitcroft and seconded by Cllr Clarke.

“Council notes:

- that York attracts over 8 million visitors annually, significantly contributing to the local economy but placing additional strain on infrastructure, public services, and the local environment;
- that many cities, such as Venice and Amsterdam, successfully employ tourist levies to offset these impacts, without deterring visitors to the local economy;
- a visitor levy could provide additional revenue for maintaining public spaces, public transport, heritage conservation, waste management, sustainability projects, supporting the city’s long-term goals and for promoting York;
- that recent budget consultations demonstrated strong public support for the introduction of a visitor levy in York, with around 90% of York residents who responded to the consultation in favour.

Council believes:

- it is great to live in a place that millions of people from all over the world want to come and spend time in;
- welcome though visitors are, a visitor levy would allow York to ensure visitors contribute fairly to the city's upkeep and to its sustainability, and to better manage the pressures that mass tourism brings;
- funds should be ring-fenced for projects and initiatives that enhance the visitor and resident experience, improve public services, provide better facilities and reduce the environmental impact of tourism;
- evidence from numerous cities shows a modest visitor levy would not deter tourists and is now an accepted contribution across Europe to the costs of maintaining and enhancing popular visitor destinations;
- the council should work to develop the case for a tourism visitor levy with its partners, including the hospitality, arts and culture sectors, as well as with business and residents' groups.

Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress:

- exploring the feasibility and practical mechanisms for introducing a visitor levy for overnight stays, including for short-term holidays lets, in consultation with local businesses, residents, and hospitality industry stakeholders;
- researching visitor levy models from other cities to determine the best approach for York, including an Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) option;
- lobbying central government to grant local authorities the necessary legal powers to implement a compulsory visitor levy;

in order to ensure York's tourism remains sustainable, benefiting residents and visitors alike."

Cllr Warters then moved, and Cllr Rowley seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"After 'Council notes' and after the fourth bullet point add a fifth bullet point with the following wording;

- In addition there is of course the long standing public support in York for an end to the Council Tax Educational Exemption that sees York, as a University City, disproportionately affected with a loss in Council Tax revenue now approaching £7 million a year.

After 'Council believes' and after the second bullet point insert a further bullet point to read;

- Reforming the Council Tax system to ensure students living in York also contribute fairly to the City's upkeep, its sustainability and to better manage the pressures that being a University City brings.

After 'Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress' and after the third bullet point add a fourth bullet point to say the following;

- Lobbying Central Government for a urgent review of Council Tax legislation with a request for removal of the Council Tax Educational Exemption in the interests of residents, visitors and students and the equitable treatment of all in being levied taxation to support the places they live or visit.

In the final sentence of the motion delete of the words 'York's tourism' and to add after the word 'ensure' the following; 'the maintenance of York is better funded and'."

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared LOST.

Cllr Widdowson then moved, and Cllr Mason seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"Under 'Council resolves...', after the third bullet point add two additional bullet points:

- 'the introduction of a tourism levy – in voluntary or mandatory form - by May 2027 at the latest;
- the start of consulting the existing BID and Hospitality Association of York over the introduction of the tourism levy;"

In relation to a point of order raised by Cllr Crawshaw pursuant to Rule B19 (1) (e), the Monitoring Officer confirmed that there was presently no legislation in place allowing for the introduction of a mandatory tourism levy, and that any voluntary levy would need to be done via the York BID rather than by the Council; the amendment remained valid as it asked the Executive to undertake an action rather than committing Council to take an action, and therefore the Executive were at liberty to disregard it.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared LOST.

Following debate, a vote was taken on the substantive motion, which was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

ii. Changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits

With Council's agreement Cllr J Burton's amendment was incorporated into Cllr Fenton's motion. Cllr Fenton then moved, and Cllr J Burton seconded, the following motion.

"Council notes that:

- The Government is bringing forward a Green Paper on changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits, including Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- PIP is a benefit not linked to work that is designed to help people with the additional unavoidable costs of being disabled;
- Reports have suggested that the Government is considering freezing PIP payments in 2026 and tightening eligibility criteria, including for reassessments
- Many disabled people use PIP to cover the cost of getting to and from work, for paying for essential equipment and for meeting social care charges
- The Resolution Foundation has commented that "Freezing PIP next year will result in a real-terms income loss for around four million people, 70 per cent of whom are in low-to-middle income households"
- The York-based Joseph Rowntree Foundation has said that "If the Government cuts disability and long-term sickness benefits it will be unethical, short-sighted and can only deepen hardship."
- The fear that many disabled people feel around the impact of any cut to PIP
- The need for careful language when discussing issues around welfare or disability so as not to unnecessarily demonise those in need or give any validation to those who wrongfully or maliciously characterise welfare recipients as scroungers or undeserving;
- York Central MP Rachael Maskell has said that "it is right that the Chancellor has oversight over all those budgets but not at the expense of pushing disabled people into poverty."
- York Outer MP Luke Charters has signed a letter which states "As MPs, we understand that delivering this new social contract

requires hard choices to be made. We welcome the work that has begun to rebuild our welfare system, and we are fully supportive of it.”

- If reports of a £5bn cut to PIP turn out to be true, this would be greater than the cut that led former Conservative Work & Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith to resign from Government in 2016

Council believes that:

- Reviewing welfare support to ensure all members of society are able to engage with society and live fulfilling lives is welcome;
- Any review of welfare support should not be predicated on a pre-determined cost saving;
- Support for disabled people has been severely impacted by years of austerity. Disabled people need better support, not a cut in income.

If the Government does decide to make significant cuts to PIP and other disability and long-term sickness benefits, there is likely to be a direct impact on City of York Council and its partners in a number of ways, such as:

- An increase in demand for council financial assistance through schemes such as the York Financial Assistance Schemes
- An increase in demand for the council's means-tested Disabled Facilities Grant
- Increased demand for advice and support from the council's Local Area Co-ordinators and partners such as Citizens Advice York
- An increase in the number of disabled residents who may be unable to afford care charges, impacting on their ability to continue to live independently
- Those disabled people currently in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of PIP, who have a Motability vehicle and whose awards are downgraded would lose entitlement to a Motability vehicle, which would impact significantly on social isolation and create further dependence and could stop them being able to get to and from work. (PIP is not an out of work benefit).

Council resolves:

- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to express;
 - this Council's strong belief that welfare reform must not be predicated on financial savings and in particular, cuts to PIP;
 - that as a Council we recognise the difficult financial situation the country faces and believe the correct way to address this is by tackling the enormous wealth inequalities that exist in our society, not by removing desperately needed support from those least able to bear the cost;
 - the severe impact of austerity on support services and the soaring levels of need;
 - that following the social model of disability necessitates that National and Local Government work tirelessly to remove barriers – whether physical or financial – to ensure disabled people are able to live socially, emotionally and financially secure and fulfilling lives which puts them on an equal footing with non-disabled people;
- To request the relevant Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review via a Task and Finish Group, when detailed Government proposals on disability and long-term sickness benefits are known in order to identify likely impacts on the demand for support from the council and its local partners.”

During the debate, Cllr Crawshaw moved and Cllr Ayre seconded a motion without notice to extend the length of the meeting by up to 30 minutes to allow for a full debate on motions ii. and iii. On being put to the vote this was declared CARRIED unanimously.

Following a point of order being raised by Cllr Webb pursuant to Rule B19 (1) (b) in relation to the language used by Cllr Warters, Cllr Webb moved and Cllr Lomas seconded a motion without notice pursuant to Rule B25 that Cllr Warters no longer be heard and that the next speaker be moved to. This motion was declared CARRIED, and the next speaker was moved to.

Following further debate, on being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

iii. Working to tackle the growing epidemic of violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Moved by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Steels-Walshaw.

“Council notes:

- its approved 2021 VAWG motion and the worsening situation four years on;
- the Government’s commitment to halve VAWG in the next decade but recognises that this bold ambition requires action from everyone;
- that VAWG is significantly underreported. North Yorkshire Police recorded 2000 domestic abuse incidents for York last year but estimates indicate more than 4000;
- that commissioned support services in York and North Yorkshire supported 14,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse in 2023/24;
- that children witnessing domestic abuse causes them significant harm;
- the physical and emotional cost of VAWG on survivors and their families, friends and communities is devastating and includes depression, PTSD, brain injuries, long-term pain, self-harm, miscarriage and other pregnancy complications;
- National Police Chiefs Council reported that between April 2022 to March 2023 more women died by suicide following domestic abuse than by being killed by a partner;
- research has drawn a link between misogynistic online content and unhealthy and negative attitudes to relationships;
- the York Schools Survey highlights around 15% of children disagree that hitting or kicking and sharing undressed or sexual photos of a person with someone else is always wrong in a relationship. Under half thought that telling a partner what to wear, checking where they are all the time and being jealous is always wrong;
- approval of York and North Yorkshire’s Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2024, the council’s recent Domestic Abuse Resident and Tenant Policy and the council’s commitment to work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.

Council believes:

- VAWG is an epidemic and responding to it is everyone's responsibility;
- sexism and misogyny, as some of the drivers of domestic abuse, must be addressed early through prevention work with children and young people;
- action is needed from councillors, the justice system, education and NHS partners and Combined Authorities to turn the tide on VAWG in our communities;
- that survivors in York should have the right to access specialist, trauma-informed support;
- specialist services are best placed to support survivors and likely to result in less need for additional service support in the future.

Council resolves:

- that City of York Council's (CYC) Domestic Abuse Awareness Day, which took place last December during 16 days of action to tackle VAWG, be repeated each year, with learning shared with CYC Human Resources and partner organisations encouraged to run similar events;
- to ask the Council Leader to write to other council leaders in our region to encourage them adopt a similar approach around awareness raising across services and about VAWG being everyone's responsibility;
- to work closely with survivors and local specialist and 'by and for' services to understand the impact of VAWG in York;
- building on existing good work at Vale of York Academy, to work through both the council and local Multi Academy Trust chains to ensure comprehensive education on healthy relationships and respect for women and girls is available in all schools across York;
- that the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities uses the new council reporting format to frequently update the public on steps being taken to reduce VAWG, and to hold the council and partners to account on these commitments."

During debate, following a point of order being raised by Cllr Lomas pursuant to Rule B19 (1) (b) in relation to the language used by Cllr Warters, Cllr Lomas moved and Cllr Webb seconded a motion without notice pursuant to Rule B25 that Cllr Warters no longer be heard and that the next speaker be moved to. This motion was declared CARRIED, and the next speaker was moved to.

[Cllr Warters left the meeting at 10:03 pm].

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared CARRIED unanimously, and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

Action Required

1. Note approval of the motion relating to Introduction of a Visitor Levy and take any action required. DM/NW/KL/PK
2. Note approval of the motion relating to Changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits and take any action required. NW/CD/SS/PS/LSW
3. Note approval of the motion relating to Working to tackle the growing epidemic of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and take any action required. HW/PR/NW/MS/LSW/CD/MP

Cllr Margaret Wells
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.31 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm]

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on Thursday, 22 May 2025, starting at 11.00 am.

Present: The outgoing Lord Mayor (Cllr Margaret Wells) in the Chair for the first part of the meeting, the incoming Lord Mayor (Cllr Martin Rowley BEM) in the Chair for the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas Rose	Nicholls
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
Myers	Steward
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton Mason	Whitcroft Wilson
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Ravilious	Clarke Melly Merrett
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Watson	B Burton Douglas Webb
Heworth Without Ward	Holgate Ward
	Kent Steels-Walshaw Taylor

Hull Road Ward

Huntington and New Earswick Ward

Baxter
Moroney
Pavlovic

Cullwick
Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

Osbalwick and Derwent Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Westfield Ward

Healey

Coles
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayre, Fisher, Nelson, Smalley, Warters, Waudby and Widdowson.

1. Apologies for Absence (11.05 am)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayre, Fisher, Nelson, Smalley, Warters, Waudby and Widdowson.

2. Declarations of Interest (11.05 am)

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

3. Appointment of Lord Mayor (11.06 am)

Councillor Cullwick moved, Councillor Baxter seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Martin Rowley BEM be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

4. Qualification of Lord Mayor (11.22 am)

Councillor Martin Rowley BEM signified Acceptance of the Office of the Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by the law in that behalf.

5. Appointment of Sheriff (11.30 am)

Councillor Steward moved, Councillor Fenton seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Paul Doughty be elected Sheriff of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

6. Qualification of Sheriff (11.48 am)

Paul Doughty signified Acceptance of the Office of the Sheriff of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by the law in that behalf.

7. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor (11.53 am)

Councillor Rowley as Lord Mayor moved, Councillor Steward seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Margaret Wells be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

8. Qualification of Deputy Lord Mayor (11.54 am)

Councillor Margaret Wells made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of York and took the Affirmation of Allegiance prescribed by law.

9. Under Sheriff (11.55 am)

The Sheriff advised Council that Arif Khalfe had been chosen to serve as Under Sheriff during this year of office, and thanked him for undertaking this service to the City.

10. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor's Consort (11.55 am)

Councillor Fenton moved, Councillor Nicholls seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor, Councillor Margaret Wells, and Lord Mayor's Consort, Paul Midgley, for their services to the city during the past municipal year.

11. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Consort (12.18 pm)

Councillor Mason moved, Councillor Orrell seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff, Fiona Fitzpatrick, and Sheriff's Consort, Geoff Cossins, for their services to the city during the past municipal year.

12. Formal Business of Council - Committee Arrangements, Allocation of Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Other Bodies for 2025/26, and Allocation of Motions (12.25 pm)

Councillor Douglas moved, and Councillor Kilbane seconded, the recommendations in respect of allocations to seats, appointments, and other matters, as set out in the report of the Director of Governance at pages 7-15 of the updated agenda papers, with reference to Annexes A-F to that report and the further update to appointments to committees and outside bodies.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED unanimously and it was

Resolved:

- i. To agree the allocation of seats in accordance with the arrangements set out in Annex A;
- ii. To agree the delegation of approval of future changes to group allocations to the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer;
- iii. To note the Executive appointments and respective portfolios to be approved by the Leader of the Council;
- iv. To note the group nominations to Committees and other bodies, as well as appointments to Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out in this report and its annexes, together with details of any nominations and appointments which may be circulated prior to the meeting, in light of the Council's duty to give effect to group nominations;

- v. To waive political balance requirements in respect of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation place, as noted in Annex B4;
- vi. To note the allocation of motions for consideration at Ordinary Full Council meetings for the period 2025-2027 as set out in Annex C;
- vii. To agree the Terms of Reference for Corporate Scrutiny Committee, People Scrutiny Committee and Place Scrutiny Committee as shown at Annex D;
- viii. To agree the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Appeals Committee as shown at Annex F;
- ix. To agree the amendment to the number of seats on the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee from five seats to three seats;
- x. In the event that the Leader of the Council notifies the Monitoring Officer of any changes to the Executive Portfolios, the Monitoring Officer to update the Council's Constitution accordingly.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory and constitutional requirements.

Cllr Martin Rowley BEM
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.27 pm]

Leader of the Council, Cllr Claire Douglas**Change and Continuity**

Recent months have been a combination of celebration of the continuity of our proud civic history, dating back to the thirteenth century, with Mayor making taking place in May, and the beginning of change. The Right Honourable Cllr Martin Rowley BEM is now confirmed as the 70th Lord Mayor of York and Paul Doughty as Sheriff of York. I would like to welcome them into their roles and wish them all the best for the civic year ahead. They have been tremendously active already and I've enjoyed visiting a number of community and civic events alongside them.

I'd also like to thank Cllr Margaret Wells and Fiona Fitzpatrick for their term as the 69th Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York. They attended over 450 events across and city and represented York and our strong civic traditions to many people of all ages who had never thought they would be deemed important enough to meet our civic party. They truly showed the best of York and will be missed in their roles.

Now I shift to talking of change. Ian Floyd has recently announced his retirement from the post of Chief Operating Officer of the Council, effective as of Easter 2026. Ian has dedicated the last 17 years of his working life to York, including as Head of Paid Service since 2019. He has provided calm, consistent and visionary leadership through periods of uncertainty and change. His commitment to public service, his support for staff, and his passion for the city have made a lasting impact. I thank him sincerely for his dedication and service.

We will now begin the process of recruiting a new lead officer for the Council. Ian will be in post to manage the hand over process to ensure a smooth transition and business continuity for our fantastic city. I will keep you updated as this process progresses.

Our City, Our Community

I have attended and spoken at a range of important community, city, national and international events over the period since our last Full Council meeting in March. These have ranged from volunteering at the much loved Foss Fairy Trail, in my ward Heworth, through to the Great Yorkshire Show, UKREiiF, York Community Fund celebration, speaking at the 'Peace in Europe in 2025' conference hosted by our fantastic twin city Dijon, France and a range of military events. These include: York Armed Forces Covenant Executive and Forum. Victory in Europe, VE Day 80th Anniversary commemoration wreath laying. Wreath laying at Korean War Memorial in Memorial Gardens alongside the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the UK and local military representatives.

Armed Forces Week and Day events in June and early July and the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, RFCA Employers event.

I have also welcomed and progressed meetings with representatives for the Ukrainian Embassy in the UK, the Mayor of Lviv, Ukraine and his office to discuss partnering and a sistership relationship and initiated bringing together of a range of amazing and tremendously dedicated people and organisations from across our city carrying out humanitarian work in Ukraine to form a York Ukraine Support network. This is an evolving and fledgling grouping and I would be more than happy to hear from anyone in the city who is providing humanitarian support or has links to Ukraine and is interested in getting involved with the network.

I would finally like to show my ongoing, continued and unerring support for communities across our city who have experienced the recently reported, totally unacceptable and abhorrent race hate crimes. I am saddened to say that the incidence of race hate crime is on the increase in our City of Sanctuary and of Human Rights. This is totally unacceptable, and I will continue to work with the communities most affected by these crimes and their perpetrators. We must continue to build a city where every man, woman and child is safe, feels safe, is secure and valued. I and I hope you, as residents of communities of all forms across our amazing city, will accept nothing less.

Delivering for our City

I am tremendously proud of the progress being made across York, delivering for our residents through a wide range of initiatives, organisations and projects. This has been driven by the leadership I, my Executive, my local councillors, council officers and partners across the city have shown over the past two years.

The Executive Member elements of this report give more detail but the highlights for me are.

Children's Services receiving Outstanding rating in all areas following the February 2025 inspection, almost 50,000 additional free school lunches and breakfasts provided in York primary schools.

Adoption of the first Local Plan for 70 years and its implementation. The first planning applications being considered under the Local Plan policies. Showing that we are determined that developers will adhere to the Local Plan policies. Pushing them hard to provide the essential infrastructure as well as the good quality, sustainable homes and truly affordable homes we all know our communities so desperately need.

Initiating and driving forward with health and voluntary sector partners our neighbourhood model for services including the 24/7 community mental health hub in Acomb Garth and the Recovery Hub in the city

centre. Both of which Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England visited York recently to find out more about and visit.

I could go on but will leave you to read the rest of this report to find out more. It is very fair to say that due to the focussed, consistent and clear leadership across our city, York is collectively achieving great things. Senior civil servant and government minister interest in our work is high and we are very well placed to take full advantage of these opportunities to improve the lives of our citizens and their communities across our city.

York Central Development Update

The York Central Development is moving forward at pace. Not only has the government confirmed £15m for the National Railway Museum to support their expansion plans but the Comprehensive Spending Review 2025 has also confirmed that the Government Property Agency (GPA) anchor building will also be funded and built. Bringing 2,600 civil service jobs to the York Central site.

At the time of writing notice of the opening of the travel routes through the site including cycle paths, footways, bus lanes and road has been confirmed and will be open once you read this report. Pedestrians, bicycles, buses and other traffic will now use this route permanently. Affected residents, community groups, businesses, and bus companies have been notified. The public realm along the new routes is truly outstanding and a great sign of the quality of the broader development to come. I have been very glad to see the strong level of commitment to community engagement from the developers, Homes England and Network Rail over the past 18 months. This must continue if York Central is to be fully integrated into our city and to deliver the transformational living, leisure and employment opportunities for the citizens of York we all want to see.

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and our membership as one of its two constituent councils continues to go from strength to strength. There has been a huge range of activity in the Combined Authority and from Mayor Skaith. These include the White Rose Partnership between the York and North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire Mayors that was signed in April. I attended the launch event in Selby Abbey to witness the commitment to work collectively across the Yorkshire footprint and with government to deliver on important transport, housing, leisure and tourism and climate and net zero initiatives.

In June I participated in decision making alongside Cllr Kilbane, Mayor Skaith and the North Yorkshire leaders to approve funding for £9million

of transport schemes for York including £4million of investment in the rapidly emerging and transformational York Station Frontage project. We also approved creation of the Mayor's £4million Active Travel Fund. Projects approved at a future date will align with our York Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), Local Travel Strategy and Implementation Plan to deliver a range of active travel schemes across York.

In early July we received the fantastic news from the Department for Transport that Haxby Station and Phase 1 of the dualling of the York Outer Ring Road will be funded in this parliament. Both are hugely important for the economic development of our city and wider region and the delivery of our Transport Strategy.

I thank Mayor Skaith for his ceaseless hard work to fight for funding into our Combined Authority area and to my Combined Authority colleagues for committing other elements of funding and support into our city. It shows the huge value of the Combined Authority to York, supporting our citizens and our development as the economic engine of our region for the here and now and into the future.

Executive Member for Economy and Culture, Cllr Pete Kilbane

York has continued its strong economic start to 2025. The percentage of vacant city centre shops is 6.5% at the end of March 2025 (this equates to 41 shops, 15 less than in March 2024). York has less than half the latest available national average shop vacancy rate which was at 14% in 2023-24

The city centre saw over half a million more visitors in 2024-25 (7.88m) than the previous year (7.33m). These are the highest figures seen since pre-covid. Sales were up 3.7% in April 25 which means people visiting the city centre are spending more money (up 1.3% per person) while the number of transactions in council car parks continues to reduce in line with transport policy.

Vacancy rates in secondary shopping areas have been low and stable for several years. Monks Cross has fluctuated across time but is currently at one of its lowest levels (9%) for over a year. However, there is no room for complacency and the slight increase in vacancy rates in Haxby and Clifton Moor are a reminder to keep our focus and that collectively we all have a responsibility to enable our businesses to thrive.

Overall York's economy continues to outperform national trends and remains an attractive place for businesses to investment. The Labour government confirmed its confidence in our City with the announcement of the relocation of 2,600 civil servant roles out of Whitehall to the York Central Government Hub in the Comprehensive Spending Review. It is great to see York Central becoming a reality and we are excited about the opportunities this brings for everyone living in York.

For our residents this means living in a place of opportunity with a strong economy, high employment and wages above the regional average. This does present challenges, especially entrenched inequality, but we continue to work hard to ensure everyone living in the city benefits from its success and we can all live fulfilling lives.

Amongst many cultural highlights since last Full Council, York Residents have thrilled to theatre that resonated across the globe, swayed to legendary musicians, wowed at unique archaeological finds, celebrated York's emerging talent in the creative industries, and welcomed home a local artist made good on the world stage. We continue to work with our cultural partners across the city to bring exciting events and experiences for our residents, not least the BAFTA qualifying internationally renowned Aesthetica Short Film Festival featuring films written, directed, produced and acted by pupils from seven of our city's secondary schools. Culture in York is thriving under this administration, as we cement our unique UK status as a UNESCO City of Media Arts.

None of this can happen without the collaboration of the many fantastic people, organisations and businesses who are making York such a great place to be. I am sure that all members will take this opportunity place on record our acknowledgement of their fantastic contribution to our city and our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People, Cllr Bob Webb

York Hungry Minds

I am incredibly proud to state that to date our work alongside the brilliant school staff in York schools has resulted in delivering approximately 50,000 additional free school meals going to children across our city.

Through our learning we have developed an approach to use York Hungry Minds to tackle poverty in York schools. We have also set up the partner based, cross-party York Hungry Minds steering group to oversee engagement with schools and expansion of the programme over time.

Research carried out by both University of York and University of Leeds is showing our free school meal programme is having very real, positive benefits for children across York including attendance, lateness, educational outcomes, behaviour and learning.

OFSTED RESULT – OUTSTANDING!!!

In February 2025 City of York Council received a visit from OFSTED for an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).

Unfortunately, due to the publishing period, I could not talk about this within the last Full Council report, but I am very glad to do so now.

The council received an OUTSTANDING judgement in all areas, those areas are;

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- The experiences and progress of children in care
- The experiences and progress of care leavers

This follows the previous inspection under the old Liberal Democrat run authority in which they were found to REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT in all areas.

This administration is making a real difference to children's lives. In our manifesto we pledged we will be the 'corporate parents' that York children need us to be as we recognised that children who have experienced care have been let down in York over a number of years and this needed to change.

I am really pleased that the Ofsted report highlighted the following;

'Political leaders and the Chief Operating Officer are well informed about the priorities and challenges within children's services and are committed to improving experiences and progress for children and

young people. Executive council leaders evidence challenge and scrutiny and are clear about accountability and where it sits. They have access to accurate and comprehensive performance information, which provides them with a line of sight into frontline practice. They are child focussed and committed to their corporate parenting responsibility.'

Under the previous administration "children did not feel listened to by their corporate parents". That has radically changed under this Labour Administration and now child voice is seen as a strength in York.

York is the only inspected Local Authority to move from Requires Improvement to Outstanding over the past 9 years, and this puts us in the top 7% of authorities nationally. This is a testament to the excellent staff team that has been built here in York and I am so pleased that we have worked together to improve outcomes for children.

Please follow the link to the final OFSTED report here.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50274368>

Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, Cllr Jenny Kent

York continues to be ahead of the curve in our actions to build a healthier City, with comfortable homes, affordable energy, cleaner air, greener spaces and reducing our contribution to climate change, whilst building resilience to the changes that are already taking place.

Cleaner Air – all AQ objectives met for the first time

We celebrated Clean Air Day on 19th June in the best way possible – by meeting all health-based air quality objectives at all locations in York for the first time (excepting Covid-19 lockdowns). Monitoring showed reductions in maximum levels of Nitrogen Dioxide pollution improved by 27% in 2024 compared with 2023 which is due to the combined efforts of our whole City. Further electrification of the bus and council fleet vehicles, policies incentivising the uptake of more low emission taxis, with over 40% of taxis licensed by York now Ultra Low Emission (ULEV), anti-idling campaigns encouraging people to turn off their engines when stationary or waiting, and continued uptake of electric vehicles by those York car owners who can, have continued to help improve air quality throughout 2024. It has been especially pleasing to work in genuine partnership with residents and business in Gillygate. We are not complacent, and work to improve air quality continues, including running a public consultation on extending the Smoke Control Area (SCA) to include all of York which has received over 300 responses. Our AQ forecasting & alert platform has had over 13,600 visits, enabling people to make better informed decisions about their activities and use of fossil fuel transport during poor air quality.

Action on Climate Change – ‘A list’ status

York received independent international recognition for City leadership and transparency on climate change action by retaining A list status for the 3rd consecutive year from CDP – (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) – one of only 112 cities globally to achieve the top grade. The award recognises our carbon reduction team’s hard work on multiple fronts, which includes:

- YorEnergy, the free advice service helping people across York to cut energy bills through insulation and changing to energy efficient renewable heating
- York being awarded £216,000 to fund Solar PV installation at three sites: Yearsley Swimming Pool, Joseph Rowntree School and Acomb Explore Library. This was part of a £700,000 grant to York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (YNYCA) by Great British Energy, with sites selected based on those with

existing feasibility studies, eligibility, ability to deliver by March 2026 and falling within the available funding threshold.

- Work with York Community Energy to expand rooftop solar across schools and looking to increase this across community and public buildings
- Over 60 businesses receiving decarbonisation plans through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund project, identifying over £750tCO₂e savings. The project will now be offering grant funding to implement the identified actions
- Continued work on the business case for a green energy park at Harewood Whin
- Ongoing work on heat zones and accelerating decarbonisation with the LEAD project
- Expanding tree planting across the city, with 80% of planting taking place in areas of high or moderate priority (woodland trust tree equity accounting), involving 16 out of 21 wards and over 100 volunteers.
- Participating in the first York and North Yorkshire Carbon Negative Conference, hosted by the Combined Authority. Showcasing projects being delivered in York and contributing to panel discussions.
- Citywide upgrades to LED street lighting

New Appointments and hard work in Flood Risk and Public Realm

I am pleased to welcome our new Flood Risk Manager, Mark Henderson, who is working on the revised Flood Risk strategy, and has met jointly with myself and Yorkshire Water to drive improvements. Following planning approval for a new pumping station within Germany Beck, Fulford, procurement for the delivery of the pumping station is ongoing, aiming to start construction in 2026.

I am also pleased to welcome Ian Hoult as our Public Realm Operations manager, who has hit the ground running over-seeing: progress with our Neighbourhood caretakers, who will be in place by September, the effective roll out of bags to bins, which will reduce litter and pests on our streets and improve the working environment for our waste crews, and continued work on the Green Waste scheme, which now has over 40,000 subscriptions.

Our 'Buzz About York' sustainable planting has flourished despite last year's long wet Spring, the hard, cold winter, and this year's exceptionally hot drought. It has drawn admiration from residents and visitors and was rolled out to further locations this year. Our very dry spring meant that the York Walls in Bloom project got off to a slow start,

but the dedication of our Bar Walls team, St Nicks, and many volunteers has resulted in a wonderful display. I have never seen so many people stop to take photographs at this spot, and whilst it is a change that has not been welcomed by everyone, the overwhelming response has been positive. This has especially been the case amongst younger people and people who are anxious about the decline in our species. They want to see their City taking action in support of our Pollinator Strategy, and I am very grateful to all those who have enabled the Walls to Bloom and lead the way.

Parks and Pride in Our Communities

I welcome the recent input of the Place Scrutiny committee on the criteria we should use to prioritise work from our Parks Investment Fund, the first major investment in York's green spaces for several years. We are in the process of appointing a project manager and can't wait to get started. We are also in the final process of recruiting our new neighbourhood caretaking team, which should be out and about in our Communities by September.

Our City

I enjoyed taking part in another round of the York Bid rejuvenation days, where I met a York Surveyor's business (Gate and Bar) celebrating their fifth birthday by bringing all employees out to help paint railings by the Minster. The partnership between York Bid, CYC, residents and business is part of what makes York so special – we all want the best for our beautiful City.

I have also been inspired by York secondary school students and trainee PGCE Geographers at a University of York sustainability enrichment day, who came up with thoughtful and ambitious ideas for York, as did the children at Badger Hill and Westfield primary schools as part of their Sustainability projects. It is our job to ensure that their ambition is delivered, and their future is assured.

I want to thank all our public realm, waste, environmental and flood protection, neighbourhood enforcement, carbon reduction and tree staff, who work so hard all year round, for the benefit of all of us.

**Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects,
Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion, Cllr Katie Lomas**

Financial Outturn

The outturn for 2024/25 shows more progression in reducing overspends and managing budgets. The final overspend was £1.123m. After using the £576k contingency in the budget this means the budget was balanced by using £547k of earmarked reserves. It is clear that all departments are working hard to prioritise spending and control costs. Pressures remain in both Children's and Adult's services and those departments continue to work to control costs where possible. These services are largely statutory and although we can, and have, exerted some level of cost control the increasing demand, and increasing complexity of services required means that some of the cost pressures are beyond our control.

Financial Inclusion grants and outcomes

In financial year 2024-25 we allocated £150k to fund a number of financial inclusion projects, with outcomes summarised below:

AgeUK – money and benefits service for those over retirement age – 47 people assisted to gain a total of £205,859 annualised income.

Experience Counts 50 plus project – skills and training for over 50s – 16 people supported, 10 found employment and 1 became self employed.

Coterminous CIC Employment and Enterprise Programme – aimed at residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness – 13 people supported, 3 found employment, 2 found training or volunteering, 2 took up 1-1 support.

Refugee Action York – practical support, information and guidance for refugees and asylum seekers – 58 people supported with essential needs, 13 people supported with CV and job applications, 40 people referred to other services, 72 people attended workshops, 30 people attended coffee mornings.

York Community Energy – support for families struggling with energy bills – 54 parents receiving direct support.

Peasholme Charity – financial capability service – 133 people engaged overall, 64 engaged in supported learning services.

Citizens Advice York – financial inclusion for the Gypsy and Traveller community – 247 residents supported.

IT Reuse – refurbished IT equipment via Community Furniture Store – 182 SIM cards supplied, 294 devices supplied.

100% Digital York Partnership – supporting digital inclusion – 6 monthly digital cafes with 175 people attending. Monthly 1-1 sessions at Explore York, 450 SIM cards issued.

Welfare Benefits Unit – Advice Extra project, proactive follow up of queries – 111 people followed up, 13 had in depth follow up.

We have allocated £50k for similar schemes for the current financial year.

Direct financial assistance to residents

The York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) provides grants to those who need them in our city. During the last financial year the grants ranged from £23 to £2,310. The average grant value has increased, mainly due to cost inflation. The demand was high last year and the scheme was over-subscribed with the overspend being met by Household Support Fund (HSF).

The Food and Fuel Voucher scheme has been funded through a combination of Household Support Fund and CYC grant. This allows advice workers across the city to give immediate help to those seeking assistance alongside more long-term financial advice and support.

The Household Support Fund is a direct grant from Government to support those in most need. In the last financial year CYC was awarded just over £2m with £1.3m used for direct payments and the rest being used for a variety of schemes including warm spaces, energy support, discretionary awards and to support our YFAS scheme. The Household Support Fund has been continued for 2025/26 but will be replaced in future financial years.

The Household Support Fund has also been used to fund use of the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) platform. This has enabled us to identify households that may be in need of support and to identify poverty gaps. This platform was used in the Pension Credit campaign and is now being used to identify households that could claim additional benefits or where energy support might be needed.

Our welfare benefits team work with partners across the city to provide advice and support and to signpost residents to the help they need. Our York Talk Money service now provides a permanent pool of resources as well as supporting campaigns during the year to encourage take up.

Major projects

We are making significant changes to governance for major projects, introducing new points of internal oversight and bringing together those officers who work on projects across the organisation into a Programme Management Office. This will help us to track progress in delivery and

spend and identify early on any cost or delivery pressures to enable transparent decision making on these.

The Station Gateway project is progressing well, although there are some very significant cost pressures due to both changes that we have made to the scheme (including changes to meet new statutory guidance) and the huge cost inflation that the entire construction sector has seen. We have also had to manage the unknown elements of the project – such as the stability of the city walls and what lies beneath the surface which, in our city, could never have been predicted until we started the structural work. It is important that we are able to finish this project, and to get the benefit of the improvements that will come with the bus loop, movement of taxi rank and improvements to access around the station itself. To that end we have secured funding from the Mayoral Combined Authority of £3.96m to secure the project and will realign other funding to ensure that we can complete it.

Human Rights and Equalities Board (HREB)

The Human Rights and Equalities Board has launched its first task and finish group to work on children's poverty. This will build on some of the work done by the York Poverty Truth Commission.

The Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, a key partner in HREB recently hosted a national conference 'Towards a Network of UK Cities Working on Human Rights'. I presented as part of a panel exploring practices and policies and showcasing some of the work done here in York.

In May HREB issued a statement in response to the April Supreme Court Ruling on the Equality Act and the subsequent EHRC interim guidance. HREB acknowledged the complexities of the ruling and guidance but reasserted York's status as a Human Rights City and supported the statement of the Council Leader "Our message to trans people in York is clear: we see you; we hear you; we are here to support you in any way we can."

The Board is now preparing for the annual public meeting in November which will be a chance for organisations across the city to showcase the changes made as a result of their responses to the Human Rights Indicator Report.

Holocaust Memorial Day steering group

The Holocaust Memorial Day steering group is now a formalised outside body of the Council and I have joined the group as Co-Chair alongside a Co-Chair from the community members of the group. Work is now underway to refresh the membership of the group (to ensure good

representation across different stakeholders) and to plan the events for 2026.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

This strategy will go to Executive soon for approval following extensive public consultation and revision following input from CYC scrutiny. In the meantime, the process of consultation has already produced results for residents. In response to consultation feedback from students living in our city, and those representing them, the CYC website now has a dedicated landing page for students gathering all the services they are likely to use together in one place and ensuring they can easily find the services most relevant to them.

Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, Cllr Lucy Steels-Walshaw

Active Residents in York

The latest survey from Sport England showed that over 75% of York residents are among the most active in the population of England. York is the fifth most active local authority. The benefits of exercise to both physical and mental health cannot be underestimated. We are really proud of this achievement as it reflects our priorities of a health generating city for both adults and children. As we continue to prioritise safer active travel this will continue to encourage more people to use sustainable and active travel. We are very keen to continue progress with achieving our goal of the health and wellbeing strategy of increased physical activity. Our health trainers to a fantastic job of supporting anyone in the City to become more active and realise the positive effects that physical activity can have on people's lives.

York Recovery Hub Opens

In April the new York Recovery Hub opened on Wellington Row. The recovery hub is place where people who have experienced issues around addiction can come together for support, community and advice. Having recovery visible in this City creates a new vision and is so important in reducing stigma and building connection and relationships which are vital for a persons sustained recovery journey. This hub opening has been a long journey with objections and assumptions from many in our communities and we are very proud that this is underway, and that people can now seek the community that they wish to be part of. This model emphasises a holistic approach to enhance recovery, the person with addictions needs is addressed but in a supportive and inclusive community.

Adult Social Care Research & Co-production Strategy

In York we have a strong history of ensuring our person-centred support is built upon hearing the voices of those with lived experience through a strong foundation of significant collaboration. This has enabled us to move further than traditional support and work to meet people where support works most effectively for them. The strategy creates a framework across all aspects of adult social care to enable improvements and positive change for people and their loved ones to access services. This new strategy will support us to move forwards with the existing systems, people and groups and ensure co-production is included across all services and developments within them. We are very excited to see this develop across the whole of adult social care.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment

CQC, which is the independent regulator of health and social care in England attended City of York Council on 17th-19th June for their onsite assessment. This assessment was completed under the Health and Care Act 2022 under which they have responsibilities to review how local authorities meet their duties under part 1 of the Care Act 2014. Whilst we do not have the final report or rating yet, CQC have completed interviews with leaders, staff and our many valued partners and voluntary organisations across the city. I wanted to commend the hardworking staff for their impeccable organisation of the week. The dedication to safeguarding people in York shone through to me and a commitment to do our very best for our most vulnerable residents.

Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities,
Cllr Michael Pavlovic

Housing Delivery Programme

The completion of the first fully Passivhaus Duncombe Barracks development is imminent, and the first homes will be available during the summer with the first keys handed over in August. We are ensuring that the tenants in the social housing will be those who will most benefit from the reduced heating bills and have developed a Local Lettings Initiative for the Duncombe and Burnholme developments which will also be implemented for additional new Passivhaus Developments, prioritising Health and Accessibility needs, especially those suffering from long health conditions, including respiratory diseases, immunosuppression, or limited mobility, with additional priority for those with the most limited mobility.

Our further 100% Affordable Housing Schemes are progressing, the Ordnance Lane procurement has completed, with due diligence now being undertaken and the Willow House Development and Walmgate regeneration scheme design is completing with further consultation with residents having recently taken place and the feedback assessed. An outline Planning Application will be submitted shortly. The regeneration of the Glen Lodge Older persons Scheme is almost completed and the handover of the new flats will (hopefully) take place on 18th July.

The disposals of small sites is shortly to commence and the former Woolnough, and Morrell Houses and the 68 Centre will be offered to Registered Housing Providers for development of 100% Affordable Housing Schemes. The Castle Mills site has a Registered Provider interested in creating another 100% Affordable Housing Scheme and we have secured Homes England funding to create plans for a joint health and housing development at the Askham Bar site.

Building Services and Housing Repairs

Whilst achieving markedly improved performance outcomes, recruitment and retention of skilled staff has been challenging. We have now agreed improved pay scales for heating and electrical engineers. We aim to reduce the reliance on external contractors and deliver a more efficient service in house. We are close to completing an improved customer feedback process for repairs to identify and respond quickly to any problems or poor service.

A notable success was the recent feedback and congratulations from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for the completion of work officers have undertaken in developing innovative methods of retrofit and energy efficiency measures to marginalised tenants and the least energy efficient houses within the LEAD project. Over 475 private sector

residents have had advice or energy efficiency measures completed as part of the funding. A further £2m has been awarded by Government to continue delivering these initiatives.

House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing and Housing Adaptations

An additional 500 eligible HMOs licenses were issued in 24/25. In addition, 16 Civil Penalty Notices were issued with fines totalling £151,000.

The Adaptations team have carried out major adaptations to 318 homes in the private sector via the Disabled Facility Grant and 58 council properties enabling people to remain in their own homes. Three events in local communities gave 150 pairs of slippers to older people, one of the major ways to reduce falls.

Planning

We developed, launched and implemented a Planning Protocol agreed between the council and developers in the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce to streamline the planning process. Performance of the planning teams has been much improved with 90% of minor applications determined within the set time limit (70% national target), 90% of major applications (60% national). 398 planning enforcement cases were opened and 462 closed and 27 formal interventions and 23 dangerous structures were enforced.

Communities

The work to develop and implement a new Neighbourhood Model of delivering services across our city continues. It moves services closer to where people need them and brings a collaborative multi organisation approach bringing together public and voluntary sectors to deliver a range of benefits. We will be undertaking local consultation events during the summer and a report to scrutiny and Executive over the coming months.

Community Safety

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), not only in the city centre but in multiple areas of the city, arson incidents and County Lines continue to be an unacceptable scourge on York. It has an impact on how safe people feel in their homes and communities and affects business confidence.

Our ASB team have been proactive in working with residents to improve their behaviour when problems occur within a tenancy, and whilst enforcement action can only be taken as a last resort, since January the courts have issued 6 eviction notices, 4 partial premises orders, and an injunction banning one individual from an area of the city following

persistent complaints of ASB. Without residents making us aware of problems we cannot offer support or investigate so we encourage any tenants to raise any concerns with their Housing Management Officer in the first instance or through their local councillor.

The council cannot resolve problems alone and therefore we work closely with North Yorkshire Police, as part of the ASB Hub, which has police officers working alongside our Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams, within the wider Safer York Partnership, and are developing a joint problem solving approach. Through additional Government funding of almost £2m annually and the work of the Deputy Mayor for Police and Fire, Jo Coles, an additional 12 PCs and 9 PCSOs are being recruited and trained to join the York City and Selby Neighbourhood Policing teams – a welcome 37% increase in officer capacity across our policing teams area. Our housing navigators are working alongside the Business Improvement District (BID) rangers and police to reduce the impact of street drinking and particularly with those who are on the streets. The numbers of street homeless has reduced significantly since last year, at an average of 14 per night. Of these, and the numbers fluctuate, a third will be from outside the area and therefore have no local connection to access accommodation, a third already have accommodation. The Housing Navigators are working hard with the long-term street homeless and recently accommodated an individual who had been on the streets for the past four years, previously unwilling to accept support.

Executive Member for Transport, Cllr Kate Ravilious

Active City York

Earlier this month we were delighted to welcome over 600 delegates to the Barbican for Active City York: Active Travel England's annual active travel summit. The event began on a high with Government Local Transport Minister Simon Lightwood backing a coalition of twelve of England's Combined Authority Mayors, including York & North Yorkshire's Mayor, David Skaith, who pledged to develop a national active travel network, with an initial network of 3500 miles of safer routes to schools and high streets. Keynote speakers at the conference included Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, Chris Boardman, National Active Travel Commissioner and Dame Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner for Greater Manchester all of whom emphasised the huge health benefits that enabling active travel can bring.

We were also delighted and honoured to welcome a special guest from one of York's twin cities, Dijon. Anne-Sophie Gamblin, Director of Mobility in Dijon, joined myself, Peter Roderick (Director of Public Health) and Lara Thornton (Transport communications manager) to deliver a plenary session at the conference, exploring why UK cities struggle to achieve continental levels of walking and cycling and what we can do to change this.

Many of our officers from the transport and highways team attended the conference and delivered presentations that highlighted some of the innovative approaches we are taking to deliver affordable, accessible and sustainable travel options, which generated a lot of interest. There was also lots for us to learn from the vast number of inspirational talks and workshops, and we'll be following up on those connections to really boost York's active travel in the coming months and years.

The event was also a wonderful opportunity to show off our fantastic city and I'm really grateful to Friends of York Walls, York Civic Trust, Everybody's Cycling, Wheels for Wellbeing and York Cycle Campaign for the volunteer led walks and rides offered during the conference.

Bus successes

In June we celebrated over 1 million £1 fares being sold to young people since September 2023; a fantastic achievement demonstrating the success of the scheme, delivered using funding from our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The offer, which is ongoing, brings independence and access to education, work and leisure for all of York's under 19-year-olds.

We've also recently committed Bus Service Improvement Plan funding to extend the hours of our Park & Ride bus services at all six of York's Park & Ride sites, and from 20th July buses will start at 05:30 and finish at 22:30, benefiting everyone from shift workers to people enjoying the city's nightlife.

Through May and June we consulted on £4M of improvements to our Park & Ride sites. Over 1200 residents and businesses responded and we were delighted to receive very high levels of support for the proposals which include overnight parking provision.

Meanwhile, our bus stop improvements team have been working really hard, with over 200 improvements now delivered across the city. These include real time information screens, new bus shelters, lighting, seating and accessible kerbs.

Mayoral Combined Authority Transport funding

In June we were delighted to be awarded nearly £7M of Mayoral Local Transport Grant funding, supporting us in delivering the Station Gateway project plus deliver a raft of sustainable travel schemes including York's first School Street schemes, enhancing our speed reduction programme, improving active travel on Clifton Backies, installing secure cycle parking in residential areas and at key destinations, and improving many of our public rights of way.

Accessible City

Our barrier removal programme is now well underway and we're already receiving very positive feedback from people who are now able to access spaces that were previously inaccessible to them. And as well as removing barriers the team have also been installing tactile paving, signage and dropped kerbs where needed, to make these routes accessible to as many people as possible.

Prioritising pedestrians

At my decision session in June I approved a new methodology for evaluating and prioritising pedestrian crossing requests. The new methodology takes into account the potential increase in active travel that a new crossing could bring and will help us to deliver more crossings in the locations where they are most needed.

City Centre Sustainable Travel Corridor

In April I approved the project initiation document for the City Centre Sustainable Travel corridor. Since then we've been carrying out early engagement with many different stakeholders and will soon be launching a full public consultation on the scheme.

Maintaining our historic city

As well as making excellent progress with our £10M highway maintenance programme, the highways teams have also had to cope with the added excitement of dealing with a sinkhole opening up in the road outside the Theatre Royal. The discovery of archaeological remains from the medieval St Leonard's Hospital created much interest but also slowed repairs. The emergency works were handled admirably, with minimal fuss and disruption – huge credit to all involved.

And as soon as the sinkhole was repaired our stonemason's team got to work on repairing Bootham Bar, making sure that our city walls remain strong and can be enjoyed by future generations.

Transport communications

Finally, I'd like to give a big shout out to the transport comms team who have done a truly amazing job in recent months. In addition to coping admirably with multiple media inquiries around parking charges and keeping residents, visitors and businesses informed about Station Gateway road closures, they have also launched a wonderful short film about our transport strategy and had great success with producing short video clips to go alongside some of our stories, with the sinkhole story reaching many thousands of viewers.

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Audit and Governance Committee**Chair's Annual Report****2023/24 and 2024/25**

The past two years have been busy and rewarding for the Audit and Governance Committee, containing a mixture of regular updates from the Council's finance, corporate governance, and internal audit teams, together with more bespoke reports on the Council's Constitution, contracts, and on the Council's 'No Purchase Order – No Pay' approach.

We have considered the Council's Key Corporate Risks, to ensure that the Council is prepared to deal with the challenges that it faces; we've regularly considered the Council's Treasury Management strategy and information; we've received updates on the internal audit reports that have been issued across the years, together with updates on the excellent work carried out by the Council's counter-fraud team; and we've seen a number of reports coming forward for changes to the Council's Constitution, and although reservations have been expressed over the manner by which some changes have been made, by and large the changes are expected to improve the efficiency of the council, with more amendments to come in the future.

As the committee has learned, York has been in the privileged position to have its accounts signed off by its external auditors within a reasonable timeframe, at a time when so many authorities have a number of years of accounts outstanding; and the committee has had regular updates from the Council's External Auditors to provide confidence and reassurance in the Council's accounts. We've also considered the draft versions of the Council's Annual Governance Statements, providing assurance that the Council's governance processes are regularly updated and fit for purpose.

In more bespoke reports, we considered the response to the LGA Peer Challenge and the LGA Assurance Report, considered the circumstances surrounding the end of the Council's contract with the Salvation Army, and continue to press for a fuller report into the circumstances surrounding the ending of the contract, approved the process for the appointment of a new Independent Member of A&G, and approved the commencement of a Polling District and Polling Places review, the outcome of which was determined in March of this year. We also considered the Council's response to the Enforcement Notice

issued by the Information Commissioner's Office in respect of Freedom of Information requests, and were pleased to note the early completion of the action plan designed to remedy any difficulties with the Council's Fol process.

Overall, the committee has significantly contributed to the Council's continuing good governance, and will continue to challenge where it believes such challenge is necessary.

The committee would like to express its thanks to outgoing independent member, Mr Joe Leigh, and Councillors Mason, Melly, and Whitcroft for their work during this period.

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee – July 2025

1. At the March Full Council revised arrangements for the operation of the council's Scrutiny function were agreed (subsequently ratified at Annual Council) and it was resolved to establish a cross-party working group to lead on and oversee the work to embed a new way of working.
2. With support from Democratic Services, the working group has made good progress and I'd like to thank all involved for their time and effort in getting the new scrutiny arrangements up and running. The working group has discussed and agreed a draft Shared Vision for Scrutiny and a draft Executive / Scrutiny Protocol. The next step is for these to be shared for review by the Leader and Deputy Leader on behalf of the Executive.
3. The period between May and July has seen the three new scrutiny committees (Corporate, People and Place) hold their first meetings. There has inevitably been a transition period during which outstanding business from the predecessor committees has been concluded whilst discussions get underway with Executive Members and officers to help inform the committees' work plans from September onwards. As well as identifying issues to come to formal committee meetings, these discussions have helped to identify topics that can come to informal briefing sessions or which could form the basis for Task & Finish Group work.
4. I am keen that over the coming weeks we document the new arrangements so that councillors, officers and residents are clear about how this all should work. The functioning of the new arrangements will be kept under review.

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Services, Climate Change & Scrutiny Management Committee

5. At its 14 April meeting the committee received an update on progress with the delivery of schemes supported by the Combined

Authority's Net Zero Fund. CYC officers were joined by Combined Authority colleagues for a discussion on the process to update York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative and the draft York and North Yorkshire Retrofit Strategy. Members provided feedback on a range of issues which would be considered as this work progresses.

6. At its 12 May meeting the committee discussed the council's draft Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and provided feedback to be considered as the strategy is finalised. Members reviewed the status of petitions received by the council and approved council motions and agreed the terms of reference for a Task & Finish Group on preparing for changes to sickness and disability benefits.

Corporate Services Committee

7. At the first meeting of the new committee on 9 June officers updated members on the status of two major projects – York Outer Ring Road and York Station Gateway – and comments were fed back to help inform a decision report to go to Executive in July. Members also agreed a proposal to establish a Task & Finish Group to help inform the shaping of budget proposals for 2026/27.

People Scrutiny Committee

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

8. At its 2 April meeting the committee received an update on dental services across York and a report on Oral Health projects commissioned by Public Health in collaboration with the Integrated Care Board and other partners.
9. At its 21 May meeting members received an update on the implementation of a Trauma-Informed Care model within the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. Members' views were also sought on the Autism and ADHD Health Needs Assessment (HNA) prior to its publication

Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee

10. At its 1 April meeting the committee received updates on York Museums Trust's performance during the year 2024/25 and on the work of the York Citizens' Theatre Trust. Members also

received an update on the work of the York Cultural Education Partnership, REACH.

11. At its 1 May meeting the committee received an update on the delivery of the 'Clear Hold Build' initiative in the Clifton area following its launch in March 2024.

People Scrutiny Committee

12. At the first meeting of the new committee on 11 June members discussed the creation of a work plan for the municipal year.

Place Scrutiny Committee

Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee

13. At its 25 March meeting the committee received a high-level report on parking provision in the city and had an opportunity to discuss the retender of the Park & Ride contract, with a number of recommendations agreed.
14. At its 29 April meeting the committee received an update on how the Council prepares for emergencies and a number of recommendations were agreed. Members also received an update on the progress of the bags to bins project, challenges faced, and upcoming plans for implementation and reviews.
15. At its 20 May meeting the committee received a report on the council's strategy for tree planting and tree maintenance, with a number of recommendations agreed. The committee also received a report on the council's approach to managing the creation, implementation and tracking of Section 106 agreements, with a number of recommendations agreed.

Place Scrutiny Committee

16. At the first meeting of the new committee on 24 June members' views were sought on the criteria to be used in allocating £500,000 under the council's parks investment fund. The meeting was also used to discuss future workplan items in advance of an informal meeting in July.

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Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee for 2024/2025

Foreword from the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee

This has been a year of consolidation for the Joint Standards Committee as we have continued to manage the complaints process in an open, fair, and transparent way as the procedures allow. We welcomed Parish Councillor Diane Geoghegan-Breen following her appointment as a Parish Council representative. Rose Mazza and Joe Leigh, our Independent Persons, have again offered their expert advice and observations. We continue to review our policies and procedures, and where necessary, recommend changes to Full Council.

Managing the complaints received about our City, Parish and Town Councillors has remained a large part of our work during this last year. We have developed our relationships with Parish Councils and have seen the benefit of this in the lower number of complaints lodged against Parish Councillors.

I would like to thank the Monitoring Officer, his deputies, Frances Harrison and Lindsay Tomlinson, and their teams, for their vital support and guidance. I also want to acknowledge the help and support given by Democratic Services.

Cllr M Rowley BEM

Chair of Joint Standards Committee, May 2025

Membership of the Committee

The Committee would like to thank all of its Members for supporting and attending the meetings during this year. The Committee appointed Councillor Martin Rowley as the Chair and Councillor Mark Waudby as the Vice Chair.

City of York Council:

- Councillor Martin Rowley BEM
- Councillor Tony Fisher
- Councillor Jenny Kent
- Councillor Michael Pavlovic

- Councillor Carol Runciman

Parish Councils

- Councillor Mark Waudby
- Councillor Diane Geogheghan-Breen
- Councillor Christopher Chambers

Independent Persons

- Mr Joe Leigh
- Ms Rose Mazza

Complaints

The Council received the following Code of Conduct complaints in the Municipal year May 2024 to May 2025:

Total number of complaints made: 9

Of those, number closed: 8

Number of current year complaints ongoing: 1

The following pie charts illustrate the nature of the complaints, who they came from, whether they were Parish or CYC and how they were dealt with (if closed) in the municipal year 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 to allow for comparison.

Figure 1

Nature of complaints 24/25

8/9 disrespect/disrepute – 89%

1/9 not declaring an interest – 11%

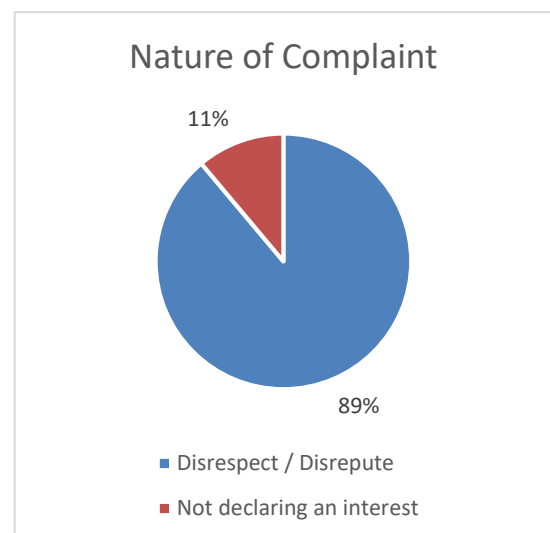


Figure 2
Nature of complaints 23/24

19/21 disrespect/disrepute – 90%
2/21 not declaring an interest – 10%

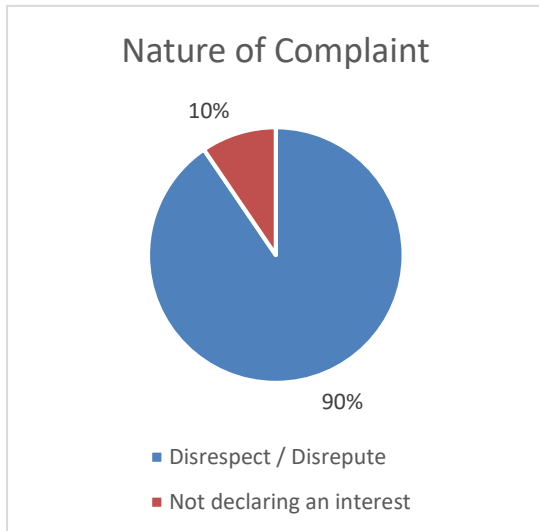


Figure 3
Nature of complaints 22/23

11/14 disrespect/disrepute – 79%
3/14 not declaring an interest – 21%

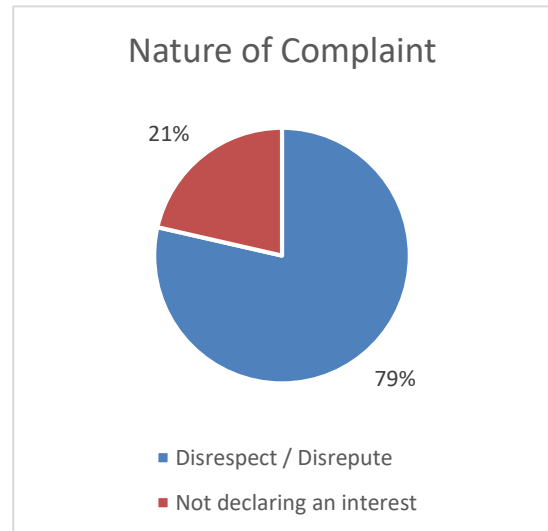


Figure 4
Origin of complaint 2024/25

CYC Councillor 2/9 – 22%
Parish Councillor 1/9 – 11%
Member of the Public 5/9 – 56%
Officer/Other 1/9 – 11%

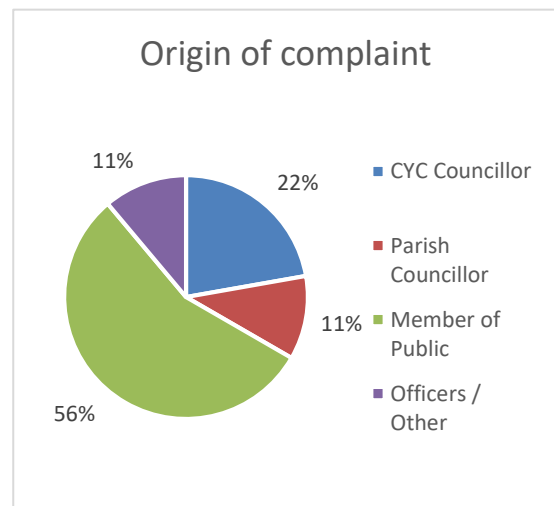


Figure 5
Origin of complaint 2023/24

CYC Councillor 1/21 – 5%
Parish Councillor 7/21 – 33%
Member of the Public 11/21 – 52%
Officer/Other 2/21 – 10%

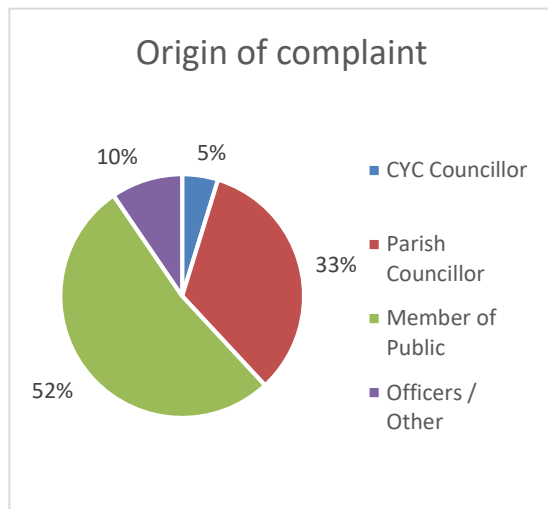


Figure 6
Origin of complaint 2022/23

CYC Councillor 3/14 – 21%
Parish Councillor 5/14 – 36%
Member of the Public 4/14 – 29%
Officer/Other 2/14 – 14%

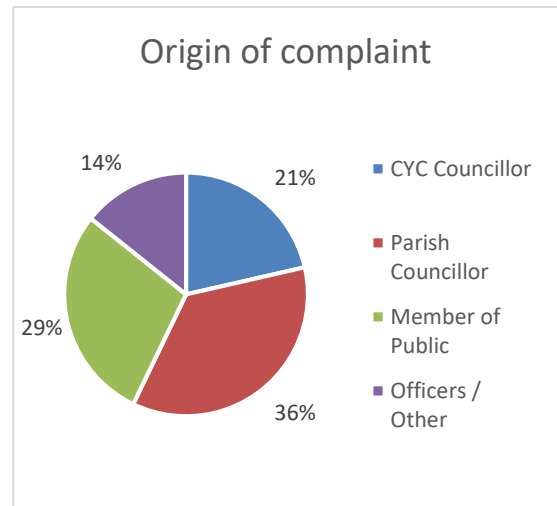


Figure 7
Subject Member of complaint 2024/25

CYC Councillor 5/9 – 56%
Parish Councillor 3/9 – 33%
Unknown 1/9 – 11%

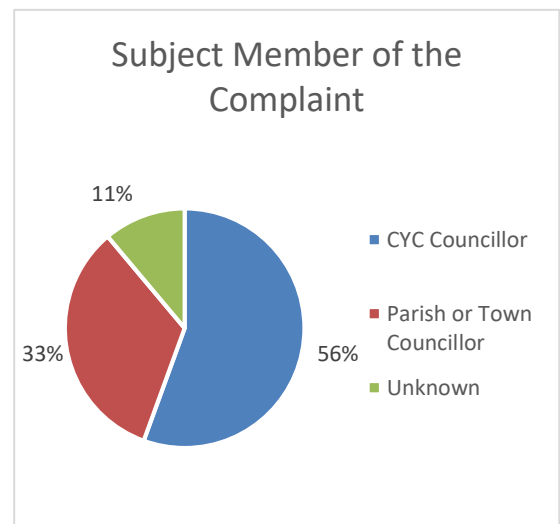


Figure 8
Subject Member of complaint
2023/24

CYC Councillor 8/21 – 38%
Parish Councillor 13/21 – 62%

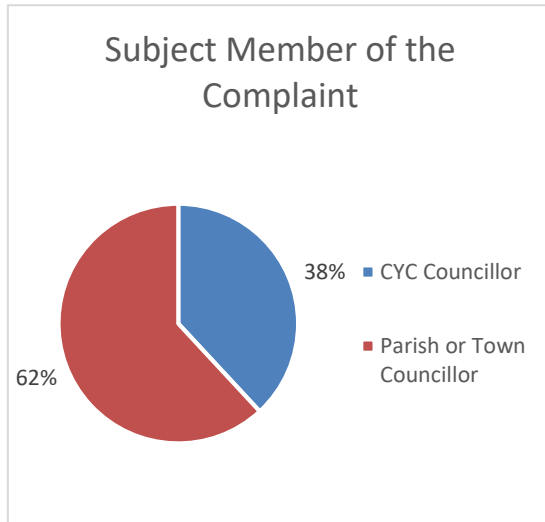


Figure 9
Subject Member of
complaint 2022/23

CYC Councillor 8/14 – 57%
Parish Councillor 6/14 – 43%

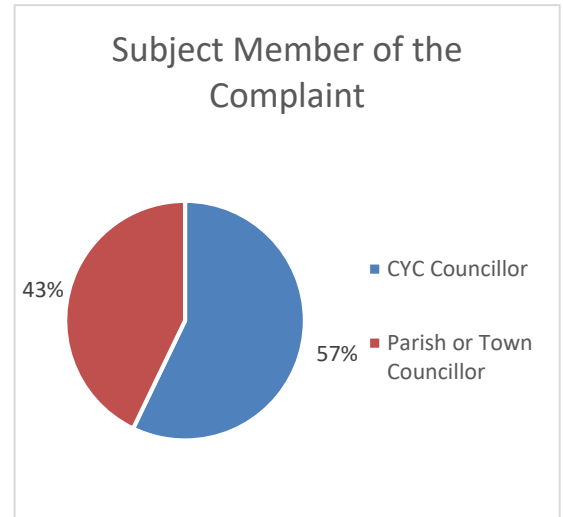


Figure 10 - Outcome of complaints received 2024/25

Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 0/9 – 0%
NFA at filter stage 4/9 – 45%
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 0/9 – 0%
Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 1/9
Informal resolution 3/9 – 33%
Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 0/9 – 0%
Closed following investigation - breach found 1/9 - 11%

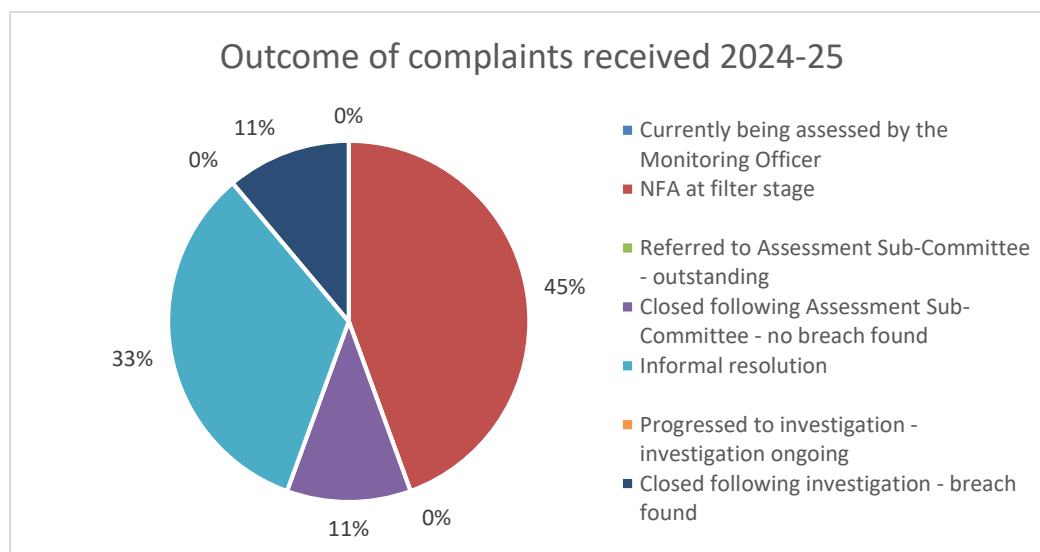


Figure 11 - Outcome of complaints received 2023/24

Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 5/21 – 24%

NFA at filter stage 6/21 – 28%

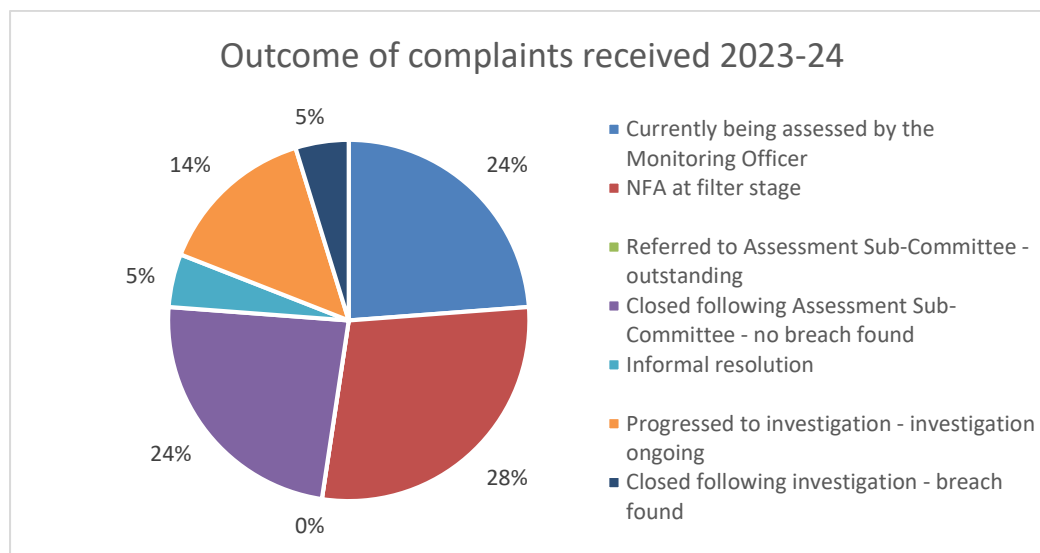
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 0/21 – 0%

Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 5/21 – 24%

Informal resolution 1/21 – 5%

Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 3/21 – 14%

Closed following investigation - breach found 1/21 – 5%

**Figure 12 - Outcome of complaints received 2022/23**

Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 2/14 – 14%

NFA at filter stage 4/14 – 29%

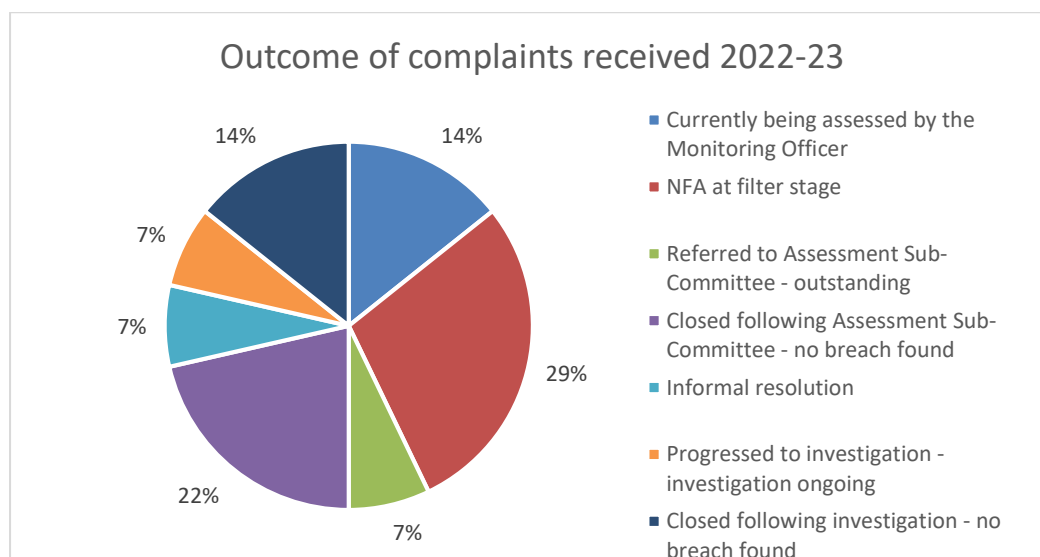
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 1/14 – 7%

Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 3/14 – 22%

Informal resolution 1/14 – 7%

Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 1/14 – 7%

Closed following investigation - no breach found 2/14 – 14%



All of the complaints received have been reported to meetings of the Joint Standards Committee throughout the year.

Summary and Trends

- The overall number of complaints for 24/25 is down from previous years
- The most common alleged breach is disrespect/disrepute and this has remained consistent over the past 3 years
- The distribution of both complaint origin and subject member has remained *broadly similar* over the 3 years shown
- The outcomes of cases have also remained *broadly similar* with a slight upward trend in cases concluded by informal resolution in 24/25.

Other work

Consultation on Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England

On 18th December 2024, the Government published a consultation paper on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.

The Localism Act 2011 provides the legislative framework for the current standards regime in English authorities. It provides local authorities (“LAs”) with a broad discretion as to the 'arrangements' they implement and the form of the Member Code of Conduct they adopt. It also removed the requirement for LAs to have a Standards Committee.

Members and co-opted members of the Council Joint Standards Committee, as well as the wider local government community, have long voiced frustration with the weakness of sanctions available for dealing with poor conduct. This was recognised in the consultation paper which sought views on how best to equip LAs to deal effectively with conduct issues in the context of the wider devolution agenda.

Members of the Joint Standards Committee considered the consultation paper in full and agreed a response to be submitted on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Leader and the Chief Operating Officer.

The consultation closed on 26th February 2025.

The consultation response submitted on behalf of CYC was in general terms supportive of:

- a) a national mandatory code of conduct;

- b) requirements for principal authorities to maintain standards committees and for members to co-operate with standards investigations;
- c) powers to local standards committees to impose suspensions up to 6 months and to withhold allowances for serious code of conduct breaches;
- d) the introduction of disqualification as a sanction for cumulative breaches;
- e) a right for members to appeal decisions to suspend (but no right for complainants to appeal failure to uphold complaints or impose sanctions)
- f) local or regional appeals panels.

The CYC response was not generally supportive of banning members from Council premises during investigation, although the Head of Paid Service noted caution in certain types of cases where measures to protect the health and safety of staff would be legally required.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Licensing and Regulatory Committee
Date	10 April 2025
Present	Councillors Melly (Chair), Cuthbertson (Vice-Chair), Baxter, Hook, Mason, D Myers, Nicholls, Ravilious, Smalley and Warters
In Attendance	Sandra Branigan (Senior Lawyer) Matt Boxall (Head of Public Protection) Lesley Cooke (Licensing Manager)
Apologies	Councillors Clarke, Kilbane, Knight, Widdowson and Wilson

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**95. Primate Licensing Report (5.32pm)**

[See also under Part A]

Members considered a report that advised them of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024. The report sought approval of the proposed fees. The Licensing Manager outlined the report and noted the change to the recommendation to recommend to Council. She explained that the council was not aware of any primate keepers and added there was no statutory guidance from DEFRA at this time regarding the Regulations.

The Licensing Manager explained that the fees were set out at paragraph 11 of the published report and she explained how the fees had been set. She noted the options available to Members and the recommendation to Council that approval be given to agree to implement the fees shown in paragraph 11 of the published report.

The Committee had the following options available to them in making their decision:

Option 1 – that members note the content of this report and recommend to Council that approval be given to this option to agree to implement the fees shown in paragraph 11 of the

published report.

Option 2 – that members note the content of this report and ask officers to reassess the fees.

Cllr Cuthbertson moved and Cllr Mason seconded Option 1. On being put to the vote it was unanimously;

Resolved: That;

- i. The content of the report be noted.
- ii. It be recommended to Council that approval be given to option 1 to agree to implement the fees shown in paragraph 11 of the published report.

Reason: To meet the legislative requirements of the Licensing Act 2005.

Cllr Melly, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 5.41 pm].



Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	17 July 2025
Report of:	Director of Governance
Portfolio of:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee, Chair Cllr Rachel Melly

Decision Report: Primate Licensing

Subject of Report

1. The report seeks approval by Council of a fee for primate licensing applications. It follows a resolution by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 10 April 2025, that Council should approve the fees agreed by the Committee. NB eight Members were present at the Committee they all voted for the resolution.
2. The reason for the resolution was to set a fee for a new licensing function that has been introduced as part of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 (2024 Regulations).

Benefits and Challenges

3. There is provision within the 2024 Regulations for licensing authorities to charge an application fee and a fee in respect of any inspections.
4. The licensing of primates is a new function, the proposed fees estimate the recovery costs of undertaking the licensing function, including an inspection, the fees are based on fees set by the Council for other animal welfare licensing. If they proposed fee does not cover the costs of undertaking the licensing function they will be reassessed at the end of the financial year.

Policy Basis for Decision

5. By complying with the requirements of the 2024 Regulations the Council are supporting new and existing licence holders, as well as

residents and businesses. The functions support the Council's Plan 'One City, for all'.

Financial Strategy Implications

6. There are no financial strategy implications.

Recommendation and Reasons

7. That in accordance with Option 1 below, Council approves the new fee as recommended by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

Reason – To Meet the legislative requirements of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024.

Background

8. In 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), through regulations made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, introduced the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 (Regulations). The licensing authority for the purposes of these Regulations is the local authority in whose area the premises at which a primate is kept or is to be kept are situated.
9. The Regulations introduce a licensing scheme, setting strict rules to ensure that only private keepers, who can provide zoo-level welfare standards, will be able to keep primates.
10. The Regulations come into force on 6 April 2025, at which time existing private primate keepers can apply for a primate licence. From the 6 April 2026, all private primate keepers and people proposing to keep primates will be required to hold a licence.
11. The Regulations set out the application process and the conditions that must be placed on the licence if granted – further conditions may be stipulated in and statutory guidance.
12. An inspection must be carried out prior to an application being determined, and a further inspection is required on at least one occasion during the duration of the licence, if a licence is issued for more than twelve months. These inspections must be conducted by a "suitable person" which is defined by the Regulations as being:

- a) a veterinarian; or
 - b) any other person who, in the view of the local authority, is suitably qualified and competent to carry out the inspection
13. A licence must be granted for a period of three years or where the applicant has requested a licence for a period of less than three years, for such shorter period that the applicant has requested.
 14. There are provisions in the Regulations for the holder of a primate licence to request to vary or surrendered the licence.
 15. There are also provisions in the Regulations for licensing authorities to revoke or vary the primate licence.
 16. An application fee may be charged, and a fee can be charged in respect of any inspections. The proposed fees in the table below estimate the cost recovery of undertaking this licensing function. These fees will be reviewed annually when all discretionary licensing fees are reviewed.

1 year	2 year	3 year
£386.00	£485.00	£499.00

17. Official statutory guidance is expected, similar to that provided under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. At the time of writing this report the guidance has not been published by Defra.

Consultation Analysis

18. A consultation has not taken place with regards to this matter. Defra undertook a formal [consultation](#) on the proposals for the introduction of a specialist licence for private primate keepers from 20 June – 18 July 2023.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

19. Option 1 – That Council approves the new fee as recommended by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

20. Option 2 – Council does not approve the new fee as recommended by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, giving reasons for the decision.

Analysis

21. The fees proposed are based on fees set by the Council for other animal welfare licensing functions under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 and Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

Organisational Impact and Implications

22. The implications arising from this report are:
- **Financial:** - The Chief Finance Officer contacted. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The proposed fees estimate the cost recovery of undertaking the licensing function and are based on fees set by the Council for other animal welfare licensing functions.
 - **Human Resources (HR):** - The Head of HR contacted. There are no HR implications associated with this report.
 - **Legal:** The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 have been made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and place powers and responsibilities on the Council in respect of licensing of those that keep primates in their area.
 - **Procurement:** - Head of Procurement contacted. There are no procurement implications associated with this report.
 - **Health and Wellbeing:** - Director of Public Health contact. There are no health and wellbeing implications associated with this report.
 - **Environment and Climate action:** - Director of Transport, Environment and Planning, and Head of Carbon Reduction contacted. There are no environment and climate actions implication associated with this report.
 - **Affordability:** - Director of Customer and Communities Contacted. There are no affordability implications associated with this report.
 - **Equalities and Human Rights:** - Assistant Director of Customer, Communities and Inclusion contacted. There are no equalities and human rights implications associated with this report.

- **Data Protection and Privacy:** information.governance@york.gov.uk contacted. The data protection impact assessment (DPIAs) screening questions were completed for the recommendations and options in this report and as there is no personal, special categories or criminal offence data being processed to set these out, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA at this time. However, this will be reviewed following the approved recommendations and options from this report and a DPIA completed if required.
- **Communications:** - Head of Communications contacted. There are no communications implications associated with this report, the fees will be available on the Council website.
- **Economy:** - Head of City Development contacted. There are no economy implications associated with this report.

Risks and Mitigations

23. The 2024 Regulations allow licensing authorities to set a fee to undertake this licensing function, fees can be challenged by an applicant or licence holder, meaning the impact of a successful legal challenge is 'major' and the likelihood is 'possible'. This gives a risk score of '19' and is an orange risk on the Council's Risk Management Matrix. The proposed fees estimate the cost recovery of undertaking this licensing function and have been set in line with fees set by the Council for other animal welfare licensing functions, meaning the impact reduces to 'minor' and the likelihood reduces to 'remote', which gives a risk score of '2', and is a blue risk.

Wards Impacted

24. All wards will be impacted by the Regulations.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

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Date:	08/07/2025

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Report approved:	Yes
Date:	03/07/2025

Background papers

[The Animal Welfare \(Primate Licences\) \(England\) Regulations 2024 Report](#) taken to Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 10 April 2025.

Appointments and Changes to Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies 2025-26

To note and confirm:

Committees

SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

Group A: Such Christian denominations and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will approximately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.

Tony Lawton (Catholic) appointed*.

Outside Bodies

Kyle and Upper Ouse Drainage Board

Parish Cllr Pam Mullen appointed to fill Skelton Parish Council vacancy in place of Parish Cllr Tim Stead.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Rose appointed to fill vacancy in place of Cllr Whitcroft.

Work with York Limited

Cllrs Douglas*, Cuthbertson, and Moroney appointed.

(* Subject to confirmation by Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee on 14 July 2025.)

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