

Executive

Thursday, 17 January 2019

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Executive meeting held on Thursday, 17 January 2019. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting. Please note that recommendations to Council cannot be called in.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Fiona Young.

5. York Central Partnership Legal Agreement

Resolved: (i) That the Heads of Terms for the York Central Partnership (YCP) legal agreement be approved and that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy & Place and the Director of Corporate & Customer Services to take such steps as are necessary to enter into the legal agreement.

(ii) That £1.2m of the £155m York Central capital budget, to be funded initially from City of York Council's capital budget, be committed to undertake pre-construction site preparations, including telecommunications mast and rail line relocation and site segregation from the operational railway and bridge agreements with Network Rail, as set out in paragraph 40 of the report.

(iii) That a further £5m of the £155m York Central capital budget, to be funded from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, be committed, subject to planning and external awards, to commence the enabling works, including site clearance, utility diversions and Millennium Green preparation, as set out in paragraphs 42-43.

(iv) That it be acknowledged that a further report will be brought back to Executive to agree the submission of the reserved matters planning application and to commit the capital budget for delivery of the Phase 1 infrastructure, including:

- bridge access onto the site
- a new spine road
- drainage
- construction of an additional pedestrian and cycle deck onto Severus Bridge
- construction of a new rail connection between the NRM and the East Coast Main Line

subject to the award of outline planning permission for the scheme and the final agreement of the external grant funding from both the West Yorkshire Transport Fund and the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

Reason: To ensure the delivery of York Central and to provide funding for enabling infrastructure, including a new access route to York Central, within the timescale of available grant funding.

(v) That a further report be received, setting out proposals for economic development on York Central.

(vi) That a business case be prepared for the council to acquire affordable housing on the York Central site as part of the first phase of residential development.

(vii) That proposals be developed for the next phase of community engagement and a report be brought to Executive to seek financial support for community groups to develop capacity to engage effectively with YCP, with a view to active engagement to deliver social and economic benefits.

Reason: To ensure that the social, environmental and economic benefits of York Central are delivered and are strongly influenced by community engagement.

6. A Clean Air Zone for York

Resolved: (i) That the content of the report be noted.

(ii) That the introduction of a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for vehicles operating local bus services from January 2020, by making a request to the Traffic Commissioner pursuant to section 7(1) of the Transport Act 1985 that he exercise his powers under that section to impose traffic regulation conditions designed to reduce air pollution, be supported.

(iii) That a twelve month 'sunset' period be permitted from January 2020, when vehicles not meeting the CAZ requirement may continue to be operated if evidence can be submitted by an operator that an order for retro-fitting of an existing vehicle, or procurement of a replacement Euro VI (or better) vehicle has been placed but not yet delivered.

(iv) That the potential for grant funding to offset the cost be noted and that any amendment to the council contribution will be notified in future reports to Executive.

(v) That the procurement of contracted bus services with Euro VI minimum emission standard in line with the service levels offered on the existing tendered bus network be approved, with the results of the procurement exercise to be considered at a future Executive meeting following receipt of tenders.

(Note: a summary of the routes to be re-tendered is included at Annex 4 to the report).

(vi) That the progress made towards tackling anti-idling measures and proposals for addressing bus idling from January 2019 (including that detailed in Annex 5 to the report) be recognised.

Reason: To improve air quality in York through the acceleration of improvements to bus emissions levels.

7. Building More Homes for York - Removal of the HRA Borrowing Cap

Resolved: (i) That the proposed means of delivery of the Housing Delivery Programme (HDP) through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be further endorsed.

(ii) That the appropriation of sites within the HDP from the General Fund into the HRA be approved in principle, noting the increased debt that will occur, with sites to be appropriated following Executive approval of individual site business cases.

(iii) That the additional opportunities brought by removal of the HRA borrowing cap in respect of potential land acquisitions for new housing developments and the purchase of new affordable housing through S106 agreements be noted, with a business case to be brought to Executive for consideration when such opportunities are available.

Reason: To accelerate the construction of much needed homes in the city, allowing the council to build more than 600 homes in the next five years, of which over 250 will be council homes and low cost home ownership tenures.

8. Discretionary Rate Relief Awards 2019-2021

Resolved: That the new applications for Discretionary Rate Relief set out in Annex B to the report be approved.

Reason: In accordance with the officer recommendations and to provide a transparent process for awarding DRR.

9. Discussion with North Yorkshire County Council to Explore Merging Coroner Areas

Resolved: That approval be given to hold discussions with NYCC to explore the merging of coroner areas, in accordance with Option 2.

Reason: To improve resilience and efficiency, with minimal financial impact and in line with the Chief Coroner's guidance.

10. Provision for Occupational Health

Resolved: That approval be given to procure an integrated health contract, including the management or provision of an osteopath service, with effect from June 2019, in accordance with Option 1.

Reason: To ensure that professional occupational health advice is available that can work with the council to develop solutions to keep employees with health issues at work.

Recommendations to Council

11. A Clean Air Zone for York

Recommended: That a budget of £1.4m be allocated to establish a competitive grant fund for bus operators, financed from prudential borrowing, noting the revenue implications of £115,000 per annum.

Reason: To enable the improvement of air quality in York through the acceleration of improvements to bus emissions levels.