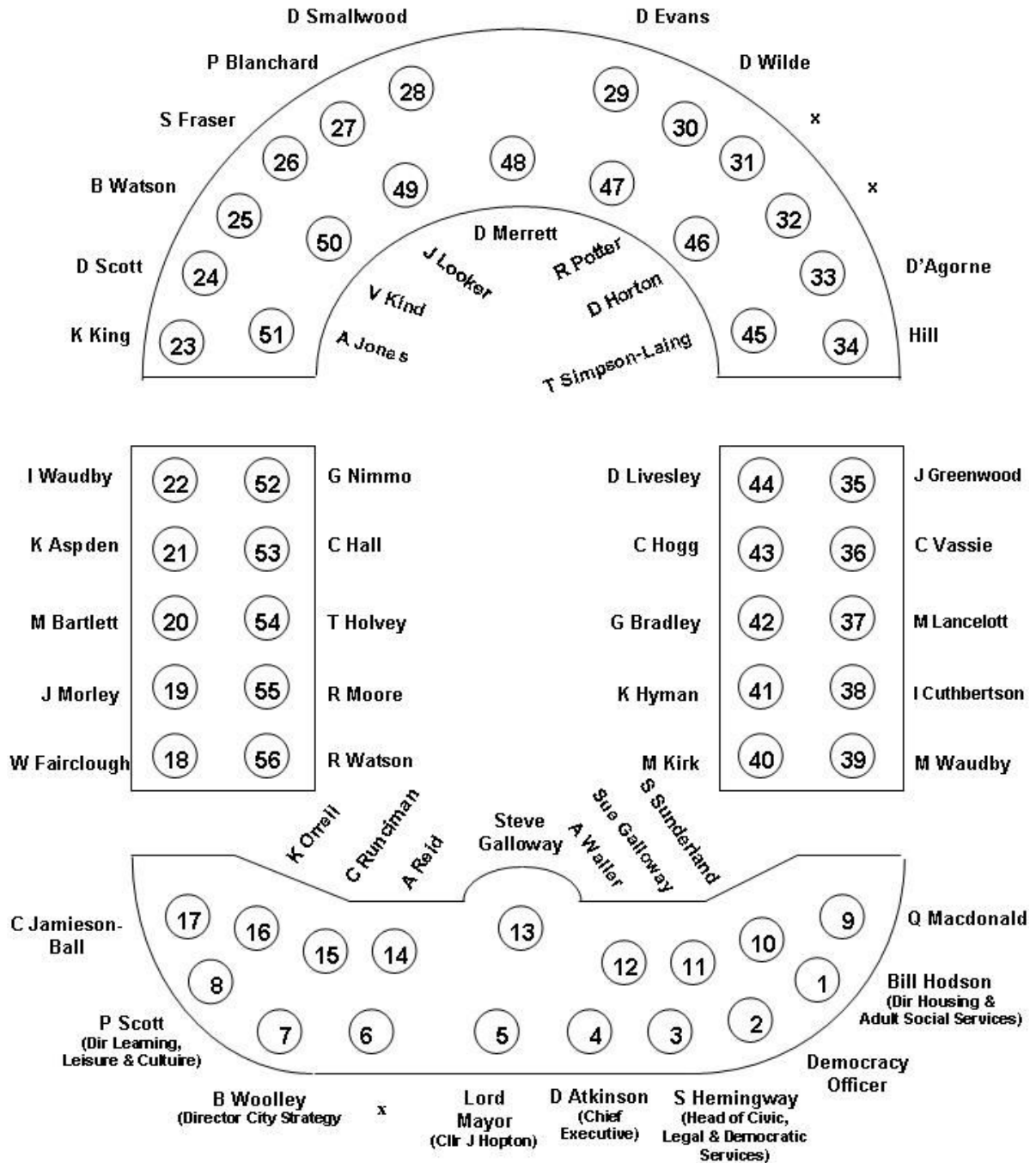


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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

Thursday, 29 June 2006 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER PLAN



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 22)

To approve and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 11 April 2006 and the Special meeting held on 27 April 2006.

3. Civic Announcements

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

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council or ask a question of any Member of Council, for up to 3 minutes, on any matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact Fiona Young on York (01904) 551024. The deadline for registering is **10.00 am on Wednesday, 28th June 2006.**

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7.

6. Notices of Motion

To consider the following motions under Standing Order 11:

- (i) From Cllr Simpson-Laing:
"This Council has some concern over the partnership agreement between CYC & First York Ltd with regard to the 'ftr'. Council asks CYC Officers:
- To ensure that ticketing difficulties, including the issue of 'Family Tickets' and the inability of the ticket machines to give change are sorted out as a matter of urgency so that York residents are not financially penalised when using the service.
 - That CYC ask First to retain conductors on board or allow contact between passengers and drivers when there are payment difficulties or access/destination issues particularly for those with disabilities."
- (ii) From Cllr Kind:
"This Council welcomes the election of the first elected Children's and Young People's Champion and congratulates Cllr David Scott as the successful candidate."
- (iii) From Cllr Scott :
"This Council supports The Press "Change it" campaign and directs the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Home Secretary requesting him to :-
1. Urgently review the law in relation to the abduction of children by strangers.
 2. Amend the legislation or introduce new legislation which will permit judges (at their discretion), where an individual has been convicted of actual or attempted child abduction where a sexual intent has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court, to make banning orders and to place offenders on the Sex Offenders' Register.
- (iv) From Cllr Sue Galloway :
"City of York Council calls upon the Secretary of State for Health to halt the cuts at Selby and York Primary Care Trust, in order to protect the health of local residents."

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 23 - 24)

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

Committee	Date	Recommendations
Executive –	27 June 2006	a) Item 6 - Statement of Accounts 2005/06 <i>(Note: copies of the pre-audit Accounts have been circulated to all Members)</i> b) Item 7 - 2006/07 Council Plan <i>(Note: the draft Council Plan is available to view on the Council's website, on the following link: http://www.york.gov.uk/council/plans/index.html)</i>

Minutes to follow

8. Report of Executive Member (Pages 25 - 30)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Housing Services and to question the Executive Member thereon. Notice has been received of the following questions:

- (i) From Cllr Livesley
“Would the Executive Member confirm the details of the progress made on Housing Modernisation over the last three years?”
- (ii) From Cllr Greenwood
“How was the substantial reduction in rent arrears achieved?”
- (ii) From Cllr Cuthbertson
“What has been the effect of the introduction of rent payments by swipe card?”

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

- (i) From Cllr Brian Watson to the Executive Leader
“Would the Leader of the Council explain why so many residents did not receive notice of the public meeting about the relocation of the Peasholme Centre and will he urgently organise another meeting to ensure proper consultation with residents?”
- (ii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for City Strategy
“Can the Executive Member inform Council on which other routes in the city the ‘ftr’ is being considered for, as reported in the Corporate Strategy 2006-2011?”
- (iii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for City Strategy
“Could the Executive Member describe what action she plans to take, in the next 6 months, in relation to growing congestion on York's arterial routes during rush hour, in particular to help with the running of buses?”
- (iv) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for City Strategy
“Would the Executive Member agree to bring forward at the earliest possible date, a Supplementary Planning Guidance to stop the conversion of 2 bed terraced houses into flats, due to the effect that this is having on the supply of starter homes, and that at recent Planning Appeals CYC Policy H8 has been seen to contradict Policy H9 of the North Yorkshire County Structure Plan, with CYC decisions for refusal being overturned?”
- (v) From Cllr Moore to the Executive Member for City Strategy
“Can the Executive Member confirm that we have achieved all our Planning Targets for the year and should therefore no longer be designated a Standards Authority after 30th June?”
- (vi) From Cllr Potter to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services
“Will the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

explain why there is a two tier system of street cleaning operating in the City, where terraced areas are only swept once or twice a year when gullies are cleaned whilst the remainder of the City streets are swept on a 40 day cycle? Please can he also give his assurance that the imminent review of street cleaning will address this inequality and ensure that terraced areas receive the same level of service enjoyed by the rest of the City?”

(vii) From Cllr Holvey to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

“Would the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods not agree that the timely removal of graffiti is of key concern to residents and say what the Council is doing to achieve this?”

(viii) From Cllr Vassie to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

“Would the Executive Member give details of the recycling levels that the Council and partners have achieved in the City?”

(ix) From Cllr R Watson to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

“Could the Executive Member give an update on progress with the Eco Depot?”

(x) From Cllr Aspden to the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Youth

“How has the Executive Member responded to the recommendations made in the Inclusive Decision Making Scrutiny Report?”

10. Recommendations from the Audit and Governance Committee (Pages 31 - 32)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Audit and Governance Committee:

Committee	Date	Recommendations
Audit & Governance Committee	6 June 2006	Minute 13 – Committee Role, Remit and Key Relationships – Statement of Purpose.

11. Recommendations from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee (Pages 33 - 34)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

Committee	Date	Recommendations
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	2 June 2006	Minute 4 – Electoral Arrangements – Parish of Clifton Without

12. Minor Drafting Amendments to the New Constitution (Pages 35 - 40)

To consider a report from the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services which sets out the amendments to the Constitution implemented to action the decisions of the Special Council Meeting on 27 April 2006, together with further minor drafting amendments authorised under Article 16 of the new Constitution.

13. Scrutiny (Pages 41 - 42)

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

14. Activities of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view on the Council's computer system, on the M:Drive in "All Members/COUNCIL Outside Body Minutes/2006/29 June 2006". Copies may also be obtained by contacting the Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (Tel. 01904 551088).

- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – meeting on 24 January 2006 and Executive Board meeting on 20 April 2006.
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 8 February 2006 and special meeting on 27 March 2006.

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

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

To consider the appointments and changes to the membership of Committees and Outside Bodies set out in the list attached to this Summons as agenda item 15.

16. Urgent Business

To consider any business which the Lord Mayor considers is urgent in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Contact Details DS

Democratic Services Manager

Dawn Steel

Tel: 01904 551030

Email: dawn.steel@york.gov.uk

17. Additional Papers for Council (Pages 45 - 60)

The attached additional documents were circulated on 28 July 2006.

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on 11 April 2006, starting at 6.30 pm.

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Janet Greenwood) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

David Horton
Tracey Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

David Livesley

CLIFTON WARD

Alan Jones
Kenneth King
David Scott

DERWENT WARD**DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD**

Thomas Holvey
Ann Reid
Susan Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

Andrew D'Agorne
Mark Hill

FULFORD WARD

Keith Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Janet Looker
Brian Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Charles Hall
Christopher Hogg

HESLINGTON WARD

Ceredig Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Paul Blanchard
Vivienne Kind
Ruth Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Martin Lancelott

HOLGATE WARD

Martin Bartlett
Charles Fairclough
Gilbert Nimmo

HULL ROAD WARD

Derek Smallwood

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Keith Hyman
Keith Orrell
Carol Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

David Evans
Sandy Fraser
David Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Jonathan Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Janet Hopton
Quentin Macdonald

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Richard Moore
Irene Waudby
Mark Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Ian Cuthbertson
Madeleine Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

Stephen Galloway
Susan Galloway
Andrew Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Christian Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bradley, R Watson and Wilde.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

62. The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they had in any of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

MINUTES

63. The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 January 2006 and the budget meeting of Council held on 1 March 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

64. The Lord Mayor reported that she had agreed to the following registrations to speak in connection with the sale of the Barbican Centre in view of the local concern on this issue. Each speaker had been given 4 minutes to enable the session to be managed within the 30 minute timescale permitted in Standing Orders:

Miriam Jackson (York Sport & Leisure Campaign)
Danny Golding (former Barbican user)
John Issit
Ernie Dickinson
Margot Blanchard (local resident)
John Wartho
Maria Dodd (parent)

RESOLVED: That the comments made be noted and taken into account by Members when considering the first Notice Motion below in relation to the sale of the Barbican Centre.

PETITIONS

66. In accordance with Standing Order (7), the following petitions were presented by Members:
- (i) A petition presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing on behalf of residents of Leeman Road, seeking improvements to the “Back Park” play area in Carnot Street.

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

67. In accordance with Standing Order 11, three notices of motion had been received:-
- (i) **Barbican**

It was moved by Councillor Looker and seconded by Councillor Evans that:

“In the light of the Council's inability to sell the Barbican site, we call for a review of the rushed decision to make the reduced price sale. Council resolves to set up an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of the options available to the Council and to make recommendations to the Executive to ensure that best value is achieved for the Council and the citizens of York.”

Councillor D’Agorne then moved, and Councillor Hill seconded an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“At the end of the Notice of Motion, add:
‘This scrutiny should in particular consider the option of excluding the sale of the Kent Street site which would result in the loss of the site of a promised community swimming pool and fitness suite in favour of a budget hotel. This aspect represents a particularly bad deal for the local

residents, sports groups and all those who used the former Barbican facilities and precludes any chance of sports facilities being provided on this site even if funds could be identified in the future.”

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

The original motion was put to the vote and was declared LOST and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be not approved.

(ii) **Council Tax**

It was moved by Councillor Macdonald and seconded by Councillor Moore that:

“Council notes with concern the announcement by the Local Government Minister Phil Woolas that he is considering ‘capping’ the City of York Council Tax rise at 5% for the 06/07 year. As the lowest spending unitary authority, per head of population, in the country, Council places on record its amazement that its budget should be labelled as ‘excessive’ by the Minister and that he should apparently feel that, by reducing Council Tax levels by an average of 7p per household per week, the CYC would be transformed into a ‘prudent’ authority.

Council is also deeply aggrieved that a local member of Parliament, Hugh Bayley, should similarly claim, without a shred of evidence, that the CYC is ‘extravagant’. Council resolves to invite Mr Bayley to attend its next meeting, on 27th April, and explain which items of expenditure in its budget he considers to be ‘extravagant’.

Council’s main concern is to sustain good quality public service standards while continuing to provide excellent value for money. In looking forward to the day when Council Tax is abolished in favour of a more equitable way of funding local government, Council regrets the crude and unfair discrimination against York residents demonstrated by the present government.”

Councillor Looker then moved, and Councillor Merrett seconded an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first paragraph:

At the end of the first sentence, delete the full stop and insert a comma. In the second sentence, delete ‘As’ and insert ‘*although it is*’, delete the comma after ‘*country*’ and insert a full stop, delete all from the word ‘*Council*’ to the end of the paragraph.

Delete the whole of the second paragraph.

In the third paragraph;

Delete all after the first sentence and insert ‘*Council agrees that it would be best to respond to the Minister on an agreed bipartisan basis with as*

much support from local residents and Council Members as possible in the time allowed, and asks Council Officers to proceed on that basis.”

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

The original motion was then put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iii) **The Government’s Energy Review**

It was moved by Councillor D’Agorne and seconded by Councillor Hill that:

“This Council resolves to respond to the Government’s Energy Review by writing to the Secretary of State -

1. Drawing attention to the commitment of City of York Council to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and its support for the Microgeneration Bill (July 2005) now represented through the Sustainable Energy Bill due to receive its third reading in May.
2. Stating that this Council believes that enhanced building regulations (that increase energy efficiency) combined with expansion of renewables and other measures to reduce fossil fuel use for heating and transport are the most timely, cost effective and publicly acceptable ways of reducing CO2 in order to address climate change.
3. Stating that this Council believes that new nuclear power stations are not an option that should be supported for the UK at this time, and that solutions for the decommissioning of existing stations and long term safe storage and management of the existing nuclear waste must be a priority.”

Councillor Vassie then moved, and Councillor Waller seconded an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In paragraph 2:

After ‘stating that’, insert ‘in the light of the national 2% increase in CO2 emissions since 1997’

Delete all after ‘this Council believes that’ and insert ‘a combination of:

- i) *energy efficiency measures, including*
 - *the construction of more energy efficient buildings,*
 - *ensuring better levels of insulation in existing buildings,*
 - *encouragement of more fuel-efficient vehicles,*
 - *encouragement of more energy efficient domestic appliances and lighting;*
- ii) *renewable energy initiatives, including*
 - *the expanded support of the renewable energy sector,*

- *the encouragement of biofuels,*
- *the encouragement of microgeneration by ensuring the domestic / small scale installation of renewable energy technologies is a permitted development right;*
- iii) *and taxation of all fossil fuels including those used in commercial aviation;*

are the most timely, cost effective ways of reducing CO2 in order to address Climate Change at the present time.'

In paragraph 3:

After 'Stating that' insert 'while'.

Delete 'power' and insert 'fission powered'.

Delete all after 'the UK at this time' and insert:

'this Council calls upon government to ensure that any continued interest in nuclear power is not at the expense of:

- *further support and expansion of the renewable energy sector,*
- *continued commitment to improving energy efficiency in homes, industry and transport,*
- *further legislation to improve energy efficiency, and*
- *funding to enable existing legislation, such as Part F & L on the new building regulations, to be properly enforced."*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"This Council resolves to respond to the government's Energy Review by writing to the Secretary of State:

1. Drawing attention to the commitment of City of York Council to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and its support for the Microgeneration Bill (July 2005) now represented through the Sustainable Energy Bill due to receive its third reading in May.
2. Stating that, in the light of the national 2% increase in CO2 emissions since 1997, this Council believes that a combination of:
 - i) energy efficiency measures, including
 - the construction of more energy efficient buildings,
 - ensuring better levels of insulation in existing buildings,
 - encouragement of more fuel-efficient vehicles,
 - encouragement of more energy efficient domestic appliances and lighting;
 - ii) renewable energy initiatives, including
 - the expanded support of the renewable energy sector,
 - the encouragement of biofuels,
 - the encouragement of microgeneration by ensuring the domestic / small scale installation of renewable energy technologies is a permitted development right;
 - iii) and taxation of all fossil fuels including those used in commercial aviation;

are the most timely, cost effective ways of reducing CO2 in order to address Climate Change at the present time.

3. Stating that while this Council believes that new nuclear fission powered stations are not an option that should be supported for the UK at this time, this Council calls upon government to ensure that any continued interest in nuclear power is not at the expense of:
- further support and expansion of the renewable energy sector,
 - continued commitment to improving energy efficiency in homes, industry and transport,
 - further legislation to improve energy efficiency, and
 - funding to enable existing legislation, such as Part F & L on the new building regulations, to be properly enforced.”

The amended motion was put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended above, be approved.

BUSINESS OF THE LEADER AND THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

68. An oral report was received from the Leader on the work of the Executive, and he then formally moved, and Councillor Waller seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the following meeting:

- (i) Executive on 21 March 2006, Minute 185 – recommendations in respect of the Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (*page 424*).

The motion was put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That minute 185 of the above meeting, and the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, be approved.

WRITTEN REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

69. A written report was received from Councillor Runciman, the Executive Member for Education & Children's Services. Councillor Runciman then responded to a series of questions put by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. Prior notice had been given of three questions to the Executive Member under this item. These were put and answered first, as follows:

- (i) **From Cllr Livesley:**

“Would the Executive Member comment on the recent Beacon Award received by Children's Services for its work in the area of Early Intervention (Children at Risk)?”

The Executive Member replied:

“This year was the third in which we have been shortlisted for Beacon Status. In the last two years this was firstly for Early Years and then for Multi-agency working. I am pleased to confirm that this year, our work in the area of Early Intervention (Children at Risk) has been recognised with the award of Beacon Status and am pleased to show Council the award we were given. We know that we will be given funding to put on events to disseminate good practice but do not have full details of this yet.

The work that attracted this award has been largely about working with children and young people and their families who are at risk of failure. By keeping them in the system we have not only improved their quality of life, but also avoided the need for expensive crisis work. This includes avoiding out of city placements, which firstly improves outcomes for children and young people and secondly makes economic sense. There was inspirational testimony to the judging panel about the impact of some of our programmes on individual young people. This included such projects as YILTS, Parenting courses and youth service schemes such as Network 2.

However, many of the initiatives that we have showcased have been funded from additional grants (such as the Children's Fund), or projects such as 'Sure Start' that have fixed term funding. There is a real danger that instead of them being mainstreamed, they will be lost due to lack of funding but for me, it is essential that we focus on prevention rather than crisis management.

I would like to record my thanks to all the officers who contributed to this achievement and in particular to Murray Rose and Pete Dwyer, who have worked together so effectively in this important area.”

(ii) **From Cllr Cuthbertson:**

“How were the plans for the future provision of secondary education on the West side of the city received at the recent consultation event?”

The Executive Member replied:

“After the public notices were published for Lowfield/Oaklands and for Manor, brochures were produced to keep parents informed. Lowfield and Oaklands co-operated to organise a consultation evening at which a specially made DVD about the school was shown. This was excellent and made the plans very

clear to all who attended. It was shown three times during the evening to a very receptive audience and a team of about 10 council officers as well as senior staff from the two schools was available (with myself) to respond to questions. There was some concern from parents, but this was mainly about the timescale for the build and the potential for disruption, not about the scheme overall. We have received no formal objections to the proposals or the notices. We have received a couple of responses commenting on details of the build and enquiring about the way in which the priority admission zone for Manor will work.

For Manor two consultations have taken place. The first was initiated by the council and is designed to test attitudes towards relocating the school on land currently owned by the council off Millthorpe Lane. A presentation was made to the ward committee for Rural West York, which was very positively received, and a further presentation is planned for the Acomb ward committee. The second consultation followed the publication of statutory notices for the increase in size of Manor School. Both issues were the subject of a consultation meeting held by the school, at which I was also present. It was attended by over 100 people most of whom were parents or prospective parents. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Two letters have been received raising detailed questions about access to the site and traffic management. Neither of the writers appears to believe that the problems will be insurmountable.

So far I am pleased to report that there is a remarkable degree of consensus about the proposals from all those people expressing a view. It is quite unusual for school reorganisation proposals on this scale to be received so positively and is, in part, a tribute to the constructive and positive attitude adopted by the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of the schools concerned. I would like to thank them all as well as the officers who have worked together to take this matter forward.”

(iii) **From Cllr Jamieson-Ball:**

“Could the Executive Member please provide an update for Council on the work of the Involvement Group?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The Involvement Group meets as part of the work of the YorOK Board, the York Children’s Trust. Its members include representatives from the Children’s Fund, the Play team, the Youth team, Connexions, the Education Development Service, Sure Start, the Children’s Society and myself.

At present, we are auditing the work done across the city to consult with Children and Young People. This is extensive and is exemplified by the list included in the recently published

Children's Services Plan, which I am pleased to show Members tonight.

As well as the two recent Schools Council Conferences for delegates from Primary and Secondary Schools, we have listened to the views of young people as expressed through specialist teams of workers. These include Traveller Children, Black and Ethnic Minority groups, children with Disabilities, children in their early years, Looked After children and Care Leavers. All of these groups are those with which we will be doing further work to ensure that their voices are heard and they are involved in the development of the next Children and Young People's Plan.

A consultation is at present underway on the plans for the One Stop Shop and a very successful consultation day was held, both for professionals and young people, last week.

We are also hope to do further work with young people involved in the CAMHS Service (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) and, particularly, with children and families in their local communities.

It is most important that this council listens to the voices of young people in the city and the Involvement Group contributes in a significant way to ensuring that this happens and planning for further work in the future."

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

70. In accordance with Standing Order 10 (c) (1) the following questions were put and responses given:

(i) From Cllr Merrett to the Executive Leader:

"What will be the number of staff and budget levels that each of the proposed new Executive Members will be responsible for?"

The Executive Member replied:

"This information is not available. The date on which proposals to change the constitution will be considered has been put back until 27th April."

He then responded to supplementary questions regarding the timing of the Special Meeting and suggested that the start time be reviewed accordingly.

(ii) From Cllr Looker to the Executive Member for Resources:

“What are the costs and risk to the authority in the leasing back of St Leonard’s?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The sale particulars for St. Leonard's will be published shortly and they will require the purchaser to enter into a lease back deal. Clearly the financial consequences of this will not be know until a purchaser has been selected. Lease back is a well understood arrangement which has few risks. The main risk is that it proves impossible to assemble the land package needed on which to build the new council office. We will not complete the sale of St. Leonard's until the land assembly has been achieved.”

(iii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for Planning and Transport:

“Can the Executive Member for Planning and Transport explain why the Highways Maintenance Procurement contracts, which should have been let in 2003, have still not been let and confirm when that will now be done?”

The Executive Member replied:

“As the Councillor knows, a report on this issue will be considered by the Executive on 2nd May. I cannot at this stage anticipate the contents of that report.”

(iv) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for Planning and Transport:

“Can the Executive Member for Planning and Transport explain why the Council is supporting First York’s buy in advance ticket system on the FTR bus on Route 4, and the roll out of this scheme as mentioned in LTP2, which could exclude less frequent bus users, those who do not live near a Pay Point terminal and those who cannot afford to buy multiple tickets in advance?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Cllr Simpson-Laing is wrong in implying that people will not be able to pay cash on the FTR for their journey. It has always been intended that there will be a facility to pay by cash on the FTR, although no change will be given.

Encouraging passengers to pay in advance by offering discounts to frequent users is a welcome move from First and I am pleased that the use of new technology should appeal to the next generation of bus users. Downloading your "ticket" to your mobile phone will have real appeal to younger people and expanding the pay point outlets will be beneficial to all bus users not just those using FTR.

Yet again the Labour Group are showing they don't check their facts –

this information has always been publicly available. It is also a great shame that any new initiative in the city meets with such negativity from the Labour Group."

ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

71. Members received a written report from the Monitoring Officer setting out a review of the work carried out by the Standards Committee at City of York Council during the municipal year 2005/06 (page 430).

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee be received and thanks be extended to Roger McMeekin for his hard work in chairing the Committee for a number of years. Mr McMeekin had resigned from the role and a replacement was being sought.

SCRUTINY

72. **Oral Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee:**

Councillor Kirk, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), gave an oral report on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, in January 2006. She reported on the outstanding reviews and indicated that she wished to see completion of these as soon as possible. She highlighted a number of ongoing potential scrutiny initiatives, such as a skills database of scrutiny Members and a newsletter, which would be subject to the resource and managerial implications for the Scrutiny Team being resolved as part of the Chief Executive's pending restructure.

ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

73. Minutes or reports of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were considered. In accordance with a previous request at Council, these had been made available to Members to view on the Council's computer system. The Lord Mayor invited comments and questions, firstly, from Council representatives on those bodies either in relation to the body generally or specifically on the minutes, and then, secondly, from Members generally.

- **Menwith Hill Forum**
Meetings held on 15/4/05, 7/10/05 and 27/1/06 (draft)
- **Yorkshire and Humber Association of Local Authorities**
Meeting held on 3/11/05
- **Yorkshire and Humber Assembly**
Meeting held on 24/11/05
- **North Yorkshire Police Authority**
Meetings held on 19/12/05 and 6/2/06

In relation to the above Police Authority Minutes, Councillor Irene Waudby was asked to indicate how she had voted in relation to proposals for reconfiguration. Councillor Potter responded to a similar question about voting and indicated her position on the proposed merger.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE BODIES, WORKING GROUPS

74. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups

RESOLVED: That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups, as set out in the revised list circulated with late papers (*page 439*) (attached as Annex A to these minutes), be approved.

Councillor Janet Greenwood
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30pm and concluded at 11.00 pm]

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER BODIES

Members' Council of the York NHS Foundation Trust

Liberal Democrat (2)	Cllr Sue Galloway Cllr Kirk
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Labour (1)	TBA
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Schools Organisational Committee

To appoint Ms Liz Burdette as representative of the Learning and Skills Council (formerly the Further Education Funding Council), in place of Mr David Harbourne.

Lifelong Learning Partnership Board

To appoint Cllr Runciman as the Council's representative on the above body.

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Special Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on 27 April 2006, starting at 5.30 pm, to consider a review of the Council's Constitution.

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Janet Greenwood) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

David Horton
Tracey Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

CLIFTON WARD

Alan Jones
Kenneth King
David Scott

DERWENT WARD

**DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE
WARD**

Thomas Holvey
Ann Reid
Susan Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

Andrew D'Agorne
Mark Hill

FULFORD WARD

Keith Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Janet Looker
Brian Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Charles Hall
Christopher Hogg
Richard Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Ceredig Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Vivienne Kind
Ruth Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Martin Lancelott

HOLGATE WARD

Martin Bartlett
Charles Fairclough
Gilbert Nimmo

HULL ROAD WARD

Derek Smallwood

**HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD**

Keith Hyman
Keith Orrell
Carol Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

David Evans
Sandy Fraser
David Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Jonathan Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Glen Bradley
Janet Hopton
Quentin Macdonald

**SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD**

Irene Waudby
Mark Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Ian Cuthbertson
Madeleine Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

Stephen Galloway
Andrew Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Christian Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blanchard, Susan Galloway, Livesley, Moore and Wilde.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

75. The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they had in any of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

76. The Lord Mayor reported that no registrations to speak had been received under the Council's Public Participation scheme.

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

77. Members considered a report which presented a revised Constitution document for City of York Council, following completion of a review of the existing constitutional arrangements.

Councillor Steve Galloway moved and Councillor Waller seconded the following motion in respect of the revised Constitution and arrangements for its implementation:

- “(a) The approval and adoption of the new Constitution for City of York Council, as circulated to all Members on 19 April 2006 with the agenda for this meeting, with a view to implementation of the new constitutional arrangements commencing on 26 May 2006, the start of the new Municipal Year for 2006/7, subject to authority being given to the main Planning Committee to determine any application or proposal which raises significant strategic or policy issues for the city with Officers being asked to redraft relevant parts of the Constitution to make the necessary changes
and;
- (b) The approval of arrangements for the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services to review implementation of the new Constitution and report back to Council in due course.”

Councillor Reid then moved, and Councillor Jamieson-Ball seconded an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader's motion add the words ‘and subject also to questions on the written report of the Leader and Executive member which are under consideration under Standing Order 4 (c) (9) being submitted on the day prior to the Council meeting . All other questions to Executive Members under Standing Order 10 must be submitted at least 6 working days before the Council Meeting Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment and correct the existing incorrect paragraph reference.’”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

- “(a) The approval and adoption of the new Constitution for City of York Council, as circulated to all Members on 19 April 2006 with the agenda for this meeting, with a view to implementation of the new constitutional arrangements commencing on 26 May 2006, the start of the new Municipal Year for 2006/7, subject to;

authority being given to the main Planning Committee to determine any application or proposal which raises significant strategic or policy issues for the city with Officers being asked to redraft relevant parts of the Constitution to make the necessary changes; subject also to:

questions on the written report of the Leader and Executive member which are under consideration under Standing Order 4 (c) (9) being submitted on the day prior to the Council meeting . All other questions to Executive Members under Standing Order

10 must be submitted at least 6 working days before the Council Meeting.’ Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment and correct the existing incorrect paragraph reference.

and;

- (b) The approval of arrangements for the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services to review implementation of the new Constitution and report back to Council in due course.”

Councillor Merrett then moved, and Councillor Potter seconded an amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject also to the Executive portfolios be altered to become the following*

Leader

City Strategy

Corporate Services

Neighbourhoods and Social Inclusion

Adult Social Services

Housing

Children’s and Young People’s Services (to include Education, Children’s Services and the Youth Service)

Leisure and Heritage’.

Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Merrett then moved, and Councillor Fraser seconded a second amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject also to the abolition of EMAPs and establishment of the following Scrutiny Committees in place of those proposed in the Constitution:*

City Strategy

Corporate Services

Neighbourhoods and Social Inclusion

Adult Social Services and Housing

Children’s and Young People’s Services (to include Education, Children’s Services and the Youth Service)

Health

Leisure and Heritage’.

Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Fraser then moved, and Councillor Looker seconded a third amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject also to provision being made for the Chairs of the Scrutiny Management Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee to be Members of the main opposition party.*’
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Potter then moved, and Councillor Evans seconded a fourth amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject to the time period for call in being extended from 2 to 5 days and provisions for urgent items to be subject also to call in and to ensure that all members apart from the Executive can sit on a Committee scrutinising a call in.*’
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Simpson-Laing then moved, and Councillor Brian Watson seconded a fifth amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion, add the words ‘*subject also to re-establishing both the West Area and City Centre Area Planning Sub-Committees in place of the proposed joint West and City Centre Area Planning Sub-Committee and responsibility for dealing with highways schemes remaining with the Area Planning Committees.*’
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Horton then moved, and Councillor Scott seconded a sixth amendment to the above motion from the Labour Group, as follows:

At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject also to the proposed Standing Order 11, Notices of motions, being **replaced** with that in the current Constitution and ensuring that provision for amendments to minutes or motions to be tabled at meetings is still retained.*’
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor King then moved, and Councillor Horton seconded a seventh amendment to the above motion from the Labour Group, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘*subject also to provision being made to ensure that if meetings are to be in the evening with a 10pm guillotine outstanding business should be*

deferred to the appropriate section of the next meeting rather than voted on without debate as currently proposed.'

Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Kind then formally WITHDREW the following amendment in view of the amendment agreed earlier in the meeting in relation to deadlines for questions on the written reports of the Leader and Executive Member:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘subject to all questions to Executive Members whether on the written report or on other areas being received on the day prior to the Council meeting rather than the proposed 3 or 5 clear working days before Council.’

Councillor Simpson-Laing then moved, and Councillor Evans seconded a ninth amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words, ‘subject also to no restriction being imposed on the number of named votes taken at a meeting.’

Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“(a) The approval and adoption of the new Constitution for City of York Council, as circulated to all Members on 19 April 2006 with the agenda for this meeting, with a view to implementation of the new constitutional arrangements commencing on 26 May 2006, the start of the new Municipal Year for 2006/7, subject to authority being given to the main Planning Committee to determine any application or proposal which raises significant strategic or policy issues for the city with Officers being asked to redraft relevant parts of the Constitution to make the necessary changes, subject to questions on the written report of the Leader and Executive member which are under consideration under Standing Order 4 (c) (9) being submitted on the day prior to the Council meeting. All other questions to Executive Members under Standing Order 10 must be submitted at least 6 working days before the Council Meeting, [and] subject also to no restriction being imposed on the number of named votes taken at a meeting.”

Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment and correct the existing incorrect paragraph reference.

and;

- (b) The approval of arrangements for the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services to review implementation of the new Constitution and report back to Council in due course.”

Councillor Horton then moved, and Councillor Jones seconded a tenth amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words *‘subject also to Standing Orders 21 being further amended to enable the ruling of the Chair of Council to be challenged if supported by a two-thirds majority of those present.’*
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Scott then moved, and Councillor Fraser seconded an eleventh amendment to the above motion from the Labour Group, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words, *‘subject also to Chairs of all Scrutiny Committees being members of the main opposition party.’*
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor Brian Watson then moved, and Councillor Fraser seconded a twelfth amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words *‘subject also to any changes to the Constitution not being made unless there is a two-thirds majority of those present.’*
Officers to be asked to redraft the document to reflect this amendment.”

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

Councillor D’Agorne then moved, and Councillor Hill seconded an amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words *‘subject also to the right of a ward councillor to request that any specific Traffic Regulation Order, group of orders or major transport scheme be determined by the appropriate planning sub committee or planning committee rather than City Strategy EMAP (on the same basis as for planning applications).’*”

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

Councillor Hill then moved, and Councillor D’Agorne seconded a further amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘subject also to changing, in paragraph 8(1)a) at page 134 of the Constitution, the reference to ‘Leader of the Opposition’ to read ‘Leader of the Opposition and of any other group within the Council.’”

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

Councillor D’Agorne then moved, and Councillor Hill seconded a further amendment to the above amended motion, as follows:

“At the end of paragraph (a) in the Leader’s motion add the words ‘subject also to making reference to engaging with the education /public service and voluntary sector as well as the business community in paragraph 2b of the Economic Development Partnership Board delegations at page 100 of the Constitution.’”

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

The motion, as amended by the Liberal Democrat Group amendment and the ninth Labour Group amendment, was then put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.

Councillor Janet Greenwood
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 5.30pm and concluded at 8.07 pm]

There have been 5 Executive meetings since the last Council meeting in April. A further meeting is scheduled to be held on June 27th the results of which I will report verbally.

In June the Executive adopted an updated draft of the Council's 2006-2009 **Corporate Strategy**, including a summary version which has been developed to communicate the Strategy to a wider audience. Our top priorities remain York Pride and Safe City. We plan to reinvigorate the York Pride campaign with both members and Council staff being asked to display a "can do" approach. We must do more to reduce departmental barriers to efficiency and the strategy, therefore, gives some prominence to internal organisational change. We have had a major success this year with residents perceptions, of whether York is "safe", having improved substantially. We need now to drive through further improvements in street level service standards. Speeding vehicles are a regular source of complaints in some areas, as is the apparently continuing conflict between, mainly, young people on the street and neighbours. Both need to be tackled vigorously through the new Neighbourhood Policing initiatives, through "target hardening" and through our diversionary activities programmes.. We will also seek to improve our communications with residents. We expect to launch a series of initiatives this year aimed at telling residents more clearly what services the Council provides and how they can influence their future development.

A new **Housing Strategy** covering the period to 2009 was agreed in April. This Housing Strategy achieves a good balance between priorities and targets relating to the councils landlord role, enabling role and private sector housing actions. It also ensures the we link these to the aims and objectives of the councils Business Plan, the vision for York set out in the Community Strategy 'Without Walls' and with regional and sub-regional strategies and initiatives. Over 300 individuals and responded to the consultation.. Many of them are also responsible for delivering the homes and services on which the achievement of the aims of the strategy depend. The Executive also made progress, with our priority of addressing homelessness, by identifying a preferred site for a new Arlight centre and in launching consultation on a new and improved home for the Peaseholme Centre.

Revised **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy** for the City of York and North Yorkshire "Let's talk less rubbish" This strategy is a revised Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for the North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council waste management partnership and seeks approval to adopt the Strategy.

The **Safer and Stronger Communities Fund** agreement 2005/06-2007/08 was approved by the executive which decides that the document should in future be subject to regular updates. The Executive continues to oppose the proposed establishment of a Yorkshire "super" police force believing that cooperative working between existing forces would achieve regional policing objectives, while retaining the local focus which is so important to convince residents that their City is being given adequate policing resources.

The Executive has also approved a new approach to **Highway Services Contracts**. Consideration was given to short, medium and long term proposals for maintaining highway services, as a first stage towards developing a new highway services contract. The Council are competing to be one of the authorities allocated a PFI contract which will allow us not only to modernise the way that we deal with highways maintenance and transport improvements, but will also allow us to deal with the backlog of repair works that have built up over the years. The Executive has also approved the annual highways maintenance programme & the Planning and Transport capital programme for 2006/07 – a programme that includes several important initiatives such as the provision of a new roundabout on the northern section of the ring road together with junction safety improvements which will benefit Dunnington and Wheldrake.

Consultation on plans to build a new **West York secondary school** were completed with widespread support for the proposals. An interim governing body has now been established which will appoint staff.

The **easy@york** programme has taken a step forward with agreement that the opening hours of the new customer service centre will be extended to cover the period 8:00am - 6:00pm next year. An agreement for the future funding of the York Museums Trust for the period up to 2013 has also been agreed

Two scrutiny reports covering *Inclusive Decision Making in City of York Council* and *Drug and Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour* have been received and dealt with by the Executive.

Steve Galloway

Executive member report to Full Council, 29 June 2006

Modernisation Programme and York Pride Standards

During the last three years we have made extra funding available to the Housing Capital Programme. This funding has not only assisted in fulfilling our long term aim of making homes “decent” through the Tenants Choice Programme but also we have been able to implement a supplementary programme aimed at enhancing the neighbourhood as a whole to achieve, what we term, “York Pride” standards.

The main improvements to the communal environment and neighbourhood have been and continue to be:

- Internal decoration (painting)
- Communal decoration (heavy duty lino)
- Renewal of electrical installations in communal areas including improved lighting.
- Some replacement door entry systems
- Various external large repairs/renewals such as fencing, boundary walls, drying areas, sheds/garages, paths.
- Replacement worn or energy inefficient exterior cladding

In order to support day-to-day maintenance of communal areas and general neighbourhoods we have also appointed 7 extra handypersons using the HRA budget with more efficiency.

I am delighted to report that homes in York are now being modernised faster and to a higher specification than ever before. Tenant satisfaction with the modernization programme is consistently over 90%. We are making a real difference to peoples living environment.

Recent progress

The Housing team has successfully implemented a range of new initiatives over the last year. The results are all the more remarkable given that Housing has undergone a major restructure. The whole of the Housing team are to be congratulated on achieving such excellent results, which include:

- Approval and implementation of the new Allocations Policy
- Increasing the number of properties receiving improvements as part of the Housing Capital Programme;
- Key appointments made within the new Housing Services Restructure.
- The creation of two estate management teams:
 - A specialist income management team
 - A tenancy management. team
- 10% sample of our housing stock has now had an asbestos survey

- The Supporting People Programme delivered on all the action areas identified in the inspection report and completed all service reviews in time despite significant staff changes.
- A number of short-term pilot schemes for supported housing have been introduced through Supporting People Programme including for people with alcohol problems, pregnant teenage mothers and a bond guarantee scheme with Citizen's Advice Bureau
- The number of homeless families housed in bed and breakfast where we have statutory responsibility continues to be zero. However, it should be noted that there are families where we do not have a statutory duty and other types of households that are placed in bed and breakfast accommodation until alternative accommodation is available.
- Howe Hill Temporary Accommodation Hostel has now re-opened following extensive refurbishment and included a new block including 6 additional 2-bed room flats. This has increased the capacity at the hostel from 13 units to 20. Further additional work is programmed for 2006/7 to bring total capacity to 27 units. This will enable the council to better accommodate homeless people who may otherwise be housed in bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Significant sub-regional partnership work has been carried out with North Yorkshire Supporting People and the County Homelessness Forum to produce a Homeless Directory outlining all accommodation and advice services available throughout the county.
- Following consultation in 2004-5, members approved in 2005/6 the first Reviews of the Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleepers Strategy.
- Appointment of a dedicated Homeless Review Officer to reduce the impact of potential legal challenges to homelessness decisions under the Housing Act 1996.
- Introduction of Severe Weather Procedure providing emergency accommodation for rough sleepers in periods of cold weather.
- Commissioned research for travellers needs within York and submitted a bid for capital funding for improvements to the travellers site from the ODPM (outcome of this is still awaited)
- Delivery and facilitation of interagency homeless training within York.
- Following changes to the Local Plan three affordable homes in rural settlements have planning approval for development without public subsidy. These are the first homes in rural areas to be approved under the new planning policy guidance.
- The Housing Corporation have supported bids from housing associations for Social Housing Grant to build 65 new affordable homes in York between 2006-2008
- The first two homes provided by private developers under the council's new 50% affordable housing target are to be built in Knapton

- Raised York's housing profile in the region through a Housing Affordability summit hosted by the Government Office
- The Golden Triangle has launched a Good Practise manual for delivery of affordable housing through the planning system and piloted a enhanced Home Buy scheme to enabled more people to access affordable homeownership opportunities.
- The adaptations team continues to exceed its target by providing 97.64% minor adaptations within seven days of assessment in 2005/6, against a target of 95%.
- Major adaptations (those costing over £1000) were also approved on average in 22.04 weeks in 2005/6 which is faster than the target time of 30 weeks from assessment to approval of works
- Significant inroads into the council adaptations bathing waiting list have been made, which was reduced to 11.
- The private sector grant policy was reviewed in February. One of the main changes was the introduction of a new efficiency grant aimed at 75 year olds living in council tax A, B and C properties.
- The home appreciation loan scheme has now been formally delegated to Sheffield City Council. Detailed work is now being carried out about the delivery of the scheme on the ground, already we have had more than a dozen residents who have shown interest to date

Rent Arrears Reduced

But perhaps our biggest achievement has been in achieving a substantial reduction in rent arrears, during this period of change, coupled with a reduction in void turn around times.

There was significant improvement in performance on arrears with 97.23% of the rent collected as a % of the rent due (target A97.12%). This is due to a sustained focus on this element of the service and the established of a dedicated income management team I am grateful to all those involved in achieving what is the lowest ever recorded arrears percentage in the Council's history. This will benefit all tenants as it means there will be more money available to reinvest in maintaining and managing their properties.

Swipe card system

The swipe card system, which was introduced, has been successful in collecting rent. Up until June 11th 2006 there have been 58,127 payments received.

York Pride Blocks

We now have 10 York Pride Blocks across the City. The scheme was introduced to recognise and reward tenants who live in blocks of flats that are well cared for by those living there. A poster advertising the scheme has been placed in both the Acomb office and City Customer advice Centre.

Antisocial Behaviour

The partnership between the Council and Safer York Partnership is beginning to show good results in terms of tackling antisocial behaviour. There have been 39 evictions of tenants since April 2003 on the grounds of neighbour nuisance and antisocial behaviour, a further 19 cases of tenants leaving prior to eviction have also been recorded.

From April 2003 12 ASBO's have been issued, during the three years prior to April 2003 only 7 were issued. Currently there are 32 active ABC's.

All the agencies continue to work together to ensure that people understand that that keeping to there tenancy agreement is an essential element of retaining there home. I would like to acknowledge the part that other residents have played in providing evidence to ensure that positive action can be taken against those who persist in antisocial activities.

Allocations Policy

The new allocations policy has been successfully introduced and incorporates both a band based and choice based letting system. There are 5 bands and applicants are placed in one depending on there circumstances. Properties are allocated to the person in the highest band who has been on the waiting list for the longest period of time. This system has been introduced to make the process more equitable and transparent to applicants.

Choice Based Lettings

Some properties across the city are to be let using choice based lettings: a property is advertised and applicants express an interest in a property by 'bidding ' for it. This means that the applicant would like to be considered for the property. The applicant must be on the housing register in order to apply. Adverts will be displayed form Wednesday through to the following Monday. The adverts will be displayed on the council website, the Finance and Housing Centre, the Customer Advice Centre, the Acomb Housing office and Thursdays York Evening Press property supplement.

Good Neighbour Standard

As part of the new allocations policy we have introduced the Good Neighbour Standard to reward existing secure City of York Council tenants who have not breached there tenancy conditions for at least the last three years. Tenants who qualify will be given prior consideration for suitable properties within their areas of choice. Priority is given to the Good Neighbour Standard Tenant in the highest band who has been waiting the longest.

Looking Forward

To further enhance York Pride, In the coming year Housing Services are introducing a 'Tenants in Bloom' garden competition to reward those tenants who live in take pride in there gardens. The competition is also open to tenants who live in flats and only have communal gardens. Prizes will be presented to the winners in a ceremony at the Mansion House later this year.

Housing Services are also introducing a pilot 'Mobile Working IT Project' jointly with Resources. The pilot will enable field officers to be more pro-active, spending more time out of the office providing a better service to our customers in their homes.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE	6 JUNE 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HYMAN (CHAIR), HOLVEY, KIRK, SCOTT AND WATSON R
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS HILL, JONES AND MOORE

PART B – MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

13. COMMITTEE ROLE, REMIT AND KEY RELATIONSHIPS

(See also under Part A Minutes)

Members considered a report which provided information on the role, remit and key relationships of the new Audit and Governance Committee.

The Committee had been introduced following the recent review of the Council's Constitution and was constituted as a non-executive sub-committee of Full Council. Guidance issued recently by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Professionals (CIPFA) recommended that authorities formally approve a Statement of Purpose for their audit committees. A suggested Statement of Purpose was set out in paragraph 5 of the report for Members' consideration. CIPFA's definition of the core functions of an audit committee was outlined in paragraph 7. These functions had been reflected in the delegations for the Committee included in the Constitution.

In response to Members' questions, Officers advised that it was their understanding that the Committee had authority to agree its own Statement of Purpose but may choose to refer this to Council for endorsement if desired. Audit committees must remain independent of the scrutiny process, but this did not mean that cross-membership with scrutiny was prohibited. With regard to training, it was noted that a Member training event on risk management had already been scheduled for 29 June.

RECOMMENDED: That Council endorse the following Statement of Purpose for adoption by the Audit and Governance Committee:

"The purpose of the Audit and Governance Committee is to act as the responsible body charged with governance at the Council. In doing so it will provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and

weakens the control environment, and will oversee the financial reporting process.”

REASON: To ensure the effective management and operation of the Committee and promote understanding of its purpose and function at the Council.

K Hyman, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 8.15 pm].

City of York Council

Minutes

MEETING	LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE	2 JUNE 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS NIMMO (CHAIR), BARTLETT (VICE-CHAIR), HORTON, B WATSON AND I WAUDBY

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

4. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS - PARISH OF CLIFTON WITHOUT

This report outlined Clifton Without Parish Council's request that the number of parish councillors elected to the parish council be reduced from fifteen members to ten members.

Members were presented with the following Options:

Option One - Members may agree to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Clifton Without.

Option Two - Members may refuse to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Clifton Without.

Members discussed the number of Parish Councillors sitting at present and it was reported that there were 10. Members discussed reference to 'detering elections' in paragraph 8 of the report, as there were more seats than nominees meaning an election would not be necessary.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- (i) **Option One** be approved.
- (ii) In accordance with the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 Section 17(2) it be agreed that a review of the electoral arrangements be carried out for the Parish of Clifton Without by consulting with:
 - a. Ward Members for the Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward in which the parish lies
 - b. The Yorkshire Local Councils Association
- (iii) That recommendations be reported to a future meeting of the committee.

REASON: Consultation to take place with relevant bodies to ensure the reduction in the number of parish councillors would be beneficial to the democratic process.

Councillor G Nimmo
Chair

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.05 pm.

**Agenda Item**

COUNCIL**29 June 2006**

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

MINOR DRAFTING AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION**Summary**

1. This report sets out the amendments to the Constitution implemented to action the decisions of the Special Council Meeting on 27 April 2006, together with further minor drafting amendments authorised under Article 16 of the new Constitution.

Background

2. On 27 April 2006 the new Council Constitution was approved at special meeting of Full Council. Full Council also resolved to amend the draft documentation
3. In addition, on reviewing the documentation a number of minor drafting errors were noted. Under the provisions of Article 16 of the Constitution, the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services, as the Council's Monitoring Officer, is authorised to amend the Constitution to :
 - ensure that the Constitution and the Council's Procedures meet all legal requirements;
 - reflect changes to arrangements for the distribution of responsibilities and the delegation of powers in accordance with decisions taken by the person(s) or body with authority to take such action;
 - to give effect to changes explicitly approved by the Full Council.

In addition, any such amendments must be duly reported to Full Council for approval at the earliest opportunity.

4. It is imperative that the Council's Constitution is accurate to ensure that any decisions taken are within the Council's powers. The minor drafting amendments detailed in the schedule attached will ensure that the Constitution and the Council's Procedures meet this legal requirement.

Consultation

5. The attached Schedule (Annex 1) and the amendments to the Constitution have been circulated to all Members.

Options

6. Full Council has the following options :
 - 6.1 To approve the recommendations
 - 6.2 Not to approve the amendments

Analysis

7. Option 6.1 Advantages

The Constitution will be legally robust and the recommendations of Full Council on 27 April 2006 will be implemented.

Disadvantages

None

Option 6.2 Advantages

None

Disadvantages

The Constitution will contain drafting errors and inaccuracies and the Council will not have implemented decisions taken on 27 April 2006.

Corporate Priorities

8. These proposals will ensure that there is improvement in the planning, openness, propriety, speed and effectiveness of decision-making.

9. **Implications**

- **Financial** None
- **Human Resources (HR)** None
- **Equalities** None
- **Legal**
Failure to approve the amendments will mean that the decisions of the Full Council on 27 April 2006 are not implemented and that there will be drafting errors in the Constitution

- **Crime and Disorder** None
- **Information Technology (IT)**
Hard copies of the amended pages are to be circulated to Members of Council and the Corporate Management Team. The electronic versions of the Constitution will be amended to reflect the schedule attached.
- **Property** None
- **Other** None

Risk Management

10. It is difficult to assess the risk of having an inaccurate Constitution. If the recommendations of the 27 April 2006 are not implemented then a further report would be required to advise Council of the implications.

Recommendations

11. That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the Schedule attached (Annex 1) are approved.

Reason: To implement the decision of Full Council on 27 April 2006 and ensure that the Constitution is accurate.

Contact Details

Author:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and
Legal Services
Chief Executive's Department

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved

Date 20/6/06

Tel No. 551004

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

Implication ie Financial

Implication ie Legal

Name

Name

Title

Title

Tel No.

Tel No.

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex 1 – Schedule of Amendments to the Constitution.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Page No.	Amendment	Reason	Authority
Various	Change of title : “Executive Member for Adult Services” to “Executive Member for Adult Social Services”	Drafting error. Title does not accurately reflect portfolio.	Existing Constitution Article 16
Various	Change of title : “Director of Adult Services” to “Director of Housing & Adult Social Services”	Drafting error. Title does not accurately reflect responsibilities.	Existing Constitution Article 16
Various	Change of title : “Adult Services & Housing” to “Housing & Adult Social Services”	Drafting error	Existing Constitution Article 16
Pages 83 – 85	To include authority for Planning Committee to consider any application or proposal which raises significant strategic or policy issues for the city.	To reflect resolution of Full Council	Full Council 27.4.06
	Re-formatting of section to include headings and re-numbering of paragraphs	To improve clarity and eliminate ambiguity.	Existing Constitution Article 16
Page 91	Change of text : To include Children’s Services	To reflect change in organisation structure	Existing Constitution Article 16

Pages 123 - 126	Various amendments to Outside Bodies	To reflect position at Annual Council 2006	Existing Constitution Article 16
Page 132	Inclusion of Policy Authority on Full Council agenda	Drafting error	Existing Constitution Article 16
Page 135	Reduction in time limit for submission of questions on written reports	To reflect resolution of Full Council	Full Council 27.4.06
Page 140	Removal of limit on number of named recorded votes at Full Council	To reflect resolution of Full Council	Full Council 27/04/06
Page 319	To include up to date reference to Corporate Strategy Priorities	To accurately reflect Corporate Strategy	Existing Constitution Article 16
Page 324	As above	As above	As above

Scrutiny Report to Full Council – June 2006

Scrutiny Management Committee

Since my last verbal report to Full Council in 11th April the newly convened and constituted Scrutiny Management Committee has had its first meeting. This meeting largely had a transitional role, in terms of managing the conclusion of outstanding scrutiny reviews from 05/06 and looking to the future management and resourcing of topics. As such, it had been hoped that all the outstanding Scrutiny Topics would have completed their reports in order that the Committee could look to set up some new ad-hoc sub-committees. However, four topics, due for completion by March 2006 are still outstanding:

Planning Guidance for Sustainable Development

Re-cycling and re-use

Sustainable street lighting

Reducing carbon emissions from York's housing

The Committee resolved to convert the above topics to ad hoc sub-committees and invite, where possible, the previous board memberships' to re-convene in order to agree the final reports by 24th July when SMC next meets. It was felt that no further time extensions would be appropriate given the need to begin to allocate new topics for review now that the new Municipal Year has started.

SMC is to look at enhancing its work programming processes so that future reviews can be effectively prioritised, taking into account available resources.

Late last summer, in response to a scrutiny topic registration SMC set up a children's health working group. The group centred on the quality and provision of school meals. The scoping report came to SMC in May who felt it had been overtaken by recent changes to legislation and recommended that it be passed to Education Scrutiny Committee to see if they wish to take it further.

The final report on Inclusive Decision Making went to the Executive on 13th June. However, its recommended formation of an Equalities Advisory Group has already been incorporated into the new constitution.

Scrutiny Calling-In Function

To date SMC has not been required to meet in its new constitutional calling-in capacity.

Scrutiny Committees

Education

This new Scrutiny Committee is to consider the first draft of the report on Extended Schools Provision in York in June 2006.

Health

New Committee Members are on a learning curve regarding responsibilities for Health Scrutiny. Members are currently concerned about the recovery plan for Selby and York PCT. They hope to take part in the National Health

Scrutiny Support Programme later this year. The Chair has attended an NHS finance training event in London.

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

COMMITTEES

Children's Services Advisory Panel

To appoint the following co-opted members:

Statutory Co-opted Members

Mr J Bailey	Parent Governor Representative
Miss C Duffy	Catholic Representative
Mr A Lawton	Parent Governor Representative
Dr D Sellick	Church of England Representative

Non-Statutory Co-opted Members

Ms F Barclay	Teacher Representative
Mrs A Burn	Headteacher Representative
Mrs J Ellis	Governor Representative
Mr M Galloway	Further Education Representative
Ms B Reagan	Teacher Representative
Mr M Thomas	Teacher Representative

Education Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Mr John Bailey as a Parent Governor representative, in place of Dr G M Clayton.

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER BODIES

Schools Organisation Committee

To appoint Ms Annette Hill as a Teacher representative, in place of Ms L Johnson.
To appoint Roger Highton as a Diocese C of E representative, in place of Mr David Thewlis.

OUTSIDE BODIES

LGYH Employers Committee

To appoint Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Fraser to this committee, which replaces the Yorkshire & Humber Employers Forum.

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To: All Members of Council
Copies to: All Chief Officers
Press, Libraries, TV, Internet

Date: 28 June 2006

Dear Members,

Meeting of Council 29 June 2006 – Additional Papers

With reference to the Council summons and agenda sent to you last week, I attach the following additional papers:

Agenda Item 7:

- a) 'Part B' minutes of the Executive meeting held on 27 June 2006, relating to the Statement of Accounts and the Council Plan.
- b) Amended pages 29 and 58-60 of the draft Accounts circulated to all Members with the Council papers (*Executive minute 29 refers*).
- c) A briefing note summarising amendments made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to the draft Council Plan approved by the Executive (*Executive minute 30 refers*).

Agenda Item 8 – a list of additional questions to the Executive Member for Housing Services.

Agenda Item 15 - a revised list of appointments to and changes to membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies.

Please bring these additional papers with you to the Council meeting on 29 June.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Young
Principal Democracy Officer
(Tel. Extn. 1024)

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	Executive
DATE	27 June 2006
PRESENT	Councillors Steve Galloway (Chair), Sue Galloway, Jamieson-Ball, Macdonald, Orrell, Reid, Runciman, Sunderland and Waller

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

19. Statement of Accounts 2005/06

[See also under Part A minutes]

Members considered a report which asked them to review and comment upon the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2005/06 and to refer the Accounts to full Council for approval before the deadline of 30 June. Copies of the pre-audit version of the Accounts had been circulated separately to Members. In accordance with new requirements, a specific "Statement of Internal Control" had been included, at pages 6-13 of the draft Accounts.

Under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) scoring system, a higher score could be given if the Accounts had been subjected to a "robust" scrutiny before approval. For that reason, the draft Accounts had also been considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 26 June. The Committee's comments were reported at the meeting. It was also reported that, due to changes in the guidance from CIPFA some amendments had been made to the draft Accounts. Copies of the amended pages (page 29 and pages 58-60) were circulated at the meeting.

The report summarised the constituent parts of the Accounts and discussed key points to note. Members raised questions about:

- Schools balances – how did these consistently remain at the £5m level, unlike other Council reserves? Officers responded that the balances were reducing now that "clawback" arrangements were in place.
- The HRA reserve surplus – was it at a prudent level and what scope was there for its use? Officers responded that most HRA reserves were being set aside for capital works to support the Decent Homes standard.
- The current state of the pensions liability – what was being done to reduce it and mitigate risks? Officers conceded that this was a worrying issue but the next valuation of the pensions fund was almost certain to be higher. City of York was paying in over £4m more per year than was needed to stand still and was paying off its share of the deficit over 24 years. The outcome of government discussions with unions would also have a significant effect on the future of the fund.

RECOMMENDED: That the Statement of Accounts be approved and that
That the Lord Mayor sign and date page 5 of the
Accounts as the formal record that Members have
approved them.

REASON: In accordance with statutory requirements.

20. Council Plan and Year End Performance Results

[See also under Part A minutes]

Members considered a report which presented an overview of the Council's performance during 2005/06 and a draft Council Plan for 2006/07, setting out aspirations for further improvement over the next 1-3 years. It was a statutory requirement to publish the Council Plan before 30 June. The draft Plan had been made available on the Council's website and copies had been circulated separately to Members.

The draft Plan included a total of 289 performance indicators (PIs), of which just over half were statutory Best Value PIs. A joint Executive and Management review session held on 12 June had looked at all areas of the Council's performance during 2005/06 and the report set out headline performance from this session, under the Council's 8 corporate aims. Overall, these indicated significant improvements across all the corporate aims, particularly the perception of crime, waste collection and management, planning services and parts of the benefits services. Areas for concern included performance on road safety and customer satisfaction with waste collection and recycling. The full range of customer satisfaction and perception results were set out in Annex A to the report. Annexes B, C, D, E and F detailed performance against York Pride, Safer City, staff-based, CPA and Customer First targets respectively.

Members commented with approval on progress made during the last financial year, particularly with regard to the York Pride and Safe City measures. The Chair announced three major initiatives aimed at addressing the issue of residents' satisfaction with the amount of information they received from the Council. These included publishing a Press supplement, circulating information on waste management and re-publishing the A-Z guide to Council services.

It was noted that the Council Plan would require some drafting amendments prior to its referral to by full Council. It was suggested that these be delegated to the Chief Executive and Council Leader.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the draft 2006/07 Council Plan, subject to any amendments made by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council prior to the Council meeting on 29 June.

REASON: To enable the Council Plan to be published by 30th June, in accordance with statutory requirements.

S F Galloway, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.50 pm].

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NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ACCOUNT
--

Pensions and Net Pensions Liability Movement in Year cont'd

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund, which is a Local Government Pension Scheme, is treated as a defined benefit scheme, since the Council's liabilities to its current and former employees can be identified within the fund, and the Council will be liable to meet these, irrespective of the future performance of the fund. Brief details of the two pension schemes are shown in the Statement of Accounting Policies, note 6 on pages 15 and 16. The information below relates to the cost of pension arrangements borne by this Council and included in the revenue accounts.

Teachers

In 2005/06 the Council paid £6.013m (£5.816m) to the Teachers Pensions Agency in respect of teachers' pensions costs, which represents 13.5% (13.5%) of teachers' pensionable pay. This is an unfunded scheme with pension costs charged to the accounts based on a contributions rate set by the TPA, supported by a five-year actuarial review. In addition the Council paid £679k (£455k) in respect of added years' payments, which are treated under FRS17 requirements as defined benefit payments.

Other Employees

The Council contributes to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund for other employees. The cost of retirement benefits are recognised in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the Consolidated Revenue Account after Net Operating Expenditure. The following transactions have been made in the Consolidated Revenue Account during the year:

2004/05 £(000)		2005/06 £(000)	£(000)
	Net Cost of Services		
9,668	Current service cost	11,242	
735	Past service cost	902	
-	Past service adjustment for assumed teke-up level of new commutation option	(5,365)	
<u>159</u>	Curtailment Cost	<u>1,144</u>	
10,562			7,923
	Net Operating Expenditure		
12,189	Interest cost	13,597	
<u>(8,800)</u>	Expected return on assets in the scheme	<u>(9,735)</u>	
3,389			3,862
	Appropriations		
(2,984)	Contribution to/(from) Pensions Reserve		139
<u>10,967</u>	Actual amount charged against Council Tax for Pensions in the year		<u>11,924</u>

Note 12 to the Consolidated Balance Sheet contains details of the assumptions made in estimating the figures above, including further information on the new commutation option, and note 2 to the Statement of Total Movements in Reserves details the actuarial gains and losses on the reserve. Further information can be found in North Yorkshire Pension Fund's Annual Report that is available upon request from Financial Services, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AL.

10. Provisions

The contributions to provisions include sums to increase the level of provision for bad/doubtful debts offset by the transfer from provisions to reserves to reflect the change in classification of a balance (see also note 13 to the Consolidated Balance Sheet).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
--

Pensions Liability cont'd

In calculating the Council's assets and liabilities Mercer's, the fund's actuaries, had to make a number of assumptions about events and circumstances in the future. This means that the results of actuarial calculations are subject to uncertainties within a range of possible values. The liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The actuarial assumptions used in their calculations have been:

As at 31.3.05		As at 31.3.06
% pa		% pa
2.90	Rate of Inflation	2.90
4.65	Rate of increase in salaries	4.65
2.90	Rate of increase in pensions	2.90
N/A	Proportion of employees opting to take a commuted lump sum	50.00
5.40	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.90

Changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme permit employees retiring on or after 6 April 2006 to take an increase in their lump sum payment on retirement in exchange for a reduction in their future annual pension. On the advice of our actuaries we have assumed that 50% of employees retiring after 6 April 2006 will take advantage of this change to the pension scheme. The actuaries have advised that the commutation terms are such that it is less costly for the scheme to provide the lump sum than the pension, so to the extent that members take up the option it will reduce the employers' pension costs. The 50% assumption shown above is purely an estimate of the proportion of members that will take up the option to increase their lump sum to the maximum available, but is consistent with the basis on which the potential costs savings have so far been estimated. This level of take-up will reduce the value of the Council's pension liabilities by £5.365m and this has been included within Non-Distributed Costs in the Consolidated Revenue Account.

Assets in the Fund are valued at fair value, principally market value for investments, and consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held by the Fund.

As at 31.3.05			As at 31.3.06	
£(000)	%		£(000)	%
110,266	77.0	Equities	143,912	75.0
16,612	11.6	Government Bonds	14,583	7.6
8,879	6.2	Other Bonds	26,864	14.0
-	-	Property	-	-
7,447	5.2	Cash/liquidity	6,524	3.4
-	-	Other	-	-
<u>143,204</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>191,883</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The long-term rate of expected return on the investments are as follows:

As at 31.3.05		As at 31.3.06
% pa		% pa
7.50	Equities	7.00
4.70	Government Bonds	4.30
5.40	Other Bonds	4.90
6.50	Property	6.00
4.75	Cash/liquidity	4.50
-	Other	-

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
--

The movement in the net pension liability for the year is as follows:

2004/05 £(000)		2005/06 £(000)
65,378	Net pensions liability at 1 April	103,783
	Movement in year	
9,668	Current service cost	11,242
(10,967)	Employer contributions (including unfunded retirement benefits)	(11,924)
894	Past service cost/curtailment costs	(3,319)
12,189	Interest costs	13,597
(8,800)	Expected return on assets in the scheme	(9,735)
35,421	Actuarial (Gain)/Loss	5,190
103,783	Net pensions liability at 31 March	108,834

13. Provisions

The following table summarises the Provisions held:

Balance at 1.4.05 £(000)		Expenditure During Year £(000)	Income During Year £(000)	Balance at 31.3.06 £(000)
(1,150)	Insurance Fund - General	-	(84)	(1,234)
(1,657)	Miscellaneous	1,500	(67)	(224)
(2,807)		1,500	(151)	(1,458)

The general insurance provision is held to meet future potential liabilities in respect of claims outstanding but not received covering a period of several years. The size of the provision is based on information supplied by the Council's insurers. The miscellaneous provisions hold a sum to provide funds that may arise as a consequence of the closure of the special schools in York as well as a small provision for outstanding appeals against the banding for Council Tax purposes. In 2004/05 the miscellaneous provisions also included a sum held for potential payments to employees dependent upon the outcome of current and possible future legal action. This has now been reclassified as a reserve and is now included in note 24.

14. Deferred Liabilities

This represents the liability for amounts chargeable to the revenue accounts in future financial years. There are three elements. The liability for the payment of notional debt on the 1996 local government reorganisation transferred assets as set out in note 6 on page 55.

In addition, there are liabilities for discounts received from restructuring long-term debt which are written back to revenue over the period of the original loan and the sums owing for assets acquired through finance leases. The following table shows the transactions in the year.

Balance at 1.4.05 £(000)		Expenditure During Year £(000)	Written off to Revenue in Year £(000)	Balance at 31.3.06 £(000)
(24,477)	1996 Transferred Assets	1,224	-	(23,253)
(265)	Loan Restructuring Discounts	-	39	(226)
(1,690)	Finance Leases	820	-	(870)
(26,432)		2,044	39	(24,349)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
--

15. Deferred Credits

These are amounts receivable in respect of the sale of assets where the monies due will be received in instalments over an agreed period of time. The majority of the transactions relate principally to mortgages on sales of council houses.

16. Fixed Asset Restatement Account

This account represents the difference between the current valuations of assets and their original cost. It is therefore matched by entries in the valuation of Fixed Assets and is not a resource available to the Council. The account is adjusted to reflect writing out the net book value of assets disposed of and capital expenditure that has not resulted in an increase in asset values.

2004/05			2005/06		
General Fund Services £(000)	Housing Revenue Account £(000)	Total £(000)	General Fund Services £(000)	Housing Revenue Account £(000)	Total £(000)
(222,624)	(232,812)	(455,436)	(223,899)	(271,017)	(494,916)
			Balance at 1 April		
(6,077)	(49,895)	(55,972)	(Surplus)/Deficit on		
			revaluation of fixed assets		
(228,701)	(282,707)	(511,408)	(54,104)	(35,958)	(90,062)
			Less: Disposal of fixed		
			assets		
980	4,258	5,238	1,684	2,709	4,393
(227,721)	(278,449)	(506,170)	(276,319)	(304,266)	(580,585)
			Less: Expenditure in year		
			which does not increase		
			value of assets		
3,822	7,432	11,254	2,773	7,631	10,404
(223,899)	(271,017)	(494,916)	(273,546)	(296,635)	(570,181)
			Balance at 31 March		

17. Government Grants Deferred and Developers' Contributions Deferred

These are sums of money that have been received from government departments and external sources to contribute towards the cost of fixed assets. The money is transferred to revenue, via the Asset Management Revenue Account (AMRA), at the same rate that the asset is depreciated so that the revenue accounts receive a reduced charge in each year the asset is usable. This money is therefore not available to fund other expenditure requirements. The transactions in the year are as follows:

Balance at 1.4.05		Receipts During Year	Transfer to AMRA in Year	Balance at 31.3.06
£(000)		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
(7,205)	Deferred Government Grants	(5,767)	312	(12,660)
(3,031)	Deferred Developers' Contributions	(2,266)	83	(5,214)
(10,236)		(8,033)	395	(17,874)



Council

29th June 2006

Briefing note on amendments to the 2006/07 Council Plan

- 1 A draft version of the 2006/07 Council Plan, together with 289 performance indicator outturns, was despatched to Executive and Shadow Executive on the 16th June. The draft Plan was also made available on the Council's website.
- 2 This briefing note provides Members with details of amendments and changes made to the Plan between the 16th and 28th June. Hard copies of the final document have been placed in the Member Group Rooms to allow you to review the full version and get a feel for what it looks like post design. Further comments and/or amendments are welcome, but they would need to be small-scale if we are to meet the statutory publication deadline of 30th June.
- 3 Summary of significant amendments

Section 1 'Our Priorities'	CMT asked that the Council's new priorities (i.e. the 13 Improvement Statements), be given more prominence at the beginning of the Council Plan. A summary of all the statements, together with a brief explanation of why they are a priority, has been added to the beginning of the Plan. The idea is to make it easier for the reader to gather an understanding of what the Council feels is important in terms of future improvement. A clickable link to our on-line corporate strategy has also been added.
Section 1 'Profile of York'	This section has been updated to cover more up-to-date information which was not available at the time of despatch.
Section 1 'Profile of the Council'	Additional information on the Council's new Constitution has been added, including an overview of the decision-making committee structure. We have also added a paragraph on how residents can get more involved in decision making.
Section 1 'Making the most of our Resources'	We have revised the 'Managing our Finances' part of this section to reflect 2 recent reports which were approved at the Executive on the 27 th June. These were ' <i>Final statement of accounts for 2005/06</i> ' and ' <i>General Fund - Provisional Revenue Out-turn 2005/06</i> '. Main change was the update of our income & expenditure table for 2006/07 and an amended paragraph on the efficiency agenda. We also added a small paragraph on Parish Councils (as mentioned in the original draft). This is a compliance requirement of Best Value to include basic information about how we work with Parish Councils.
Section 2 'Our corporate strategy & priorities'	Added a small paragraph and graph to the lead-in text for the Community safety section. The objective was to raise the profile of our commitment to tackle speeding on York roads. This issue was raised at the Executive on the 27 th June.

Section 3 'Our Performance'	As indicated in the original draft plan, we have added half a page on the Council's performance management cycle and the fact that we now hold 3 half-day integrated monitor sessions to review progress of both service and financial performance.
--------------------------------	---

- 4 A 2 page summary document of the Council Plan will be produced at the beginning of July, picking up recommendations from the Executive on the 27th June. This will bring out headlines from the Plan and provide an overview of our latest performance, together with future improvement priorities and targets.

Contact Details

Briefing Note Author:

Peter Lowe: Improvement Officer
Phone: (01904) 552057

Chief Officers Responsible:

Colin Mockler: Head of Performance Improvement

Additional Questions to Executive Member for Housing Services

1. From Cllr Horton
“Why has the number of non-decent Council houses risen significantly on the 2005/6 year end performance figures and how is the Council going to respond?”
2. From Cllr B Watson
“What proportion of residents associations are still meeting on the usual monthly basis?”
3. From Cllr Potter
“What level of support are residents associations now receiving from the Neighbourhood Pride unit compared to that previously received from Community Services and when will the SLA between Housing and Neighbourhood Services finally be agreed?”
4. From Cllr Jones
“Could the Executive Member please explain the drop in tenants satisfaction?”
5. From Cllr Horton
“Given that the average time to re-let Council properties has now risen to 32 days can the Executive Member inform Council how much potential revenue is being lost as a result and what effect it is having on the housing waiting list?”
6. From Cllr Merrett
“Can the Executive Member please explain what is being done to provide more protected accommodation and support to deal with those vulnerable tenants who suffer from unwelcome visitors who are a nuisance / problem to them and other tenants?”
7. From Cllr Merrett
“Would the Executive member advise how many affordable properties for sale have been agreed in section 106 agreements for housing developments completed to date, how many of these properties were successfully sold to persons from the York Housing waiting lists, and how many remained unsold and were returned to the developer (including a breakdown by property type & bedroom number & price)?”

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

COMMITTEES

Young People's Working Panel

To appoint Cllr Looker as second Labour substitute.

Corporate Services Advisory Panel

To appoint Cllr Potter as the Labour substitute.

Children's Services Advisory Panel

To appoint the following co-opted members:

Statutory Co-opted Members

Mr J Bailey	Parent Governor Representative
Miss C Duffy	Catholic Representative
Mr A Lawton	Parent Governor Representative
Dr D Sellick	Church of England Representative

Non-Statutory Co-opted Members

Ms F Barclay	Teacher Representative
Mrs A Burn	Headteacher Representative
Mrs J Ellis	Governor Representative
Mr M Galloway	Further Education Representative
Ms B Reagan	Teacher Representative
Mr M Thomas	Teacher Representative

Education Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Mr John Bailey as a Parent Governor representative, in place of Dr G M Clayton.

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER BODIES

Schools Organisation Committee

To appoint Ms Annette Hill as a Teacher representative, in place of Ms L Johnson.
To appoint Roger Highton as a Diocese C of E representative, in place of Mr David Thewlis.

OUTSIDE BODIES

LGYH Employers Committee

To appoint Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Fraser to this committee, which replaces the Yorkshire & Humber Employers Forum.

The Members' Council of York NHS Foundation Trust

To appoint Cllrs Fraser, Kirk and Livesley to the above body.

Note: The appointments made at Annual Council to the York NHS Foundation Trust Board are not applicable, as the City of York Council is not required to appoint to that body.]