

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 27th November, 2008, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Brian Watson) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD	BISHOPTHORPE WARD
Horton Simpson-Laing	Galvin
CLIFTON WARD	DERWENT WARD
Douglas King Scott	Brooks
DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD	FISHERGATE WARD
Holvey Reid Sunderland	D'Agorne Taylor
FULFORD WARD	GUILDHALL WARD
Aspden	Looker
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	HESLINGTON WARD
Firth R Watson	
HEWORTH WARD	HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD
Blanchard Funnell Potter	Ayre
HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Alexander Bowgett Crisp	Cregan Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Watt
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hogg, Jamieson-Ball and Orrell.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

Cllr Morley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Motion (iii), relating to the Rating (Empty Properties) Act (Minute 43 refers), as the owner of property that could be affected by the Act. He left the room during consideration of this motion and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

Cllr Looker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 21 October 2008 (Minute 44 refers), insofar as they related to the Credit Union, as a director of the Credit Union.

Cllr Sunderland declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 21 October 2008 (Minute 44 refers), insofar as they related to the CAB, as an employee of the CAB.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 September 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

40. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced the receipt of a plaque received from the European Traffic Police Network, which was available to view in the Council Chamber.

The Lord Mayor then announced that, due to the importance of the decision to be taken on the Scrutiny Review, at item 10 on the agenda, he would use his discretion to vary the order of business and move straight to consideration of that item at 9:00 pm if it had not already been reached by then.

41. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor reported that there had been four registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Chris Copland, of the local Friends of the Earth Group, spoke in support of the motion on the Sustainable Communities Act to be considered under item 6 on the agenda (motion (v)). He noted the widespread support for the Act amongst Community Groups and in Parliament, and urged Members to make use of its provisions.

Richard Foster, of the National Union of Journalists, drew Members' attention to the continuing cost cutting measures and consequent job losses being implemented by the owners of The Press newspaper in York. He expressed concern at the harm this was causing to The Press and its sister titles and the effect of this on the local community.

Marc Atkinson spoke in support of the petition to be presented by Cllr Fraser seeking a review of the Council's policy on A-boards. On behalf of traders in Micklegate, he expressed willingness to work with the Council to help establish suitable guidelines for A-boards and other street furniture, along the lines of the policy currently operating in Rotherham.

Kevin Jones also spoke in support of the petition on A-boards on behalf of Micklegate traders, specifically the pub trade. He noted that the removal of the A-boards had had a negative effect on trade at his own establishment and that there was a need to find a commonsense solution to this issue rather than imposing a blanket ban on A-boards in the event of a complaint.

Mark Warters spoke regarding land to the west of Metcalfe Lane in Osbaldwick. He expressed concern that his comments had been interrupted at the last Council meeting and expressed his view that the comments made by Officers at a recent Planning meeting conflicted with a 2007 government ruling on the green belt status of the land.

42. PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented by Members under Standing Order 7:

- (i) A petition presented by Cllr King, on behalf of residents of Rowntree Avenue, asking the Council to consider installing lay-by parking in their street.¹
- (ii) A petition presented by Cllr Ayre, on behalf of local residents asking for safer crossing measures at Stockton Lane, Hempland Lane and Woodlands Grove.²
- (iii) A petition presented by Cllr Fraser, on behalf of traders in Micklegate, calling for a review of the Council's policies on A-boards.³
- (iv) A petition presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of local residents, asking the Council to ensure that open space and tennis courts at the old Manor School be made available for public use pending development of the site.⁴
- (v) A petition presented by Cllr Potter, on behalf of York residents, calling on the Council to introduce a 20 mph speed limit throughout the City in residential areas.⁵
- (vi) A petition presented by Cllr Bowgett, on behalf of residents of Acomb and Holgate, calling on the Council to ensure that the streets in their areas were repaired so they were safe.⁶
- (vii) A petition presented by Cllr Alexander, on behalf of residents of West Bank, Firtree Close and Parkside Close, seeking resurfacing of the road along and near West Bank.⁷

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.¹⁻⁷

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan | SS |
| 2. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan | SS |
| 3. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan | SS |
| 4. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan | SS |
| 5. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan. | SS |
| 6. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan. | SS |
| 7. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee and add item to Forward Plan. | SS |

43. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Social Rented Accommodation

It was moved by Cllr Sue Galloway and seconded by Cllr Kirk that:

“This Council urges the Government to act quickly to remove the barriers which currently deter local authorities and Registered Social Landlords from purchasing homes, from the private sector, to add to the pool of social rented accommodation available in the City of York area.”¹

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(ii) Affordable Housing

It was moved by Cllr Simpson-Laing and seconded by Cllr Bowgett that:

“This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister with a request to introduce the following measures aimed at providing much needed affordable housing, to keep people in their own homes, to stimulate the market to re-use empty homes and to maintain jobs in the construction industry by:

- a) Allowing councils and housing associations to become the tenants of over market surplus developments, built for the ‘buy to let’ market, to provide much needed affordable homes;
- b) Ensuring that repossession is the action of last resort and investigate how such properties could be part purchased by housing associations;

- c) Bringing back purchase and repair grants to allow housing associations to create new affordable homes out of run down empty property;
- d) Slashing the cost of renovating derelict empty homes by cutting VAT on repair and maintenance.”²

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iii) Rating (Empty Properties) Act

It was moved by Cllr Gillies and seconded by Cllr Healey that

“This Council agrees to join the campaign for suspension of the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 on commercial buildings by:

- Instructing the Chief Executive to write to the Office of the Prime Minister in support of the suspension of the Act;³ and
- Joining other councils and major businesses in support of the campaign by the British Property Federation to suspend the Act.”⁴

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED by 25 votes to 20 and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iv) Holocaust Memorial Day

The fourth notice of motion had been submitted by Cllr Crisp, as follows:

“Council recognises the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Council agrees that this event should be recognised fully within the City of York and requests that the Chief Executive takes such steps as are necessary to ensure this event becomes an integral and permanent feature in the annual civic calendar. Council further agrees to allocate sufficient resources, from reserves if necessary, to enable the appropriate recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day by the city on an annual, ongoing basis.”⁴

Cllr Crisp now sought leave to alter the above motion, to read as follows:

“Council recognises the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Council agrees, in principle, that this event should be recognised fully within the City of York. Council requests that the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services prepares a report setting out detailed proposals, including costings, for holding an annual event to mark Holocaust Day to be included in the Civic Calendar. Such report to be submitted to the next meeting of Full Council.”⁵

Council having agreed to that alteration, Cllr Crisp moved, and Cllr Vassie seconded, the motion as altered.

On being put to the vote, the motion, as altered, was declared CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(v) Sustainable Communities Act

It was moved by Cllr Aspden and seconded by Cllr Hyman that

“This Council:

- a) Notes that local authorities and their communities know the best ways to develop solutions to local problems, and how to promote thriving communities;
- b) Supports the bottom up principle within the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to direct help from central government into reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- c) Notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to
 - make proposals to government on the actions and assistance government must provide to promote sustainable communities, and
 - argue for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- d) Notes that the Act defines ‘Sustainable Communities’ broadly, that definition having the four aspects of
 - improvement of the local economy
 - protection of the environment
 - promotion of social inclusion
 - participation in civic and political activity.

Council welcomes the Sustainable Communities Act as a means of gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, arguing for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving York residents in democracy.

Council therefore resolves to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals for local sustainability to central government, by 31st July 2009, and, in doing so, welcomes proposals from York residents and community groups in York.”

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

“To the end of the motion, add:

‘Council will encourage parish councils, ward committees and other community organisations in York to hold meetings within the next seven months at which ‘citizen panels’ can put forward appropriate proposals, as envisaged under the Act.’”

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“This Council:

- a) Notes that local authorities and their communities know the best ways to develop solutions to local problems, and how to promote thriving communities;
- b) Supports the bottom up principle within the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to direct help from central government into reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- c) Notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to
 - make proposals to government on the actions and assistance government must provide to promote sustainable communities, and
 - argue for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- d) Notes that the Act defines ‘Sustainable Communities’ broadly, that definition having the four aspects of
 - improvement of the local economy
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Council welcomes the Sustainable Communities Act as a means of gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, arguing for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving York residents in democracy.

Council therefore resolves to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals for local sustainability to central government, by 31st July 2009, and, in doing so, welcomes proposals from York residents and community groups in York.⁶

Council will encourage parish councils, ward committees and other community organisations in York to hold meetings within the next seven months at which ‘citizen panels’ can put forward appropriate proposals, as envisaged under the Act.”⁷

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

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

Action Required

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|--|----|
| 1. Write to the appropriate Government Minister in these terms | DB |
| 2. Write to the Housing Minister in these terms | DB |
| 3. Write to the Office of the Prime Minister in support of suspension of the Act | DB |
| 4. Take appropriate action to enable the Council to join this campaign | DB |

- | | |
|--|----|
| 5. Prepare a report in these terms for the Full Council meeting on 22/1/09 | GR |
| 6. Prepare and submit proposals to central government | SS |
| 7. Make arrangements to encourage these meetings of local bodies | SS |

44. **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

A written report was received from the Leader, Cllr Andrew Waller, on the work of the Executive.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the Executive meetings held on 7 October, 21 October and 18 November 2008, namely:

- Minute 94 – Capital Programme: Monitor 1
- Minute 104 – Thriving City: Report Back
- Minute 122 – Amendments to Officer Scheme of Delegation to provide for an Officer to act in the absence of the Chief Executive.

In commenting on the Leader's report, the Leader of the Opposition asked, with reference to the Council Headquarters project, whether the Hungate architects had been sacked. The Leader replied that they had not, and that a deliberative process had been adopted to ensure that the Council received best value for money. In response to a further question on his relationship with the local business community, the Leader stated that they had every confidence in both himself and his predecessor. In response to a question from the Leader of the Conservative Group regarding the review of the Dial-a-Ride Service, he indicated that a report on this issue would be brought to the Executive meeting on 23 December 2008.

The Executive recommendations were then put to the vote and were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the following minutes of the Executive meetings held on 7 October, 21 October and 18 November be approved:

- Minute 94 – Capital Programme: Monitor 1 ¹
- Minute 104 – Thriving City: Report Back ²
- Minute 122 – Amendments to Officer Scheme of Delegation to provide for an Officer to act in the absence of the Chief Executive. ³

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Take action to fund the shortfalls on the Disabled Facilities Grant and additional works at Hazel Court from capital receipts. | SB |
| 2. Take action to fund the agreed actions from the Council's reserves | SS |

3. Amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation within the Council's Constitution

GR

45. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC) AND SMC RECOMMENDATIONS

It now being 9:00 pm, the Lord Mayor exercised his discretion to vary the order of business so as to bring forward consideration of agenda item 10, the item on Scrutiny.

A written report was received from Cllr John Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 25 September 2008. This included, at paragraph 18, the recommendations made by the SMC at their meeting on 17 November 2008 concerning the Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Functions.

It was noted that Cllr D'Agorne had withdrawn an amendment to the SMC recommendations, of which he had previously given notice.

Cllr Galvin now sought leave to alter the recommendations, to read as follows:

*"That Option B be adopted and a Working Group of Council, made up of one member from each of the political groups, be formed to consider the detailed implementation of this model and the constitutional changes required, and that the Group report back to Full Council in January on its findings."*¹

Council having agreed to this alteration, Cllr Galvin then moved, and Cllr Fraser seconded, the above recommendations, as altered.

The recommendations, as altered, were then put to the vote and were declared CARRIED by 25 votes to 19 and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Committee at their meeting on 17 November 2008 in respect of the Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Functions, as altered, be approved.

Action Required

1. Establish a working group to consider the implementation of Option B

GR

46. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Ann Reid, the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services.

Notice had been received of eight questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr King

“Could the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services inform Council of what measures have been taken to ensure that assistance is available when the emergency cord is used in the disabled people’s toilets?”

The Executive Member replied:

“ENCAMS are working with us on the toilet review and they are currently contacting other across local authorities in the UK to identify the best workable solutions. In the meantime, officers are working with the planning department to ensure the appropriate signage can be displayed in the City Centre.”

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr King, asking when the signage would be in place, the Executive Member replied that she did not know but that it was being treated as a matter of urgency.

(ii) From Cllr Holvey

“Is the Executive member able to give an update on the staff wellbeing initiatives outlined in the report?”

The Executive Member replied:

“145 people attended the recent drop-in health fair which offered advice on a whole range of health issues from smoking to weight loss. It was open to all Neighbourhood Services staff. Staff in the Civil Engineering department have been offered a Gold MOT. This was an hour long consultation with a occupational nurse which covered the whole range of possible health problems. Blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels, lung function, sight hearing, height, weight etc were all tested and advice given on measures that could be taken to address any problems identified. The MOTs were confidential with the individual results only shared with the staff member involved. All but 2 of the 72 staff took up the opportunity, along with 2 Councillors.”

(iii) From Cllr King

“Could the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services inform Council of what security measures have been introduced in the short term at the new Eco Depot until long term proposals are introduced?”

The Executive Member replied:

“As outlined in my report I agreed to a review of depot safety and security in June. An independent assessment was carried out by the Freight Transport Association. I would remind members that the site always has been secure at night and that it is daytime access that was identified as the problem. A temporary gatehouse has been put in place with a capital bid for a permanent structure made. We have had to go out to tender for the vehicle barriers but the preparatory work has started for their installation as physical changes are needed at the entrance to accommodate them. We expect them to be fully operational by Christmas. This will ensure that access to the site is monitored with visitors reporting to the new reception area at the gate. The following specific things have been done which should improve security to both the site and the buildings

- Depot gates are locked between 6pm and 6am daily and between 6pm Friday and 6am Monday, although this was always the case.*
- Daily checks are made to ensure the integrity of the perimeter fence*
- Vehicles are locked overnight on site.*
- Work issue rooms are physically locked from 5pm each day.*
- Swipe cards mechanisms are to be added to the work issue rooms which will allow access after 5pm to a small number of staff.*
- Stronger key security in place within work issues rooms. Each department has made its own arrangements depending on individual operational needs but it must be emphasised that for operational purposes staff do need to have access to buildings and vehicles outside normal working hours.*

We are also upgrading the CCTV coverage but the final position of some cameras will be dependent on the layout at the entrance gate so changes will not be made until that work is complete.

There is a full report due at Neighbourhood Services Emap on the 4th December which Cllr King will now have seen.”

(iv) From Cllr King

“In view of the high profits made at the Crematorium will the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services assure us that the cost of fitting new filters is not borne by the families of the deceased?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Yes. It is intended that the capital cost of mercury abatement filters will be funded by capital receipts. There should be no additional cost to revenue budgets and therefore no increase in fees as a consequence of fitting the filters.”

(v) From Cllr Aspden

“I note the welcome introduction of the NVQ for Hackney Carriage drivers. Can the Executive Member update Council on the take up of the course and if any drivers have successfully completed it?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The Council is working in partnership with the Yorkshire Rail Academy and York College to introduce a nationally recognised qualification for the taxi trade.

So far 28 people have successfully completed level 2 NVQ in Road Passenger Transport with 28 more currently taking the course and a healthy waiting list of those wanting to take up the opportunity. A small start as we have 290 taxi drivers and 595 private hire drivers but never the less, very encouraging.

The course takes over 80 hours and covers topics such as customer care, looking after the needs of the disabled, transporting children and dealing with emergencies.

We should applaud the drivers for taking the time out of work to study and show that they are committed to improving standards in this city. The course has been so successful that adjoining authorities are taking up the training. I am also pleased to report that Officers have secured funding via the Train to Gain Scheme from the Learning and Skills Council which means that there is no cost to the authority.”

(vi) From Cllr King

“Is the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services satisfied at the proposals for the Christmas and New Year bin collections due to the longer periods between collections and will the Executive Member assure us that any black bags put at the side of the full bins will also be collected?”

The Executive Member replied:

“I am satisfied with the proposals, and side waste will be taken during the Christmas and New Year collection period as it has been in previous years.”

(vii) From Cllr Ayre

“Can the Executive Member update Council on residents’ satisfaction with Cold Calling Zones?”

The Executive Member replied:

“I am pleased to be able to report to Council that follow up surveys in Cold Calling Zones have shown that residents are pleased with their introduction are happy with the way that they are working and feel more able to deal with cold callers.

Trading standards have carried out two surveys of the Cold Calling Controlled Zones. The first survey was carried out 3 months after the first 5 pilot zones were introduced in October 2007. 442 properties were surveyed and 174 returned their survey forms (39% return). 66% of respondents felt they were less concerned about doorstep crime following the introduction of the zones. A second survey was undertaken of new zones last month. A sample of 589 properties were sent questionnaires and to date 213 have replied (36% return). So far

the results show that 62% of respondents felt they were less concerned about doorstep crime following the introduction of the zones in their neighbourhood.

198 of those 213 said that they now felt able to deal with cold callers because the zone is in place.

Officers had already identified that traders were using the excuse that they had not seen the lamp post sign so they have designed individual stickers for properties to try to address the situation and these have been offered to people who were surveyed.”

(viii) From Cllr King

“Whilst I agree there have been improvements in sickness absence, would the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services agree, that there is still room for further improvements, and any further improvements have to be introduced in a sensitive manner?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Yes to both parts of the question. I am pleased that the Shadow Executive Member recognises the improvements that have been made in sickness absence. This is the result of an ongoing process which will deliver further improvements and will be appropriate.”

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr King, the Executive Member confirmed that she did agree that further improvements should be introduced in a sensitive manner and invited Cllr King to raise with her any specific comments about the procedure that had come to his notice.

47. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

Nine questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 10(c). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below:

(i) To the Executive Member for Children’s Services, from Cllr Alexander:

“Can the Executive Member for Children’s Services detail what extra resources are being given to ensure a successful outcome in the second round bidding for the ‘Myplace’ scheme?”

Reply:

“I have identified sufficient resources to enable officers to buy in additional bid management and technical skills to assist with the appraisal of the options identified so far and the submission of a high quality bid next year. An individual has been appointed and has already started work on the project.”

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

“Would the Executive Member agree with me that the Council needs to set a target to achieve at least a 5% reduction in its energy consumption over the next 12 months?”

Reply:

“Clearly all Council Departments are looking carefully at the budget implications of the recent increases in fuel prices. It would be premature to speculate on what measures the Council will be able to promote to reduce energy consumption when it considers its 09/10 budget and consequently it would also be wrong at this stage to allocate a particular percentage target.

The York Council has already, of course, made substantial progress in reducing energy consumption as result of the erection of new buildings such as the Eco Depot, the modernisation of facilities such as the Yearsley pool and looks forward to further progress as energy efficient buildings, such as the new High School, are opened over the next few months.”

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

“Would the Executive Member inform Council what action is being taken to re-invigorate the stalled Carbon Management Programme and what steps are being taken to properly resource the need for data analysis to inform the implementation of the programme?”

Reply:

“The Carbon Management programme has not stalled. A report on progress will be made to the Executive in the new year.

One of the sustainability officer posts is currently vacant. It is anticipated that, now that the Pay and Grading review has been completed, it will be possible to fill this vacancy.”

(iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“As part of the Access York Phase 2 (ring road improvements) bid, the objectives of 'reducing congestion in the city centre'...'reallocation of roadspace to buses cyclists and pedestrians' and 'manage the demand using parking charges and possibly access restraint over the city centre bridges' have been stated. If the funding bid is successful, what is the timescale for taking these objectives forward and how will you ensure they are achieved as part of any increased capacity on the outer ring road?”

Reply:

“The Access 2 bid is still in its early stages. It has yet to be considered by the Regional Transport Board. As and when approval has been obtained it will be possible to move ahead, not only with the substantial

design works required for a civil engineering project of this scale, but also to begin to put together an implementation strategy and timetable.

It has to be recognised that the RTB budget is likely to be oversubscribed by a factor of 10 times and that obtaining approval of the £42 million bid will remain the top priority of the Councils transport resources for some time into the future.”

(v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:

“Would the Executive Member for City Strategy comment on how York’s LTP2 performance compares with that of similar local authorities elsewhere?”

Reply:

“Unfortunately it is not possible at this stage to provide detailed information as other authorities are at the same stage as York in providing their LPT2 update to central government. More information may be available in the spring.

From a quick comparison with 5 other authorities that do have some data that they were able to share with us, it does seem that York compares well in terms of performance particularly in respect of trends in walking, bus usage, park and ride, cycling, accidents and air quality. In these areas York is doing at least as well as its contemporary authorities.

The only area where our progress is less substantial seems to be in persuading people not to drive their children to school.”

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

“What progress has been made with the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Policy?”

Reply:

“I am delighted to report that the Sustainable Procurement Policy was approved in June 2008 along with the use of the Procura+ manual as a pilot guide for officers involved in procurement activity.

Since June the Procura+ guidance has been piloted in some contracts and a report will be taken to Executive in the New Year to report on progress and recommend the adoption of the Procura+ manual across the organisation as a whole.

In addition to this over one hundred officers received Sustainable Procurement training as part of the October 2008 training events. The evaluation models have also been reviewed to better include Whole Life Costing and this supplementary guidance was issued in June 2008.

A more formal relationship with the Procura+ organisation has been recently established and they are wishing to discuss other pilots including the use of LED lighting, etc. The sustainable aspects of procurement in terms of supplier relationships and the FMS project are also being investigated.”

- (vii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Horton:

“Given the numerous occasions in the past when Absolute Leisure have promised to commence works at the Barbican, what assurances can the Executive Member give that this current offer is not another ‘empty promise’; and if a start is not made in January 2009 as promised, what action would the Executive Member propose to take?”

Reply:

“I spoke to Absolute Leisure on the 26th November, a building contractor is being appointed and the contract is being signed in the near future. I am therefore cautiously optimistic

- (viii) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Horton:

“Given that grant aided refurbishment works to the property at 17, Almsford Road should have been substantially completed by the end of March 2008, when does the Executive Member anticipate occupation to be taken up, noting that little action appears to have taken place at the property in the last two months?”

Reply:

“I am told that there is still outstanding work to be done at this property, mainly around the garden but that the property should be available for letting within the next couple of weeks.”

- (ix) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Sunderland:

“Would the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services comment on the Council's performance at the Great North Care Awards?”

Reply:

“I am pleased to say that the 22 members of the Council's Home Support Team won the Domiciliary Care Team Award. In addition a further 4 staff members were runners up in other categories. All had been nominated by their peers for outstanding service including one staff member who had prevented the death of an elderly lady by family members.

It was also pleasing and reassuring to see that so many of our partners who help us deliver services were also honoured.

The number of people working in the care industry is now second to the number of those working in the tourist industry and is set to grow.”

48. ALLOCATION OF LOCAL CHOICE FUNCTION – APPROVAL OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

It was agreed that this item be withdrawn from the agenda to enable further consultation to take place with Group Leaders.

49. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies had been made available for Members to view on the Council’s website:

- Association of North Yorkshire Councils – meeting on 16/10/08
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 10/9/08
- Policy Authority – meeting on 29/9/08
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 11/9/08 (*draft minutes*)
- Regional Transport Forum – meeting on 19/9/08
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 13/10/08
- Without Walls Partnership – meetings on 3/7/08, 21/7/08 and 18/9/08
- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – meeting on 2/10/08
- York NHS Foundation Trust – meetings on 23/4/08, 23/6/08 and 9/7/08

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

50. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to and changes to membership of committees, working groups and outside bodies, as set out on the revised list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as Annex 1 to these minutes), be approved.

Councillor Brian Watson
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.00 pm]

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies**Committees / Council bodies**Housing and Adult Social Services Advisory Panel

To appoint Cllr Hyman, in place of Cllr Sunderland

City Strategy Advisory Panel

To appoint Cllr Sunderland, in place of Cllr Hyman

To appoint Cllr Firth as 2nd Lib Dem substitute, in place of Cllr Sunderland

Young People's Working Group

To appoint Cllr Funnell, in place of Cllr Blanchard

Scrutiny Management Committee

To appoint Cllr Pierce as Vice Chair, in place of Cllr Blanchard

To remove Cllr Blanchard from the Committee

Education Scrutiny Committee

To remove Cllr Blanchard from the Committee

Planning Committee

To appoint Cllr Bowgett as 3rd Labour substitute, in place of Cllr Blanchard

East Area Planning Sub Committee

To appoint Cllr Bowgett as 3rd Labour substitute, in place of Cllr Blanchard

School Admissions Appeals Panellists

To appoint Mike Withers as a new panellist

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