

1 There have been 3 meetings of the Executive since the last meeting of the Council.

2 **1 Second Performance and Financial Monitor 2007/08**

3 Our overall objective has always been to ensure the prosperity of the City and its residents. I am
4 pleased to report that we continue to see substantial investment in the City, unemployment levels
5 continue at historically very low levels, sectors such as confectionary and retailing report buoyant
6 trading levels and lower quartile earnings continue to rise faster than the upper quartile – reducing
7 the inequality gap.

8 We continue to see, at least, a steady improvement in Council service quality.

9 In some areas such as **crime reduction**, the York Pride **clean streets** initiative and **increased**
10 **recycling** rates, achievements have been spectacular and rank amongst the best in the country.

11 The Councils “**use of resources**” assessment issued by the Audit Commission has improved from
12 a score of **2 to a 3 (performing well)**. We anticipate a better “ability to improve” direction of travel
13 statement.

14 This is being achieved with the lowest expenditure per head of population of any unitary Council in
15 the country.

16 Mainly because of one-off reductions in expenditure the projected budget out-turn is an
17 underspend of around £2.9m.

18 Within the one-off reductions, £1.4m has clearly been identified as slippage due to project delays
19 where the resources will be needed in 2008/09, including £261k on the replacement FMS project,
20 both within finance and in ITT, and £986k on easy@york.

21 A further £1.8m has arisen due to the improved position on interest rates and the ability to defer
22 borrowing, and £0.6m on other central budgets. The budgets for the latter two have been re-based
23 and the reduced need has been built in the budget proposals for 2008/09.

24 Without these items the forecast would have been an overspend of £934k.

25 A 1% of budget overspend at this time of year would be fairly typical of previous years and we
26 would have anticipated out turning on or better than budget. As it is, our year end balances, and
27 hence flexibility to meet new challenges, will be better than anticipated.

28 **2 Capital Programme – Monitor 2**

29 The main highlights of this report were:

- 30 • The £3.7m Moor Lane roundabout scheme which will ease safety issues on the ring
31 road and is on target for completion by February 2008;
- 32 • The reopening of Yearsley swimming pool following the £1m repairs and refurbishment
33 programme;

- 34 • Inclusion of a £0.7m scheme to provide a multi use games area for Derwent Infant and
35 Junior schools;
- 36 • The completion of the £2.8m Skills Centre which has now opened and will provide
37 opportunities to improve vocational training for some of the most disadvantaged
38 secondary school aged children in the city;
- 39 • The rapid progression of the £27m replacement of Joseph Rowntree school, which is
40 now due to start on site in June 2008;
- 41 • Progression of the designs for the new £6m pool on the York High site;
- 42 • The £0.7m Explore@Acomb Library Learning Centre project is on target for completion
43 for February 2008;
- 44 • The start on site of the £1.7m Fishergate homeless hostel as part of the Administrative
45 Accommodation land assembly programme;
- 46 • The £12.2m York High scheme has started and is on target for completion in November
47 2008;
- 48 • The design of the new £29.7m offices at Hungate is progressing well with a planning
49 application due to be submitted by Easter with a start on site in summer 2008.

50 In year capital receipts, are forecast to be down against the target by £3.3m, although this is mainly
51 because of timing issues with the majority of the slippage expected early in 2008/09. The impact of
52 these delays is reduced by there being corresponding slippage, since the start of the year on
53 capital receipt funded schemes of £2.6m. The Council has £5.4m of capital receipt funding carried
54 forward from the £27m raised in 2006/07. Therefore, despite the small anticipated delay in receipts
55 the Council remains in a stable capital funding position.

56 **3 Affordable Housing Policy Review**

57 The Executive received a comprehensive report which outlines the current position. What is clear
58 is that York has a very good record and reputation for delivering affordable homes and, unlike most
59 other Local Authorities, we have done this without public subsidy. It is thanks to our very
60 experienced and skilled Officers that this has been achieved and they continue to negotiate a high
61 level of affordable housing

62 The main issue for current debate appears to be the 50% affordable housing policy target. What
63 needs to be remembered is that whenever there has been a change in the percentage target there
64 has always been an initial dip and forecasts for 2008/9 and 09/10 project a healthy increase as
65 recently granted planning permissions are implemented. Other Authorities show similar patterns
66 but many are now delivering high levels of affordable homes.

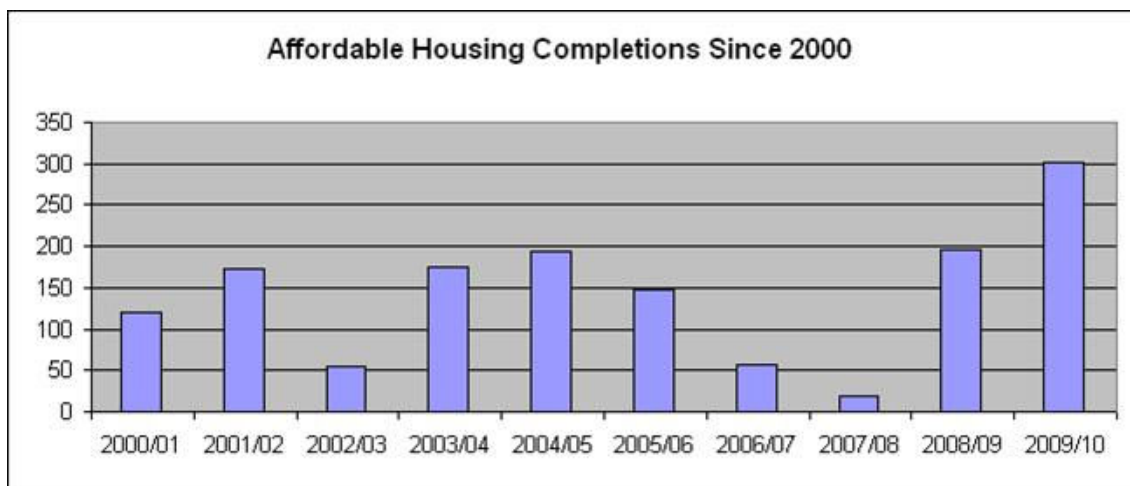
67 The 50% is, of course, a target and is subject to rigorous examination of the viability of the site and
68 the effect of any abnormal development costs. The Regional Spatial Strategy supports “over 40%”
69 affordable housing in “areas of high need” and the report made it quite clear that York is such an
70 area.

71 The Council cannot solve this problem alone and solutions are needed that are outside the
 72 planning system. New build each year represents less than 1% of the city's total housing stock the
 73 impact that new build makes on the overall housing need is small.

74 The affordable housing policy will be revisited through the LDF process where developers will
 75 again have the opportunity to make representations. .

Affordable Housing Completions 2000/01 and Projected to 2009/10

Year	Completions	Comments
2000/01	121	
2001/02	173	
2002/03	54	
2003/04	175	
2004/05	195	
2005/06	148	
2006/07	56	
2007/08	19	Estimate
2008/09	197	Estimate
2009/10	302	Estimate



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 77 A meeting between interested parties, and to include developers and professional organisations, is
 78 being arranged.

4 City of York Council Response to the Secretary of State on the Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy

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 81 A great deal of hard work across the whole region went into developing the Regional Spatial
 82 Strategy and the recommendations of the Examination in Public (EIP) at least made sense even if

83 we didn't agree with them. The reasons for some of the proposed changes from the Secretary of
84 State are less clear.

85 **Green Belt.** The EIP panel report is that the Green Belt should endure "well beyond" the life of the
86 Regional Plan - 2026. As we are already working towards 2029 there is concern that being forced
87 to extend the time frame further, without the benefit of any evidence base, will lead to the prediction
88 of development needs being based on guesswork. Of course this might be behind the recent
89 revelation that developers have been looking at Greenfield land at Clifton Gate!

90 **Housing.** There has been an increase in possible brownfield sites since the draft RSS was
91 submitted. Because of this some increase in numbers could be accepted with reluctance with the
92 proviso that the EIP recommendation that the increase should not start until 2011 is included.
93 However, removing the use of brownfield windfall sites when calculating site provision seems
94 perverse. York has provided a large amount of housing provision over the last 10 years on just
95 such sites. We also need substantial help with infrastructure costs if we are to deliver increased
96 development targets on brownfield sites.

97 **Economy.** The amazing proposal that we can deliver 2132 extra jobs each year is nearly twice as
98 much (1060) as our modelling work has shown is achievable. These figures are not realistic,
99 include elements of double counting and appear not to be based on any evidence.

100 **Transport.** The Proposed Changes clearly show which way Government policy is moving. No
101 longer are they supporting a national road pricing policy (para 36) but instead they plan to shift the
102 unpopular decisions for congestion charging on to Local Government (para 38) under the guise of
103 "demand management". If Local Authorities refuse to implement such schemes, which the
104 Government will maintain will raise revenue; it is possible that Local Transport Plan money will be
105 cut.

106 **Energy.** The removal of the requirement for 10% of energy on new development to be from on-
107 site Renewable Energy sources was debated at Council and a motion objecting to this change
108 approved. At the recent RPF the whole of the region was bemused by this change and it was felt
109 that it sent out completely the wrong message on our commitment to the environment.

110 **5 Other issues**

111 Other reports considered by the Executive included:

- 112 • Progress to date on a partnership to improve the Council's **internal transport**
113 **provision**, improve service quality and make significant efficiency savings.
- 114 • Report of the **Future York Group** - the Executive received an update report on the
115 implementation of the Future York representations. In the main the Executive was
116 able to support the proposals and noted with thanks the considerable progress that
117 had been made on implementation by members and officers of the Council.

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- Reducing the **Maintenance Backlog** - a proposed strategy for using the limited revenue and capital resources available to deal with the repair and maintenance backlog of the Council's corporate land, buildings and highways, by basing decisions on future investment on the need and viability of the asset.
 - The Chief Officer Search and **Selection Contract** - this report asked the Executive to decide on the award of the corporate contract for the search and selection of Chief Officers, following a full tendering process.
 - An update on the **Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan** towards a Climate Change Strategy for the City
 - **Carbon Management, Energy and Sustainability Funding Mechanism** - this report outlined the inter-relationships between: managing targets for carbon emissions; energy and water consumption and conservation; sustainability in design and construction, and suggested a funding mechanism for investment in all three of these areas.
 - Future Working Arrangements for the **City Centre Partnership** - this report set out options and proposed actions for sustaining the activities of the City Centre Partnership, following the decision not to proceed with the establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) at the present time.
 - Service Level Agreement between City of York Council and the new **Single Tourism Organisation** for York - this report sought Member approval for the terms of a Service Level Agreement between the City of York Council and the new Single Tourism Organisation (working title: 'Visit York'), setting out the Council's priorities for action and committing resources to the new company.
 - **Post Office Closures** - this report related to a Notice of Motion approved at full Council on 29 November 2007. The Executive agreed a response to the consultation which was lodged on 16th January
 - A new Approach to **City Management** (Review Report): - This report set out progress on the new approach to city management, as requested by Group Leaders, involving extended public consultation arrangements, improved communications with residents, development of devolved decision making arrangements for local communities and capacity building for the voluntary sector.
 - **Easy@York** Options for Phase 2 - This report presented options for a second phase of the easy@york programme, which will extend the reach of the current York Customer Centre (YCC), and set out a revised analysis of the benefits and savings of the first phase.

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- **Intelligent Transport Systems** (ITS) Strategy (listed on Forward Plan as 'Real Time Travel Communications Strategy') - This report set out the current position of the Council's ITS Strategy, which utilises the Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) and Bus Location and Information Sub-System (BLISS) and sought approval to adopt principles to ensure consistent use of the Variable Message Signs and an ITS Vision to form the basis for developing York's Intelligent Transport Systems.
 - Traffic Management Act 2004: Implications for **Parking** - This report advised Members of the implications for parking services of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and asked them to decide on the level of the penalties that the Council will charge following implementation of Part 6, on 31 March 2008.

163 Arising out of the minutes of the Economic Development Partnership Board, officers are discussing
164 with the voluntary sector, and other partners, options for a pilot project aimed at **reducing social**
165 **exclusion** in the worst rated *Lower Level Super Output Area* as revealed by the Index of Multiple
166 Deprivation 2007.

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Steve Galloway
16th January 2008