

There have been 5 Executive meetings since the last Council meeting in April. A further meeting is scheduled to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Report by Leader for June 2006 Council meeting**

---

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