

1 There have been 4 meetings of the Executive since the last meeting of the Council.

2 **1 First Performance and Financial Monitor - 2007/08**

3 Residents will be pleased to note that the **Council is on target to outturn at budget level.**
4 Usually at this stage in the year there are emerging pressures which need to be addressed
5 but most Directorates are managing their budgets well this year and our thanks go to officers
6 for their hard work.

7 We are well on the way to achieving a major income boost for the City by meeting a
8 challenging set of targets for LPSA2

9 The Executive continues to judge success mainly on objective measures of public service
10 quality, speed and value for money.

11 **Customer satisfaction** is a high priority for the Council.

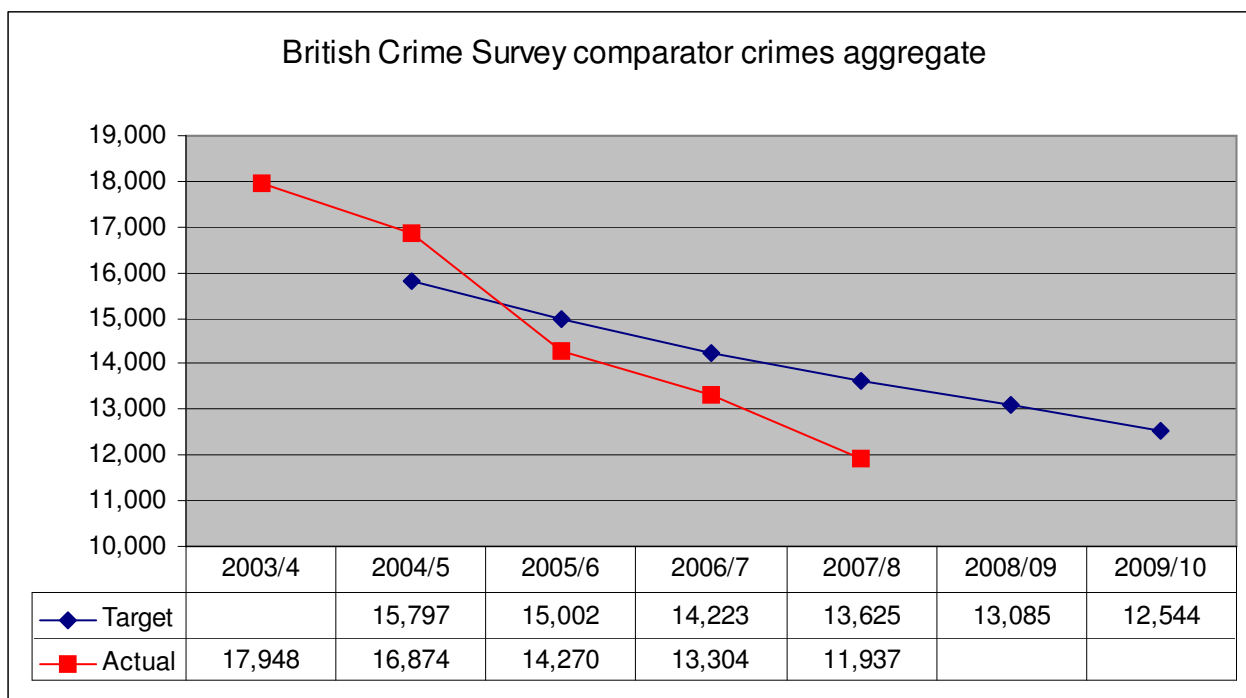
12 With the **lowest Council Tax level in the region** it is not always easy to give public service
13 priorities the resources that they need to meet increased demands but the performance
14 reports demonstrated the continuing success that we are having.

15 In particular -even based on central governments somewhat arbitrary series of performance
16 indicators – the basket of measures presented to the Executive indicated a **generally stable**
17 **position.**

18 Executive members had previously noted the **additional business rates** income won
19 through the law courts and which is worth over £500k to the City this year. In recognition of
20 the contribution made by business in the City, and taking into account that it was not
21 possible to make any budget allocation for erecting the **cross street Christmas lights** in
22 this years budget, an allocation of £20,000 from this rebate was directed into the lighting
23 activity. This action has the support of local City centre traders and the City Centre
24 Partnership.

25 There have been some very significant improvements in public service standards over the
26 last year. Outstanding amongst them has been the improvement in the Safe City indicators.

27 **Our target for 2007/08 was 13,600 crimes or less. Current forecasts predict that we will**
28 **end up with around 11,900 crimes. If achieved, this would represent a 35% reduction**
29 **over the period which started with nearly 18,000 crimes in 2004/05.**



30

31 There are two areas of concern.

32 The first relates to City Strategy where much of the forecast £1.2 million overspend is
 33 accounted for by the **failure of central government to fully fund the costs of the “free”**
 34 **pensioners bus pass**. Representations have already been made to the Minister and the
 35 Executive added its voice to the calls for fair treatment for local government on this issue.

36 Adult Social Services, while generally achieving improved budgetary control, are still
 37 forecasting a deficit. This is a consequence of a continuing increase in demand for services
 38 for the elderly and those with disabilities.

39 **2 Capital Programme - Monitor One**

40 This years capital programme is the largest ever attempted by the Council, £52 million
 41 represents a major investment in public services and buildings in the City.

42 The monitor indicated good progress on the schemes with any change in capital receipt
 43 levels being offset by programme slippage.

44 The main highlights of the report were:

- 45 • The completion of the £5.5m **Huntington Secondary School** extension incorporating
 46 performing arts block;
- 47 • The confirmation of funding for the £27m replacement of **Joseph Rowntree** Secondary;
- 48 • A successful transition of pupils at **York High** from the Oakland's site to Lowfield to allow
 49 commencement of the new £12.2m York High School;
- 50 • The £2.8m **Danesgate Skills Centre** is almost complete.

- 51 • Work is progressing well on the £3.5m **Moor Lane Roundabout** which is on target to be
- 52 completed by the end of the financial year;
- 53 • £0.3m of Road Safety improvements on the **A166 Murton Lane** junction have been
- 54 completed;
- 55 • The £2.7m annual **resurfacing** programme is progressing well with the majority of work
- 56 expected to be completed by December;
- 57 • The £0.9m refurbishment of **Yearsley Swimming Pool** has started and is on target for
- 58 reopening in October;
- 59 • The replacement of 160 heating systems to **modernise local authority homes**;
- 60 • The £0.7m **Explore@Acomb** Library Learning Centre project is on target for completion for
- 61 February 2008.

62 **3 Waste Management Strategy 2007/2008 - 2013/2014**

63 The Executive considered what actions needed to be taken during the period from 2007/2008 to
 64 2013/2014 to help meet challenges relating to waste management, prior to the Waste Private
 65 Finance Initiative (PFI) contract becoming operational. Members considered a range of
 66 recommendations and initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of the Council incurring fines through
 67 the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

68 The Council has been successful in significantly reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill
 69 over the last four years. This has been essential in meeting our government set targets for landfill,
 70 and reducing the impact of Landfill Tax and LATS penalties.

71 However, looking further ahead, the Council is facing even tougher targets to reduce landfill, and
 72 the requirement to collect two or more recyclable materials from virtually all properties by 2010. At
 73 the same time the Council is facing significant budget pressures, coupled with a very low per capita
 74 grant for public services.

75 Significant progress has been made during recent years, especially with the roll out of alternate
 76 weekly collections. Below is a table contrasting the predicted penalties from LATS with the current
 77 figures versus the EMAP figures from 9th November 2005.

LATS penalties		
	Oct-07	Nov-05
2008/09		1,144.5000
2009/10	1,065.0000	2,622.0000
2010/11	1,911.0000	3,471.0000
2011/12	2,757.0000	4,320.0000
2012/13	3,604.0000	5,170.5000
2013/014	3,903.0000	5,472.0000
	13,240.0000	22,200.0000

78 There will be further pressures on recycling figures;

- 79 • Increases in the number of households – new build since the date at which the
80 targets were set will bring additional waste
- 81 • Increasing affluence resulting increased consumption and increasing levels of
82 waste presented per household

83 The Executive agreed to commence the roll out of **additional recycling facilities by instituting a**
84 **pilot** scheme in The Groves area.

85 The Executive also considered a report on the process to allow the disposal project to be
86 progressed following the allocation of the **PFI credits**.

87 If we wish to proceed with the project it is necessary to have in place an Inter-Authority agreement
88 to protect the Councils position as the project proceeds. The report noted that we are now in the
89 procurement phase and that the prospective bidders will begin to incur costs. The agreement will
90 set the parameters of the responsibilities of the 2 authorities as the project progresses.

91 **4 Review of Parking Services**

92 A review report was considered which summarised the outcome of a review of parking services,
93 outlined the results of an in depth review of the enforcement, administration and management of
94 parking services and recommended opportunities for improvements. It included consideration of
95 and recommendations on a number of parking issues from the Policy Prospectus.

96 This is partly a **review report** and partly a forward programme item which looks at how car parking
97 arrangements are administered in York.

98 **Most car parking charges have reduced** in relative terms in the City over the last 4 years (see
99 table).

100 **Actual car park charges that have applied since 1999.**

	99/00	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	4 year %	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	4 year %	
a) Visitor												
Short Stay - Castle	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60	78%	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	25%
Short Stay - Other	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	1.50	88%	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	33%
Standard Stay	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.30	86%	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	0%
On Street		0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	86%	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	8%
Foss Bank	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.20	71%	1.20	0.70	0.70	0.70	-42%
Evening (14 hours)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
b) Resident												
Short Stay - Castle	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.10	1.30	63%	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	31%
Short Stay - Other	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.20	71%	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	42%
Standard Stay	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.90	0.90	1.00	67%	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0%
On Street		0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	86%	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	8%
Foss Bank	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.90	0.90	0.90	50%	0.90	0.70	0.70	0.70	-22%
Evening (14 hours)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	

101 In ResPark areas low emission & short vehicles enjoy a 50% discount on permit costs.

102 The Executive recognised that at the moment it is not practical to give low emission vehicle drivers
103 a discount on a "casual use" basis and that financial constraints limited the opportunities to
104 introduce "pay on exit".

105 Although some commentators had claimed that ResPark charges were relatively high, these reflect
106 the enforcement costs. In many other Cities there is no routine enforcement of these restrictions.

107 Parking income remains buoyant and the number of penalty notices issued is falling.

108 If York lost any of its car parking income it would mean higher Council Tax levels or major cuts in
109 public service standards.

110 Any incentive for more vehicles to drive into the centre of York would result in more traffic
111 congestion, and increased air quality problems, in the City.

112 The Executive recognised that there are issues to be addressed within the parking team. Sickness
113 levels and inflexible working practices were both matters of concern. However the Executive would
114 be loath to put the service out to the private sector as we see the wardens having an
115 ambassadorial role in the City, while private security firms often have a negative image.

116 The Executive agreed to support a marketing programme aimed at encouraging more people to
117 pay by phone.

118 An annual parking report will be presented in the future.

119 **5 Review of the Leisure Facilities Strategy (Swimming)**

120 This **review report** set out the background to the development of the Council’s leisure facilities
121 strategy, an update on schemes already approved, strategic issues and choices now facing the
122 Council, and options for an updated leisure facilities strategy.

123 This was a significant “review report”. The proposal was referred to the SPP and fully debated in
124 an all party forum.

125 Attempts to modernise swimming facilities in the City have been dogged for over 7 years with
126 conflicting views about what was practical and affordable for our City.

127 As the report made clear, there has been a growth in the amount of recreational “pool” space
128 constructed in the City over the last 15 – 20 years. As well as commercial facilities such as the
129 various health clubs which have become established in the City, many hotels and some schools
130 now have their own pools. This meant that usage of municipal pools, in the early part of the
131 decade, fell into decline.

132 Pools like the Barbican were sustained only with high levels of public subsidy.

133 With a pool tank and associated plant normally coming to the end of their service lives after 25
134 years operation, the municipal pools had, by 2000, reached a crisis point.

135 They were in poor and unreliable condition with falling usage figures.

136 One of the few areas of agreement at that time was that “doing nothing” was not an option. Drastic
137 action – after years of neglect – was required.

138 What happened next has been well chronicled but following the election result last May, 6 months
139 has been spent reviewing the options available.

140 It became increasingly clear that there is no alternative to the Heslington option if we were to
141 provide a competition standard pool in the City. While the provision of a swimming pool forms part
142 of the outline planning permission for the extension of the Heslington campus, without direct
143 Council partnership involvement in the project, we would have no influence on the detailed design,
144 charging, opening hours or resident preferential terms that might be available.

145 Critically we would have much less influence over when, within the campus building programme,
146 the pool was scheduled.

147 We would potentially be in competition with the Heslington pool if we provided another pool
148 elsewhere in the City centre and, with much of the Barbican pool attendances known to have been
149 dependent on the University, we would face escalating running costs with potentially catastrophic
150 consequences for Council Taxpayers.

151 The Heslington option offers affordable capital and running costs for a facility which – with the
152 associated fitness and sports facilities – would be much more extensive than we could ever hope to
153 provide from purely Council funding sources.

154 While the search for alternative City Centre locations for a pool was an inevitable consequence of
155 having a balanced Council, it became rapidly very clear that there were no alternative locations
156 available at the present time. Hungate was too small and St Georges Field subject to flooding.
157 Adding in the need to sustain parking spaces to serve the City centre economy, a price tag of £15
158 million was the possible cost of pursuing the St Georges Field option.

159 It would have been unlikely, in any event, to have gained planning consent as the Environment
160 Agency would have objected because of the effects that any flood barriers on the site would have
161 had on upstream residential areas.

162 The position now is that we have finished the refurbishment of the Yearsley Pool which has
163 reopened to general acclaim.

164 The new replacement for the Edmund Wilson pool was stalled in the planning process but has now
165 received the "go ahead". The new pool at the York High school is an essential feature of what is a
166 coherent strategy to provide accessible sports and leisure facilities across the whole City.

167 The Heslington pool will satisfy the demand for competition standard facilities. It has excellent
168 public transport access and is only a relatively short distance from the Barbican site.

169 We are pleased to be able to work in partnership with the University to provide regional standard
170 sports facilities part of which will be a pool which will be of a far higher standard than anything that
171 the City of York has seen in its history.

172 Partnership means accepting joint responsibilities and sharing risks. The £2 million will unlock for
173 York residents this excellent new facility on terms similar to those available at municipal facilities
174 elsewhere in the City.

175 In making the decision to commit fully and finally to this project the Executive applied the following
176 conditions.

- 177 • The University/Council partnership adopting a project plan which will deliver the pool for
178 public use before the end of 2011
- 179 • Satisfactory arrangements being agreed regarding the location of, public opening hours and
180 access arrangements for, the pool
- 181 • Agreement on arrangements for York residents wishing to use the facility which must meet
182 the Councils requirements including a pricing structure which must be commensurate with
183 other Council owned pools (e.g. provide a discount for York Card holders and recognise the
184 special requirements of families, disabled groups etc.)
- 185 • Full details of the operating costs of the facility, and any Council liability related to such costs,
186 to be agreed in principle before contracts are signed and any capital payment made.

187 The provision of a "Community" pool in the City Centre area will remain an ambition of the Council,
188 and Council officers will actively seek partners to provide such a facility. Progress reports will be
189 made to Group Leaders meetings at not less than 6 monthly intervals

191 This report sought Executive approval for a proposed Sustainable Street Lighting Strategy, which
192 aimed at ensuring that the effects of street lighting are minimised in terms of the use of natural
193 resources for the supply of equipment and services, the use of energy to power the lights and the
194 light pollution produced.

195 Some misinformation had been published about the report which simply sought to position street
196 lighting options in a strategic context.

197 The Council has no plans to “switch off” street lighting or to reduce illumination levels in a way that
198 would compromise public safety.

199 However, technology is becoming available which will allow the Council to tailor lighting levels to
200 address particular issues. In some cases this will involve raising illumination levels in vulnerable
201 locations where crime, or fear of crime, is a concern.

202 “Smart” lighting columns, though, offer the option to reduce power consumption when, for example,
203 ambient light levels, produced by other sources, mean that street lighting offers no incremental
204 improvement.

205 It is the intention of the Executive to pursue a policy which ensures that appropriate and reliable
206 lighting levels are maintained and which also achieve public safety, environmental and economic
207 objectives.

208 **7 Park & Ride (P & R) Bus Contract**

209 The Executive considered the results of the tender process for the new P & R contract which took
210 into account a number of improvements that we felt would enhance the current service. It is
211 important that, in order to continue to increase passenger numbers we are able to offer an
212 attractive service which encourages people to leave their cars on the edge of the city. The
213 improvements that are suggested do allow the service to continue to provide an attractive option
214 and also support environmental improvements that will reduce emissions and have a positive
215 impact on air quality.

216 The officer recommendation was to accept First York as the preferred operator. Key features of the
217 new deal will include

- 218 • A £2.20 return fare
- 219 • Average peak time capacity 20% higher than specified
- 220 • Dedicated P & R brand vehicles – 32 against a current 26 plus extra on Saturdays
- 221 • Integrated ticketing giving discounted First week/day tickets for P & R users
- 222 • Dedicated manager plus supervisor at each site.

223 The new contract will give us a number of enhancements on the current service. These include:-

- 224 • A dedicated P & R manager covering all sites
- 225 • Customer care training for staff and regular customer satisfaction surveys

- 226 • Enhanced performance reporting and penalties for failure to achieve performance
227 standards
- 228 • The Council will receive additional revenue if P & R patronage increases above 5%
229 compared to first year of new contract.
- 230 • 2 extra Saturdays when additional capacity will be provided
- 231 • No change to stopping regime on Fulford Rd at the current time.

232 For additional cost the following enhancements were supported:-

- 233 • The Euro Enhanced Environmental Vehicles (EEV) will be used as soon as available –
234 the most stringent European emission standard available
- 235 • Supervision at the Designer Outlet site
- 236 • City Centre supervision trial
- 237 • Sunday opening extended to 09.30 to 18.00

238 **8 New Growth Points and Eco-towns - Leeds City Region Bid**

239 The Executive considered a report which outlined the key elements of the New Growth Points
240 (NGP's) and Eco-towns proposals set out in the recent Housing Green Paper, summarised the
241 proposal by the Leeds City Region to submit a bid to government by the end of October and sought
242 Members' views on whether York should sign up to this bid.

243 The Government's timing in announcing the growth points initiative, and the deadline for submission
244 of bids, is highly problematic for the Council.

245 We have until the end of December to respond to the government's proposed amendments to the
246 RSS. Yet if we accept the Growth Point opportunity – which had to be grasped before the end of
247 October - our scope for arguing, for lower house building figures in the early years of the RSS, will
248 be damaged.

249 The Executive was clear that the original RSS figures were the maximum additional homes that
250 could be accommodated in the City without jeopardising either the City setting or exacerbating our
251 transport issues.

252 Nevertheless the emergence of the Growth Point initiative potentially unlocks for the NW York and
253 York Central sites access to central government infrastructure funding which could well – at least
254 as far as York Central is concerned – make the difference between realising the potential of this
255 site and facing years of delay.

256 Other issues considered by the Executive included:

- 257 • City of York Local Development Framework - Adoption of the Statement of Community
258 Involvement
- 259 • Selection of a Preferred Discus Bungalows Re-development Partner
- 260 • National Service Planning Requirements for Environmental Health and Trading
261 Standards Services

- 262 • IT Development Plan 2008-09
- 263 • Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspection - Self Assessment
- 264 • York Racecourse - Application For Lease Extension And Amendments
- 265 • Review & Strategy for the Commercial Property Portfolio
- 266 • Corporate Risk Management Report 2007/08
- 267 • Competition Policy
- 268 • Community Management and Ownership of Council Property Assets &
- 269 • Monk Bar Garage - Future use of the site

270
271

Steve Galloway
20th November 2007