

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Council

To: All Members of City of York Council

Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, Coney Street, York, YO1 9QN

The Agenda for the above meeting was published **19 March 2025**. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

**14. Proposed Change to the Health and (Pages 3 - 12)
Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference**

Included is Annex 2 with tracked changes clearly visible, and a revised Annex A reflecting the membership of the Board as of November 2024.

Also attached is a full list of motions, amendments and recommendations to be put at the meeting.

This agenda supplement was published on **25 March 2025**.

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City of York Council Constitution
Article 18: York Health and Wellbeing Board

ARTICLE 18 - YORK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Terms of Reference

The York Health and Wellbeing Board is established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 as a statutory committee of the City of York Council (the Council). However, it will operate as a multi-agency board of equal partners.

It has a key strategic role in setting a vision to reduce health inequalities in the city; carrying out assessments of the health and wellbeing needs of the people of York and in developing strategies to meet those needs. It also has a role in encouraging health and social care providers to work together to meet those needs.

1. Name

- 1.1 The Board will be known as the York Health and Wellbeing Board ('the Board')

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Council has appointed a Health and Wellbeing Board. Although it operates as a form of Committee, the Health and Wellbeing Board is unusual in that some of the membership is set out in law (including, uniquely, certain Officers), the Leader has the power to nominate to some positions and some positions are reserved to post holders who are not councillors.
- 2.2 Board members will be required to represent their organisation with sufficient seniority and influence for decision making. A list of Board members is at annex A to these Terms of Reference

- 2.3 ~~The membership of the Board will be as per Annex A to this Terms of Reference~~

Commented [HF(1)]: repetition

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3. Legal Status

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Council and will adhere to the Constitutional requirements of the Council affecting committees unless alternative provision is made within these terms of reference or the law.

4. Disqualification from Membership

- 4.1 The following are disqualified from being a Board Member
- a. Any person who is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
 - b. Any person who has within five years before the day of being appointed or since their appointment been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of any offence and has had passed on them a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine.

5. Quorum

- 5.1 The quorum shall be 57 members including as a minimum a representative of the City of York Council and a representative of NHS the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board ~~Health and Care Partnership~~.

6. Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6.1 The Chair of the Board shall be the Leader of the Council or ~~their~~ his or her nominated representative. The Vice-Chair of the Board shall be the York NHS Place Director, York Health and Care Partnership. In the absence of both, a Chair will be nominated from amongst those present for that particular meeting.
- 6.2 The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be required to hold a named substitute delegate list for board representatives, including deputies for officer members on the Board.

Commented [HF(2)]: Are we talking about named substitutes?

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7. Frequency of Meetings

- 7.1 The Board shall ~~hold~~ schedule meetings at least four times a year.

Commented [HF3]: Does it only have to schedule them or must it actually meet?

8. Decision-making and voting:

- 8.1 The Board will operate on a consensus basis. Where consensus cannot be achieved the matter will be put to a vote. Decisions will be made by simple majority: the Chair will have the casting vote. All votes shall be taken by a show of hands unless decided otherwise by the Chair.

9. Delegation of Powers

- 9.1 The Board may establish sub committees, of no less than three members, Task and Finish Groups to discharge any function of the Board or to advise the Board in respect of its functions, as determined by the Board.
- 9.2 The production and maintenance of an up to date Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will be delegated to the Population Health Hub; as a minimum the board will receive an annual report on the JSNA but may also receive other reports from the Hub throughout the year if requested.
- 9.3 If the Council delegates any of its public health functions to the Board in accordance with section 196(2) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 then the Board may arrange for those functions to be discharged by an officer. Other functions of the Board may not be delegated to officers.

10. Functions of the Board

- i. To produce and maintain a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- ii. To produce and ensure the delivery of a Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- iii. To produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

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- iv. to review the extent to which the York Health and Care Partnership has contributed to the delivery of the Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - v. to provide an opinion to the York Health and Care Partnership on whether their Joint Forward Plan takes proper account of the Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - vi. To support joint planning and commissioning and encourage integrated working and pooled budget arrangements in relation to the provision of health, health related or social care services.
 - vii. To provide such assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purpose of encouraging the making of arrangements under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 between the Council and NHS bodies in relation to the exercise of NHS functions or health related functions of the Council.
 - viii. To oversee the strategic direction of the Better Care Fund and the delivery of better integrated care, as part of its statutory duty to encourage integrated working. This will include [approving signing off quarterly and the](#) annual Better Care Fund submissions
 - ix. To lead cultural and behavioural change to support a joint approach to meeting local need
 - x. To receive and approve any other plans or strategies that are required or permitted by law to be exercised by the Board
 - xi. To work alongside local and regional strategic partnership arrangements to ensure the coordination of city-wide ambitions, all of which impact on the health and wellbeing of residents
- 10.1 To periodically review the York Health and Wellbeing Board [Terms of Referenceconstitution](#).
- 10.2 When acting as a member of the Board members will be bound by the same codes of conduct as Councillors.

11. Roles and Responsibilities of Health and Wellbeing Board Members

All members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be expected to:

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- **Ensure** that when acting as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board they **adhere** to the same [code of conduct](#) as Councillors
- **Represent** and **speak** on behalf of their organisation or sector
- Be **accountable** to their organisation or sector when participating in the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Ensure their organisations/sector are kept informed of Health and Wellbeing Board business and that information from their organisation/sector is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- **Support** the agreed majority view when speaking on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board to other parties
- **Attend** Health and Wellbeing Board meetings and workshops or ensure a named deputy is briefed when attending on their behalf
- **Declare** any conflicts of interest should they arise
- **Read** agenda papers prior to meetings so that they are ready to contribute and discuss Health and Wellbeing Board business
- **Provide** updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board on matters discussed and actions arising from previous meetings
- **Work collaboratively** with other board members in pursuit of Health and Wellbeing Board business
- **Ensure** that the Health and Wellbeing Board adheres to its agreed terms of reference responsibilities
- **Listen** and respect the views of fellow board members

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- **Be willing** to take on special tasks or attend additional meetings or functions to represent the Health and Wellbeing Board

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YORK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND PROPOSED CHANGES

NO.	REPRESENTATIVE/ORGANISATION	STATUTORY?	APPOINTED/NOMINATED BY	COMMENTS/PROPOSED CHANGE
Councillors				
1	Councillor Lucy Steels-Walshaw, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care	Yes	Leader's nominee	No change
2	Councillor Robert Webb, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People & Education	No	Council	
3	Councillor Carol Runciman, Opposition Political Group Representative	No	Council	
4	Councillor Ashley Mason, Opposition Political Group Representative	No	Council	
Local Authority Officers				
5	Peter Roderick, Director of Public Health	Yes	N/A	No change
6	Sara Storey, Corporate Director Adults & Integration, City of York Council	Yes	N/A	No change
7	Martin Kelly, Corporate Director, Children's & Education, City of York Council	Yes	N/A	No change
8	TBC, a representative of Economy & Place, City of York Council	No	CYC	To ensure delivery of the Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy it is proposed that a representative from CYC covering economy & place (including housing) is added to the board membership.
York Health and Care Partnership				

YORK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND PROPOSED CHANGES

NO.	REPRESENTATIVE/ORGANISATION	STATUTORY?	APPOINTED/NOMINATED BY	COMMENTS/PROPOSED CHANGE
9	Sarah Coltman-Lovell, York NHS Place Director, York Health and Care Partnership	Yes	York Health and Care Partnership	No change
Other				
10	Siân Balsom, Manager of Healthwatch York	Yes	Healthwatch York	No change
11	Alison Semmence, the Chief Executive of York CVS	No	York CVS	No change
12	Dr Emma Broughton, GP & Joint Chair of the York Health and Care Collaborative	No	Primary Care	No change
13	Simon Morritt, Chief Executive of York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No change
14	Zoe Campbell, Managing Director, North Yorkshire & Selby, Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)	No	TEWV	No change
15	Mike Padgham, the Chair of the Independent Care Group (ICG)	No	ICG	No change
16	Shaun Jones Interim Locality Director, NHS England (NE and Yorkshire)	Yes	NHS England	No change – Statutory appointee <i>[please note that this is likely to change as functions transfer between NHSE & ICB – however legislation still requires that HWBB has a representative from NHSE]</i>
17	Tim Forber, Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police	No	North Yorkshire Police	No change
18	TBC, A representative of North Yorkshire Fire Service	No	North Yorkshire Fire Service	To ensure delivery of the Local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy it is proposed that a representative from the Fire

YORK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND PROPOSED CHANGES

NO.	REPRESENTATIVE/ORGANISATION	STATUTORY?	APPOINTED/NOMINATED BY	COMMENTS/PROPOSED CHANGE
				Service is added to the board membership

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Council – 27 March 2025**Motions, Amendments and Recommendations****Agenda Item 9 - Recommendations of the Executive: Review of the City of York Council Scrutiny Function****Executive 11 March 2025**

(Minute 89: Review of the City of York Council Scrutiny Function)

Recommended:

- i. That Council endorse the proposed actions as set out in Annex B in respect of Scrutiny Review Report recommendations 1-2, 4-7 and 9-12, noting that a cross-party working group will be established to lead on and oversee the work;
- ii. To recommend that, in respect of recommendation 8 of the Scrutiny Review Report, Full Council resolves to implement a revised Scrutiny structure, comprising an overarching Scrutiny Committee (including calling in functions) with nine seats, a Place Committee with nine seats, and a People Committee (to include Housing) with nine seats. These changes to take effect at the 2025 Annual General Meeting and will be reviewed in 12 months;
- iii. To recommend to Council that Recommendation 3 of the Scrutiny Review Report is not adopted.

Reason: To seek Full Council's approval for changes to how Scrutiny operates at the Council.

Agenda Item 11 - Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee: Polling District and Polling Place Review**Audit And Governance Committee, 17 March 2025**

(Minute 68: Polling District and Polling Place Review)

Recommended:

- i. That Council agree the final recommendations to the polling places and districts as set out in Annex 1 of this report until

- the next statutory review, or until it is superseded by any subsequent review of any polling place or district;
- ii. That Council agree to publish the revised electoral register on 1 May 2025. (Where the ERO has decided to revise their register by republishing it to incorporate the changes, the law requires that they publish a notice 14 calendar days before the publication of the revised version of the register in a local newspaper, at their office and at some other conspicuous place or places in the area);
 - iii. That Council agree to delegate to the Chief Operating Officer, in their capacity as the Council's Returning Officer, the power to make urgent changes to the polling scheme during a statutory election period, where time does not permit a report to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee. Where such urgent changes are proposed, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee will be consulted, along with the relevant ward councillors. This will ensure that polling arrangements in the City remain fit for purpose for each election called.

Reason: To comply with statutory requirements and to give better flexibility with making decisions regarding polling places between statutory reviews.

Agenda Item 12 - Recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee: Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Assessment and Statement of Licensing Policy

Licensing And Regulatory Committee, 5 March 2025

(Minute 87: Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Assessment and Statement of Licensing Policy)

Recommended: That it be recommended to Council that the draft Policy and/or CIA is amended with alternative wording agreed by members.

Reason: To meet the legislative requirements of the Licensing Act 2005.

Agenda Item 13 - Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25

Recommended: Council are recommended to publish this Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25.

Reason: To fulfil their duty under the Health and Care Act 2012, and to progress work on improving the health of young people in the city.

Agenda Item 14 - Proposed Change to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference

Recommended: Council is recommended to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reason: In order to update the terms of reference in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board's requirements.

Agenda Item 17 - Motions on Notice

Motions on Notice submitted under Council Procedure Rule B10:

i) From Cllr Whitcroft

Introduction of a Visitor Levy

“Council notes:

- that York attracts over 8 million visitors annually, significantly contributing to the local economy but placing additional strain on infrastructure, public services, and the local environment;
- that many cities, such as Venice and Amsterdam, successfully employ tourist levies to offset these impacts, without deterring visitors to the local economy;
- a visitor levy could provide additional revenue for maintaining public spaces, public transport, heritage conservation, waste management, sustainability projects, supporting the city's long-term goals and for promoting York;
- that recent budget consultations demonstrated strong public support for the introduction of a visitor levy in York, with around 90% of York residents who responded to the consultation in favour.

Council believes:

- it is great to live in a place that millions of people from all over the world want to come and spend time in;
- welcome though visitors are, a visitor levy would allow York to ensure visitors contribute fairly to the city's upkeep and to its sustainability, and to better manage the pressures that mass tourism brings;
- funds should be ring-fenced for projects and initiatives that enhance the visitor and resident experience, improve public services, provide better facilities and reduce the environmental impact of tourism;
- evidence from numerous cities shows a modest visitor levy would not deter tourists and is now an accepted contribution across Europe to the costs of maintaining and enhancing popular visitor destinations;
- the council should work to develop the case for a tourism visitor levy with its partners, including the hospitality, arts and culture sectors, as well as with business and residents' groups.

Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress:

- exploring the feasibility and practical mechanisms for introducing a visitor levy for overnight stays, including for short-term holidays lets, in consultation with local businesses, residents, and hospitality industry stakeholders;
- researching visitor levy models from other cities to determine the best approach for York, including an Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) option;
- lobbying central government to grant local authorities the necessary legal powers to implement a compulsory visitor levy;

in order to ensure York's tourism remains sustainable, benefiting residents and visitors alike."

Amendment from Cllr Warters:

"After 'Council notes' and after the fourth bullet point add a fifth bullet point with the following wording;

- In addition there is of course the long standing public support in York for an end to the Council Tax Educational Exemption that sees York, as a University City, disproportionately affected with a loss in Council Tax revenue now approaching £7 million a year.

After 'Council believes' and after the second bullet point insert a further bullet point to read;

- Reforming the Council Tax system to ensure students living in York also contribute fairly to the City's upkeep, its sustainability and to better manage the pressures that being a University City brings.

After 'Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress' and after the third bullet point add a fourth bullet point to say the following;

- Lobbying Central Government for a urgent review of Council Tax legislation with a request for removal of the Council Tax Educational Exemption in the interests of residents, visitors and students and the equitable treatment of all in being levied taxation to support the places they live or visit.

In the final sentence of the motion delete of the words 'York's tourism' and to add after the word 'ensure' the following;

'the maintenance of York is better funded and'."

For information, the effect of the amendment on the above motion, with changes highlighted in bold:

"Council notes:

- that York attracts over 8 million visitors annually, significantly contributing to the local economy but placing additional strain on infrastructure, public services, and the local environment;
- that many cities, such as Venice and Amsterdam, successfully employ tourist levies to offset these impacts, without deterring visitors to the local economy;
- a visitor levy could provide additional revenue for maintaining public spaces, public transport, heritage conservation, waste management, sustainability projects, supporting the city's long-term goals and for promoting York;

- that recent budget consultations demonstrated strong public support for the introduction of a visitor levy in York, with around 90% of York residents who responded to the consultation in favour.
- **In addition there is of course the long standing public support in York for an end to the Council Tax Educational Exemption that sees York, as a University City, disproportionately affected with a loss in Council Tax revenue now approaching £7 million a year.**

Council believes:

- it is great to live in a place that millions of people from all over the world want to come and spend time in;
- **Reforming the Council Tax system to ensure students living in York also contribute fairly to the City's upkeep, its sustainability and to better manage the pressures that being a University City brings.**
- welcome though visitors are, a visitor levy would allow York to ensure visitors contribute fairly to the city's upkeep and to its sustainability, and to better manage the pressures that mass tourism brings;
- funds should be ring-fenced for projects and initiatives that enhance the visitor and resident experience, improve public services, provide better facilities and reduce the environmental impact of tourism;
- evidence from numerous cities shows a modest visitor levy would not deter tourists and is now an accepted contribution across Europe to the costs of maintaining and enhancing popular visitor destinations;
- the council should work to develop the case for a tourism visitor levy with its partners, including the hospitality, arts and culture sectors, as well as with business and residents' groups.

Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress:

- exploring the feasibility and practical mechanisms for introducing a visitor levy for overnight stays, including for short-term holidays lets, in consultation with local businesses, residents, and hospitality industry stakeholders;

- researching visitor levy models from other cities to determine the best approach for York, including an Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) option;
- lobbying central government to grant local authorities the necessary legal powers to implement a compulsory visitor levy;
- **Lobbying Central Government for a urgent review of Council Tax legislation with a request for removal of the Council Tax Educational Exemption in the interests of residents, visitors and students and the equitable treatment of all in being levied taxation to support the places they live or visit.**

in order to ensure **the maintenance of York is better funded and** remains sustainable, benefiting residents and visitors alike.”

Amendment from Cllr Widdowson

“Under ‘Council resolves...’, after the third bullet point add two additional bullet points:

- ‘the introduction of a tourism levy – in voluntary or mandatory form - by May 2027 at the latest;
- the start of consulting the existing BID and Hospitality Association of York over the introduction of the tourism levy;”

For information, the effect of the amendment on the above motion, with changes highlighted in bold:

Introduction of a Visitor Levy

“Council notes:

- that York attracts over 8 million visitors annually, significantly contributing to the local economy but placing additional strain on infrastructure, public services, and the local environment;
- that many cities, such as Venice and Amsterdam, successfully employ tourist levies to offset these impacts, without deterring visitors to the local economy;
- a visitor levy could provide additional revenue for maintaining public spaces, public transport, heritage conservation, waste

management, sustainability projects, supporting the city's long-term goals and for promoting York;

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Council believes:

- it is great to live in a place that millions of people from all over the world want to come and spend time in;
- welcome though visitors are, a visitor levy would allow York to ensure visitors contribute fairly to the city's upkeep and to its sustainability, and to better manage the pressures that mass tourism brings;
- funds should be ring-fenced for projects and initiatives that enhance the visitor and resident experience, improve public services, provide better facilities and reduce the environmental impact of tourism;
- evidence from numerous cities shows a modest visitor levy would not deter tourists and is now an accepted contribution across Europe to the costs of maintaining and enhancing popular visitor destinations;
- the council should work to develop the case for a tourism visitor levy with its partners, including the hospitality, arts and culture sectors, as well as with business and residents' groups.

Council resolves to ask Executive to continue to progress:

- exploring the feasibility and practical mechanisms for introducing a visitor levy for overnight stays, including for short-term holidays lets, in consultation with local businesses, residents, and hospitality industry stakeholders;
- researching visitor levy models from other cities to determine the best approach for York, including an Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) option;
- lobbying central government to grant local authorities the necessary legal powers to implement a compulsory visitor levy;
- **the introduction of a tourism levy – in voluntary or mandatory form - by May 2027 at the latest;**

- **the start of consulting the existing BID and Hospitality Association of York over the introduction of the tourism levy;**

in order to ensure York's tourism remains sustainable, benefiting residents and visitors alike."

ii) From Cllr Fenton

Changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits

"Council notes that:

- The Government is bringing forward a Green Paper on changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits, including Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- PIP is a benefit not linked to work that is designed to help people with the additional unavoidable costs of their disablement
- Reports have suggested that the Government is considering freezing PIP payments in 2026 and tightening eligibility criteria, including for reassessments
- Many disabled people use PIP to cover the cost of getting to and from work, for paying for essential equipment and for meeting social care charges
- The Resolution Foundation has commented that "Freezing PIP next year will result in a real-terms income loss for around four million people, 70 per cent of whom are in low-to-middle income households"
- The York-based Joseph Rowntree Foundation has said that "If the Government cuts disability and long-term sickness benefits it will be unethical, short-sighted and can only deepen hardship."
- York Central MP Rachael Maskell has said that "it is right that the Chancellor has oversight over all those budgets but not at the expense of pushing disabled people into poverty."
- York Outer MP Luke Charters has signed a letter which states "As MPs, we understand that delivering this new social contract requires hard choices to be made. We welcome the work that has begun to rebuild our welfare system, and we are fully supportive of it."

- If reports of a £5bn cut to PIP turn out to be true, this would be greater than the cut that led former Conservative Work & Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith to resign from Government in 2016

Council believes that:

If the Government does decide to make significant cuts to PIP and other disability and long-term sickness benefits, there is likely to be a direct impact on City of York Council and its partners in a number of ways, such as:

- An increase in demand for council financial assistance through schemes such as the York Financial Assistance Schemes
- An increase in demand for the council's means-tested Disabled Facilities Grant
- Increased demand for advice and support from the council's Local Area Co-ordinators (with the team already carrying vacancies) and partners such as Citizens Advice York
- An increase in the number of disabled residents who may be unable to afford care charges, impacting on their ability to continue to live independently
- Those disabled people currently in receipt of the high rate mobility component of PIP whose awards are downgraded will lose entitlement to a Motability vehicle, which would impact significantly on social isolation and create further dependence

Council resolves:

- To request the relevant Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review via a Task and Finish Group, when detailed Government proposals on disability and long-term sickness benefits are known in order to identify likely impacts on the demand for support from the council and its local partners."

Amendment from Cllr J Burton

"Under 'Council notes that',

- at the second bullet point, delete 'their disablement' and add 'being disabled'.

- After the sixth bullet point, insert two additional bullet points to read:
 - ‘The fear that many disabled people feel around the impact of any cut to PIP
 - The need for careful language when discussing issues around welfare or disability so as not to unnecessarily demonise those in need or give any validation to those who wrongfully or maliciously characterise welfare recipients as scroungers or undeserving;’

Under ‘Council believes that’:

- before the first paragraph, insert three bullet points to read:
 - Reviewing welfare support to ensure all members of society are able to engage with society and live fulfilling lives is welcome;
 - Any review of welfare support should not be predicated on a pre-determined cost saving;
 - Support for disabled people has been severely impacted by years of austerity. Disabled people need better support, not a cut in income.
- at the third existing bullet point, delete ‘(with the team already carrying vacancies)’
- at the fifth existing bullet point, after the words ‘currently in receipt of the’, delete ‘high’ and insert ‘higher’; after the words ‘component of PIP’ add the words ‘,who have a Motobility vehicle and’; after the word ‘downgraded,’ delete ‘will’ and add ‘would’, and after the words ‘create further dependence’ add ‘and could stop them being able to get to and from work. (PIP is not an out of work benefit).’

Under ‘Council resolves’, before the first bullet point, add:

- ‘To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to express;
 - this Council’s strong belief that welfare reform must not be predicated on financial savings and in particular, cuts to PIP;
 - that as a Council we recognise the difficult financial situation the country faces and believe the correct way to address this is by tackling the enormous wealth inequalities that exist in our society, not by removing desperately needed support from those least able to bear the cost;
 - the severe impact of austerity on support services and the soaring levels of need;

- that following the social model of disability necessitates that National and Local Government work tirelessly to remove barriers – whether physical or financial – to ensure disabled people are able to live socially, emotionally and financially secure and fulfilling lives which puts them on an equal footing with non-disabled people;”

For information, the effect of the amendment on the above motion, with changes highlighted in bold:

“Council notes that:

- The Government is bringing forward a Green Paper on changes to disability and long-term sickness benefits, including Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- PIP is a benefit not linked to work that is designed to help people with the additional unavoidable costs of **being disabled;**
- Reports have suggested that the Government is considering freezing PIP payments in 2026 and tightening eligibility criteria, including for reassessments
- Many disabled people use PIP to cover the cost of getting to and from work, for paying for essential equipment and for meeting social care charges
- The Resolution Foundation has commented that “Freezing PIP next year will result in a real-terms income loss for around four million people, 70 per cent of whom are in low-to-middle income households”
- The York-based Joseph Rowntree Foundation has said that “If the Government cuts disability and long-term sickness benefits it will be unethical, short-sighted and can only deepen hardship.”
- **The fear that many disabled people feel around the impact of any cut to PIP**
- **The need for careful language when discussing issues around welfare or disability so as not to unnecessarily demonise those in need or give any validation to those who wrongfully or maliciously characterise welfare recipients as scroungers or undeserving;**
- York Central MP Rachael Maskell has said that “it is right that the Chancellor has oversight over all those budgets but not at the expense of pushing disabled people into poverty.”

- York Outer MP Luke Charters has signed a letter which states “As MPs, we understand that delivering this new social contract requires hard choices to be made. We welcome the work that has begun to rebuild our welfare system, and we are fully supportive of it.”
- If reports of a £5bn cut to PIP turn out to be true, this would be greater than the cut that led former Conservative Work & Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith to resign from Government in 2016

Council believes that:

- **Reviewing welfare support to ensure all members of society are able to engage with society and live fulfilling lives is welcome;**
- **Any review of welfare support should not be predicated on a pre-determined cost saving;**
- **Support for disabled people has been severely impacted by years of austerity. Disabled people need better support, not a cut in income.**

If the Government does decide to make significant cuts to PIP and other disability and long-term sickness benefits, there is likely to be a direct impact on City of York Council and its partners in a number of ways, such as:

- An increase in demand for council financial assistance through schemes such as the York Financial Assistance Schemes
- An increase in demand for the council's means-tested Disabled Facilities Grant
- Increased demand for advice and support from the council's Local Area Co-ordinators and partners such as Citizens Advice York
- An increase in the number of disabled residents who may be unable to afford care charges, impacting on their ability to continue to live independently
- Those disabled people currently in receipt of the **higher** rate mobility component of PIP, **who have a Motability vehicle and** whose awards are downgraded **would** lose entitlement to a Motability vehicle, which would impact significantly on social isolation and create further dependence **and could**

stop them being able to get to and from work. (PIP is not an out of work benefit).

Council resolves:

- **To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to express;**
 - **this Council's strong belief that welfare reform must not be predicated on financial savings and in particular, cuts to PIP;**
 - **that as a Council we recognise the difficult financial situation the country faces and believe the correct way to address this is by tackling the enormous wealth inequalities that exist in our society, not by removing desperately needed support from those least able to bear the cost;**
 - **the severe impact of austerity on support services and the soaring levels of need;**
 - **that following the social model of disability necessitates that National and Local Government work tirelessly to remove barriers – whether physical or financial – to ensure disabled people are able to live socially, emotionally and financially secure and fulfilling lives which puts them on an equal footing with non-disabled people;**
- **To request the relevant Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review via a Task and Finish Group, when detailed Government proposals on disability and long-term sickness benefits are known in order to identify likely impacts on the demand for support from the council and its local partners."**

iii) From Cllr Baxter

Working to tackle the growing epidemic of violence against women and girls (VAWG)

"Council notes:

- its approved 2021 VAWG motion and the worsening situation four years on;
- the Government's commitment to halve VAWG in the next decade but recognises that this bold ambition requires action from everyone;
- that VAWG is significantly underreported. North Yorkshire Police recorded 2000 domestic abuse incidents for York last year but estimates indicate more than 4000;
- that commissioned support services in York and North Yorkshire supported 14,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse in 2023/24;
- that children witnessing domestic abuse causes them significant harm;
- the physical and emotional cost of VAWG on survivors and their families, friends and communities is devastating and includes depression, PTSD, brain injuries, long-term pain, self-harm, miscarriage and other pregnancy complications;
- National Police Chiefs Council reported that between April 2022 to March 2023 more women died by suicide following domestic abuse than by being killed by a partner;
- research has drawn a link between misogynistic online content and unhealthy and negative attitudes to relationships;
- the York Schools Survey highlights around 15% of children disagree that hitting or kicking and sharing undressed or sexual photos of a person with someone else is always wrong in a relationship. Under half thought that telling a partner what to wear, checking where they are all the time and being jealous is always wrong;
- approval of York and North Yorkshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2024, the council's recent Domestic Abuse Resident and Tenant Policy and the council's commitment to work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.

Council believes:

- VAWG is an epidemic and responding to it is everyone's responsibility;
- sexism and misogyny, as some of the drivers of domestic abuse, must be addressed early through prevention work with children and young people;

- action is needed from councillors, the justice system, education and NHS partners and Combined Authorities to turn the tide on VAWG in our communities;
- that survivors in York should have the right to access specialist, trauma-informed support;
- specialist services are best placed to support survivors and likely to result in less need for additional service support in the future.

Council resolves:

- that City of York Council's (CYC) Domestic Abuse Awareness Day, which took place last December during 16 days of action to tackle VAWG, be repeated each year, with learning shared with CYC Human Resources and partner organisations encouraged to run similar events;
- to ask the Council Leader to write to other council leaders in our region to encourage them adopt a similar approach around awareness raising across services and about VAWG being everyone's responsibility;
- to work closely with survivors and local specialist and 'by and for' services to understand the impact of VAWG in York;
- building on existing good work at Vale of York Academy, to work through both the council and local Multi Academy Trust chains to ensure comprehensive education on healthy relationships and respect for women and girls is available in all schools across York;
- that the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities uses the new council reporting format to frequently update the public on steps being taken to reduce VAWG, and to hold the council and partners to account on these commitments."