

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Executive

To: Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious, Steels-Walshaw and Webb

Date: Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **Friday 23 May 2025**. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

4. **Public Participation** (Pages 3 - 6)

This agenda supplement includes two written representations regarding item 6 of the agenda the Housing Annual Report.

This agenda supplement was published on **30 May 2025**.

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Foxwood Residents Association on item 6. Housing Annual Report

Our Association has made previous representations about the need for more effective neighbourhood management of street-level public services. We hope that this report is a step towards addressing those issues that have been raised on previous occasions. We are aware that not all matters of concern related to HRA-funded services, but judgments are made by tenants on the quality of Council services provided across the whole neighbourhood.

A principal area of concern is the maintenance of public open spaces. While grass cutting so far this year has been improved, there are still multiple problems with weeds and hedges overgrowing and obstructing public footpaths.

People judge an area by what they see.

There are continuing issues with anti-social behaviour. We have had no response to a request for improved CCTV coverage in the area or for better lighting on local snickets. The Council also didn't spend any of its (already modest) estate improvement budget in the area last year.

It is fair to say that the Association has found it challenging to get the Council to respond to issues concerning safety, road repairs, footpath obstructions and more. There has, for example, been no strimming around street furniture which gives the area a neglected appearance.

Even requests for the garage blocks to be painted and signs cleaned were ignored

The housing department also ended its decades-old financial support for independent tenants' organisations like ours. Consultation on major issues like the timing of the modernisation programme has therefore been poor.

We now want to see significant investment to improve the appearance and safety of local estates. It has been over 30 years since we last saw a comprehensive environmental uplift programme in the area.

We want to see routine maintenance work on infrastructure such roads, footpaths, verges, signs, boundaries, hedges, weed growth, grass cutting, garage areas, snickets, car parking areas etc

The whole estate now looks neglected, and the Council needs to invest some of its £30 million HRA surplus in improvements to the environment in Council housing estates across the City.

Lowfield Action Group on item 6. Housing Annual Report

We note the widespread dissatisfaction with tenants over the Council's management of communal spaces. This reflects our own experience.

The situation in Lowfield has deteriorated in recent years as the Council's own "Lowfield Green" development has stalled. This has left promised improvements to local infrastructure in a state of limbo. No estate improvement money has been spent in Lowfield. The ward committee's road repair and car parking provision programmes seem to have been shelved.

It is impossible to learn from Council officials or Councillors any timescale for issues to be addressed, much less a date by which local building works will be concluded.

Council tenants are a part of the wider community and their perception of Council house management performance will be partly shaped by what they see as the authority's broader responsibilities. A change of approach and priorities is urgently required

Not only is "Lowfield Green" in a poor state of repair, but routine maintenance work on infrastructure (roads, footpaths, verges, signs, boundaries, hedges, weed growth, grass cutting, garage areas, snickets, car parking etc) on adjacent streets has virtually stopped.

The whole area is now beginning to look shoddy. The Council needs to proactively engage with local residents.

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