

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
SUMMONS**

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at **The Guildhall, Coney Street, York, YO1 9QN** to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 6.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 34)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 July 2024.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Tuesday, 17 September 2024.**

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at

www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our updates at www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy for more information on meetings and decisions.

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order B5. Notice has been received of one petition to be presented by:

- i) Cllr Myers, regarding Community Pharmacies.

6. Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (Pages 35 - 44)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader and ask questions on the work of the Executive, and to consider the Executive recommendations for approval, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	18 July 2024 https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=14499&Ver=4	Minute 14: Capital Programme Outturn
	12 September 2024 https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=14500	Capital Programme – Monitor 1 2024/25 <i>[to follow]</i>
	12 September 2024 https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=14500	Safer York Partnership Community Safety Strategy <i>[to follow]</i>

7. **Report of Deputy Leader and Questions** (Pages 45 - 46)
To receive and consider a written report from the Deputy Leader and, to question the Deputy Leader thereon.

8. **Motions on Notice**

To consider the following Motions on Notice under Standing Order B13:

Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 22.1

(i) From Cllr Whitcroft

[To follow]

(ii) From Cllr Ayre

York's Local Plan

“Council notes:

- The continued progress with agreeing a Local Plan for York to deliver much-needed new homes and land for employment
- The ongoing Government consultation on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and wider policy proposals
- That the current draft Local Plan is meeting a need of 822 dwellings per annum (net average) for the City of York and the new standard method proposed by the Government would set a revised figure of 1,251, compared to the current standard method figure of 1,020
- That the July 2020 letter from planning inspectors challenged the council for overdelivering on housing in the Local Plan
- That the council's independent evidence base said about the 822 dwellings per annum housing target in the Local Plan that “there would not be the level of household growth required to fill this number of homes.”
- That the 2024 Liberal Democrat General Election manifesto

set a target of building 380,000 homes each year across the UK, with the Labour and Conservative manifestos including similar figures

- That the 2024 Liberal Democrat General Election manifesto promised to introduce ‘use-it-or-lose-it’ planning permission for developers who refuse to build.
- That whilst York’s housing targets have increased by 22%, London’s targets have seen a 20% reduction
- That the council’s response to the Government consultation is due to be agreed at an Executive Member Decision Session on 23 September 2024.

Council believes:

- That adoption of the Local Plan is a crucial step towards delivering much-needed new homes for York
- That the draft Local Plan contains ambitious and deliverable targets which will meet the pressing need for more new homes, whilst preserving York’s unique setting and environment
- That other measures can play an important part in improving the supply of homes for local residents, such as giving local authorities new powers to control second homes and short-term lets in their area and introducing ‘use-it-or-lose-it’ planning permission for developers who refuse to build.

Council resolves:

- To ask the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities to approve a council response to the Government consultation referred to above which expresses support for the retention of the housing target contained in the current draft Local Plan
- To ask the Executive Member to reaffirm his commitment, as reported in The Press on 13 June 2023 (<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/23583238.will-no-extra-new-housing-green-belt-says-york-labour/>), that the only housing development allowed on green belt land will be on those sites already allocated for development in the draft Local Plan.”

(iii) From Cllr Douglas

Community response to Israel-Gaza conflict

“We, the Council and people of York, in keeping with our city's status as the first Human Rights City in the UK, resolve to urgently call for:

- An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel based on recent peace proposals.
- Immediate access within Gaza to water, medical and food supplies, restoration of electricity, and provision of proper shelters for all impacted by the war.
- The immediate release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees.”

(iv) From Cllr Runciman

Dignity in retirement

“Council notes

- The Labour Government is cutting winter fuel payments for 10 million pensioners in the UK
- According to the Labour Government's own figures 800,000 of the lowest income pensioners who are eligible for Pension Credit but do not receive it will lose their Winter Fuel Payments
- Age UK's campaign to “Save the Winter Fuel Payment for struggling pensioners” which seeks to stop Labour's means testing of the Winter Fuel Payments
- The Parliamentary Liberal Democrat Motion that sought to block the cut to Winter Fuel Payments
- That locally in York, the Labour administration have cut the contract they held with Age UK to deliver York's Older People Community Support Service
- That if the York Liberal Democrats' alternative budget for 2024/25 had been approved by Council, the cut to Age UK's contract would not have happened
- That 1639 pensioners who are entitled to Pension Credit in

York do not claim it, meaning that there is £3.7million worth of unclaimed benefits for pensioners.

Council believes

- That the Age UK Day Clubs were a lifeline for many older residents, encouraging social interaction, providing lunch and enabling older people to keep warm in winter
- The Council should not have made the decision to cut Age UK's contract
- That many older residents who do not currently qualify for the means tested Winter Fuel Payments will have to choose between heating their home or eating
- That York's two Labour MPs should use their influence to persuade the Government to reverse the decision to cut York pensioners' Winter Fuel Allowances
- That pensioners in York should have dignity in their retirement and currently will be £700 worse off a year due to the cumulative effects of Labour's cut to the Winter Fuel Payment, the loss of the Cost of Living Payment, the rise in the energy price cap and the Green Bin Tax
- That the Council should do all it can to mitigate the impact on older people of decisions that it has taken and decisions taken by the Labour Government
- That the impact of the decision to cut Winter Fuel Payments will hit colder cities like York more
- That the City of York Council has a responsibility to alert every household in York about the benefits they are entitled, how to claim them and the support that is available to assist with making claims.

Council resolves

- To ask the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Council's opposition groups and York's two MPs to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask them to reverse the Winter Fuel Allowance cut
- To ask the Leader of the Council, on behalf of the entire Executive, to sign the Age UK petition on the Winter Fuel Allowance cut
- To request that the Executive Members for Finance, Major

Projects and Equalities work with officers to create a plan for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) which sets out a range of measures that could be taken to mitigate the impact of the above decisions on York's pensioners. This should include consideration of waiving the Green Bin Tax for pensioners, refunding all pensioners who have already paid it, reversing the cut to funding to Age UK York for Day Clubs and reinstating funding for a replacement Dial and Ride service

- To request that the Council Leader confirms, in writing to Councillors, that there will be no reduction in the number of warm spaces available to vulnerable residents this winter and next winter
- To request that officers write to all 1639 pensioners who are currently entitled to Pension Credit and do not claim it, informing them of the Winter Fuel Payment changes and encouraging them to claim for the benefits they are entitled to."

9. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members

To question the Leader and/or Executive Members in respect of any matter within their portfolio responsibility, in accordance with Standing Order B11.

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 47 - 54)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care and to question the Executive Member thereon, in accordance with Standing Orders B9 and B10.

11. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 55 - 58)

To receive a report from Councillor Fenton, Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSCCSMC), on the work of the Committee.

12. Proposed Change to the Council Procedure Rules (Pages 59 - 60)

To agree the proposed deletion of the Deputy Leader's Report from the Council Procedure Rules.

- 13. Appointments and Changes to Membership** (Pages 61 - 62)
To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

- 14. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Louise Cook

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email louise.cook@york.gov.uk

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Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (ہولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

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 **(01904) 551550**

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Democracy Officer

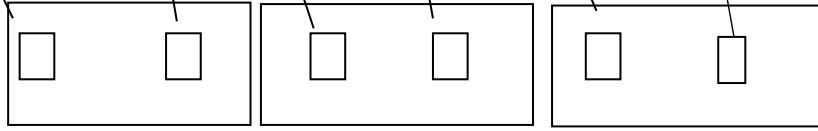
L Tomlinson,
Head of
Democratic
Governance

Cllr Wells,
Lord Mayor

B Roberts,
Monitoring
Officer

I Floyd,
Chief Operating
Officer

D Mitchell, Chief
Finance Officer



Cllr Kent	Cllr Ravilious	Cllr Pavlovic	Cllr Steels-Walshaw	Cllr Douglas	Cllr Kilbane	Cllr Lomas	Cllr Baxter	Cllr Webb
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Cllr Clarke	Cllr Nelson
Cllr Moroney	Cllr Merrett
Cllr Melly	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Myers	Cllr Coles
	Cllr Warters



Cllr B. Burton	Cllr Rose
Cllr Crawshaw	Cllr Whitcroft
Cllr J. Burton	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Steward	Cllr Nicholls
Cllr Rowley BEM	

Cllr Smalley	Cllr Runciman	Cllr Waller	Cllr Widdowson	Cllr Ayre	Cllr Healey	Cllr Fenton	Cllr Mason	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr Hook	Cllr Cuthbertson	Cllr Fisher	Cllr Cullwick	Cllr Pearson	Cllr Hollyer	Cllr Wann	Cllr Vassie	Cllr Knight	Cllr Waudby

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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on Wednesday, 17 July 2024, starting at 6.30 pm.

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr Wells) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas Rose	Nicholls
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
D Myers	Steward
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton	Whitcroft Wilson
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Ravilious	Clarke Melly Merrett
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Pearson	B Burton Douglas Webb
Heworth Without Ward	Holgate Ward
Ayre	Kent Steels-Walshaw

Hull Road Ward

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Baxter
Moroney

Cullwick
Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Westfield Ward

Fisher
Healey

Coles
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mason, Pavlovic, Rowley, Smalley, Wann, Waudby and Widdowson. Councillors Nelson and Taylor were absent on parental leave.

Lord Mayor's Opening Remarks

Before the formal business of the meeting began, the Lord Mayor invited all present to stand for a minute's silent reflection in memory of the late Honorary Alderman Brian Watson.

She then welcomed Cllr John Moroney to his first Council meeting following his success at a recent by-election, and offered congratulations to Cllr Emily Nelson and Cllr Kallum Taylor, both of whom had welcomed baby daughters earlier in the month.

13. Declarations of Interest (6:38 pm)

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

14. Minutes (6:38 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 21 March 2024 and 23 May 2024 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15. Civic Announcements (6:39 pm)

The Lord Mayor gave a summary of the activities of the civic party since she took office in May, including participating in York's Africa Day celebrations, York Pride, and the Our City festival. She noted that all could take pride in York as a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming city. She noted that it had been her privilege to meet with D Day veterans, as well as well as representatives from York's twin cities of Dijon and Munster.

She acknowledged the work of the Leader of the Council with York's Imam and Rabbi in developing a cross-community resolution on the situation in Gaza, which it was hoped would be concluded before the next full Council meeting.

The Lord Mayor also paid tribute to the late Honorary Alderman Brian Watson.

16. Public Participation (6:42 pm)

It was reported that five people had registered to speak at the meeting under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

Gwen Swinburn raised concerns over a proposed change to the Lord Mayoralty Points Allocation which would see the reallocation of unspent points from previous years, suggesting that this opened space for political interference. She called for any changes to the points system to be considered through proper democratic processes.

Flick Williams spoke in relation to Disability Pride Month. She noted recent progress around accessibility, but also raised concerns that disability equality training had not yet been rolled out across the authority. She called for an end to tokenism and the embedding of genuine disability equality into the Council's work plan.

Geoff Beacon spoke in relation to plans for York. He noted the relationship between wealth and carbon emissions and the impact of increasing housing costs on young people and renters. He suggested that the existing Local Plan was incompatible with decarbonisation, and called for all new housing in York to be car free.

The remaining registered speakers did not attend the meeting.

The Lord Mayor thanked all public participants for their contributions.

17. Petitions (6:53 pm)

Under Rule B5 2, the following petition was presented for reference to the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, in accordance with the Council's petition arrangements:

- i. A petition presented by Cllr Waller, on behalf of local residents, regarding an estate manager for the Chapelfields estate.

The following petition, which was not covered by Rule B5 2, was also presented for reference to Planning Committee B:

- ii. A petition presented by Cllr Whitcroft, on behalf of local residents, regarding the proposal to locate a new McDonalds restaurant off Fulford Road.

Action Required

1. Add the petition regarding an estate manager for the Chapelfields estate to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. PS
2. Add the petition regarding the proposal to locate a new McDonalds restaurant off Fulford Road to the petitions log for referral to Planning Committee B. JG

18. Report of Executive Leader and Questions (6:56 pm)

A written report was received from the Executive Leader, Cllr Douglas, on the work of the Executive.

Members were then invited to question the Leader on her report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed and replied to as indicated:

Combined Authority and Regional

From Cllr J Burton: Can the Leader please provide a progress update on York Central since the last Council meeting in March, including possible changes to housing plans for the site?

Response: I was at York Central yesterday with the developers, the Chief Executive of Homes England, and the Combined Authority Mayor. Since November when the developers were selected and we've been having discussions with them, we've had very positive feedback from them responding to our vision and our hopes for the site, and the fact that it needs to deliver for the people of York. Up until that point many people doubted whether the development would go forward and give us the affordable, sustainable homes, good quality jobs, green space and biodiversity that we need. Many people didn't have confidence in that at all. The developers are already engaging with local communities. The conversations I've had with them, and those with Executive Members and other partners in the city have all been consistent in wanting to push up, above policy, truly affordable housing on the site and Homes England very supportive

of this. I'm really hopeful for the future of what the site looks like and think it will exceed our Labour Group expectations that we had when it got outline planning approval – I'm really optimistic.

Children, Young People and Education

From Cllr Healey: Your report mentions that the Council is currently developing a local youth strategy and you say that you recognise the value of good local youth provision, but you don't mention that your administration's changes to ward funding arrangements directly led to the loss of much-valued youth provision such as the Strensall Youth Club. Would you like to apologise to the young people who have been affected by your decision and explain how you will reinstate what has been needlessly lost?

Response: I cannot begin to think why it is that changes to the ward funding have affected a youth group, other than perhaps the decisions of councillors as to where they decide to award their money. Youth groups totally fit within the principles we are supporting, as many councillors in the chamber are supporting youth activities in their wards through their ward funding so it's not something that I really recognise; what I do recognise is that the Council is really starting to up its involvement in youth activity across the city; the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire is also very committed to this. Our pipeline of projects includes youth activities, youth hubs, cultural passports, so given the position that youth work in the city has been in for a number of years I'm optimistic about an increase in provision. I'm sorry but I really don't recognise what you're talking about.

Supplementary from Cllr Fisher: I'm surprised you don't recognise the problem we suffer in Strensall as far as youth provision is concerned. The Youth Club costs £12,000 a year to run, our ward funding has been reduced to £9,300, so that's why we've not been able to do it. Could you suggest how we can make that money stretch further please?

Supplementary response: Ward funding is one aspect of funding going into communities, unfortunately it cannot stretch to paying for everything for everybody, and there are decisions that all 47 of us as councillors have to make as to how we best use our ward funding. I know there are examples across the chamber where elements of a service, if not necessarily all of it, can be funded through ward funding, and many services across the city have had to look at bringing in funding from other places, for example grant

funds. We are working ceaselessly with our community organisations to help them do that. It would of course be fantastic to be able to fund everything 100% but unfortunately Council finances don't stretch to that; we all know it, we've all said it a hundred times about why that is – we're trying to balance the demands of every important service across the city; I hear the challenge, but we are all dealing with it.

Supplementary from Cllr Crawshaw: We know from Micklegate Ward that one of the issues with funding youth services from ward budgets is that it's year-on-year, so people can't recruit staff long-term, leading to gaps in provision. I believe the youth strategy that you're bringing forward is designed to give longer-term certainty around funding for some of those youth services, and to think about a more strategic approach across the city rather than just a piecemeal offer for young people – could you elaborate a little bit?

Supplementary response: Absolutely. It was not too long in the past when youth services some of the sustainability you describe and could be relied upon in areas of our city right across the board; we need to move back to something that is more akin to that but in a way that we can afford. That means we need to work in partnership across city, which is what the youth strategy is all about, that strength-based, asset-based approach to youth work. There is some fantastic work going on in the city which we should all recognise celebrate. We are doing what we can in tough times and the youth strategy and partnership work offer a real way to move forward.

Our City, Our Community/Council Budget 2025-26 Consultation

From Cllr Steward: A few months ago the Deputy Leader said we were £40m short a city, can the Leader say to nearest £5m how much money she believes the Council should get from the new government?

Response: The medium-term financial strategy outlines that over the next three years we need to make savings of £30m in order to stand still. We have to do that. It would be lovely if an envelope arrived on my desk with £30m. We may get some of that money, I've asked for it, I've also asked for the fair funding review, in which there has been cross-party interest, to be reignited. I can't commit to you at this point what the government will give to us. I'm sure that by autumn we will hear more, and I am keeping my fingers crossed. But we are in the queue with the health service, education, policing, roads and so on. We didn't get the money from

the previous government. I hope things will now be different, but I am not going to hold my breath on it for too long at this point in time.

Supplementary from Cllr Steward: I'm not asking the Leader to comment on behalf of the government, she's not hit such heights as that yet, but from a Council point of view, how much would she like to see the government give to us in the next financial settlement? The Deputy Leader said that figure was just over £40m. What residents want to know is what does she as Council Leader think we as a city need now, from whoever is in power. How much would she like to see the government give the City of York, to the nearest £10m, in the next financial settlement?

Supplementary response: It would be irresponsible of me to put figure on that and say to people that we're going to expect that income from the government. National finance is in such a poor state because his party left it like that and crashed the economy. We cannot give those numbers at this point in time, but I hope to be able to come back to you once the Autumn Statement comes out and tell you what we are being given. It is impossible to put a number on it now.

Supplementary from Cllr Rose: We are left to deal with all the problems in the country, but I think the real power in government that we have right now is not how much money we can receive from them. We've already talked about youth services; we know that the vast majority of our money is now spent on social care which wasn't the case some years ago. What are your other hopes beyond the financial settlement, what else do you think the new government can do for us? What else do you hope to see?

Supplementary response: Looking at the Labour manifesto there are a lot of commitments around issues and programmes that the Council has started already that we will benefit from, because we're in a great position with them, and that will help our budget as well. Breakfast clubs, free school breakfasts, childcare – we are ready to with that and have already spoken to the new Education Secretary about it. With other aspects such as youth work and the family hubs which have been so successful, we can really benefit. The fact that our Local Plan is coming through at the time it is, and the fact that we have got York Central online with the ability to deliver housing on that scale for the people of York, we can really benefit from fact that Labour wants to put so much into housebuilding. Our transport strategy is coming through, Executive

Members are interested in bus franchising and are keen to see the renationalisation of railways. I think there is great opportunity.

19. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (7:29 pm)

A written report was received from the Deputy Leader, Cllr Kilbane.

Members were then invited to question the Deputy Leader on his report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed, and replied to as indicated:

Deputy Leader's Report

From Cllr Fenton: Congratulations to the Deputy Leader on your election as Deputy Mayor for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA). Your report claims the administration is steering York away from what you describe as the old insular politics of the previous administration. Can you please explain how this characterisation fits with the successes delivered by the previous administration in securing funding for major projects such as York Central, the station frontage and the outer ring road dualling which are now coming to fruition?

Response: I think given the track record of the previous administration, that funding was secured almost in spite of the previous administration. The generosity of Labour-led YNYCA is funding the York Central development referred to. To give an example, when we were in opposition before last year's election, Cllr Douglas and I met with the landowners of York Central, and in the first week post-election we met with Homes England and Network Rail and other York Central partners and were informed that we were the first political leaders that they had had a face-to-face conversation with. A project that affects the future of everybody in this city and region and there had been no political engagement with the people who were running that project, which had left officers of this Council having to second-guess what the then-Leader's opinion might be on particular developments. That's what happened when we went to see them; we sat down with them and said we want 40% truly affordable housing on that land, we want jobs on that land so that when people who live up on Severus Hill look down the hill they see opportunity in York Central for them and their kids. We told them we wanted it car-light because of climate concerns and in terms of the space needed there, and while they might not have agreed with everything we said they

were really glad to hear a political leader telling them what it was that this city wanted, because it had been so badly lacking through the insular politics of the previous administration.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: Isn't it the case that elsewhere in your report you claim to dislike a nasty brand of politics, yet your response demonstrates that this is in fact the way you like to do business?

Supplementary Response: What that refers to is the lies in Liberal Democrat leaflets in the Hull Road by-election, straightforward lies as well as the usual half-twisting of truths and ridiculous bar-charts. Putting lies through people's doors has an impact.

Cllr Ayre: The Deputy Leader is accusing people in this chamber of lying. That is not true, and is defamatory.

Cllr Kilbane: It is true, so it's not defamatory.

The Lord Mayor reminded both councillors to be respectful to one another.

Cllr Kilbane: Apologies if it was disrespectful, I was just trying to tell it how it is.

From Cllr Healey: This should be a much easier question to answer. When can we expect the process to be completed and a report brought to full Council so we can meet the Deputy Leader's long-term aspiration to remove this report?

Response: The previous questions were quite easy to answer. My understanding is that this will come to the Audit and Governance Committee at the end of July; obviously you are going to miss all this enjoyment once it's gone, but this report should be deleted from the end of July or soon thereafter.

20. **Motions on Notice (7:35 pm)**

(i) York Public Spending

Moved by Cllr B Burton, seconded by Cllr Coles.

"Council notes:

- Real terms funding reductions to City of York Council over a sustained period;
- The very difficult decisions the council has taken since 2011 to balance the budget - decisions involving all of York's main political parties;

- The particular challenges for York of having the lowest funding across all public services of any single tier council area in the country, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and the compound effect this has for each individual public service;
- Acute problems around access to affordable dentistry, A&E and mental health care, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in schools;
- The prospect of increasingly difficult budget decisions impacting valued council services over the next three years if national funding remains as forecast in the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
- York's membership of the F20 Group of lowest funded local authorities in the country and the need for that Group to be active at this point in making its case to the new Government.

Council believes:

- While political groups often have different priorities, councillors share a commitment to the city's services receiving fair funding.
- Further, it believes specific pressure areas for local government require long term solutions and should be a priority for the new Government:

Council resolves:

- To request the Chief Finance Officer and Executive Leader jointly write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request urgency in concluding the Fair Funding Review, first signalled by the Government in 2016, detailing why this is necessary;
- To request this opportunity is used to also highlight service pressures and to request long-term funding certainty to enable the council to plan its services over the period of each four-year electoral cycle;
- To request the Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care write to the Secretary of State for Health, pushing for early reform of the NHS dental contract to open up greater access to NHS dentistry in the city as soon as possible;

- To request Executive works collaboratively with other parts of the public sector locally, including York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to consider how each can make efficiencies and save money by reviewing how services are delivered;
- To put on record its thanks to staff and partners for their work over several years in such challenging circumstances, and for their continued commitment to service delivery to the city.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED unanimously, and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

(ii) Giving York’s children the best start in life

Moved by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Waller.

“Council notes:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- Analysis by the Child Poverty Action Group shows that 900,000 children living in poverty in England do not currently qualify for free school meals because the Conservative Government introduced an arbitrary £7,400 household income threshold in 2018.
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns mental health problems and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the complex reasons for increased absenteeism.
- There are 2,737 children living in absolute poverty, representing 8.9% of all children in York.
- There are 3,372 children living in relative poverty, representing 11% of all children in York.

Council believes:

- Scrapping the two-child limit is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of

poverty and mean 850,000 children are in less deep poverty across the UK and will lift at least 325 children in York out of absolute poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Council Leader to write to Members of Parliament representing York Central and York Outer, expressing the Council's support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap.
- Ask the Council Leader to write to the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to encourage them to scrap the two-child benefit cap."

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED, and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

(iii) Ending disenfranchisement in elections

Moved by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Rose.

"Council notes:

- The significant increase in voters registering to vote by post since 1997, when fewer than 1 million were registered, to the 2024 Parliamentary Election where an estimated 10 million (approx. 1 in 5) were registered to vote by post;
- The importance of ensuring the postal voting system is robust as it accounts for a growing proportion of votes cast with every election;
- National law prevents Returning Officers from issuing emergency proxy votes to electors whose postal votes have not arrived on time, leaving the potential for them being unable to vote;
- Issues in the 2024 Parliamentary Election with the timely delivery of postal vote applications and ballot papers through the postal system, and the impact this has had on electors with many left unable to vote;
- The recommended solution for the late arrival of postal vote ballot papers being to take them to a polling station instead

of posting them fails to acknowledge mobility as one of the main challenges to voting in person and why people register for postal votes in the first place;

- Some electors also being left unable to vote following the requirement to present Voter ID, evidenced by Electoral Commission data returns from polling stations nationally in 2023;
- The requirement for Voter ID disproportionately affecting those from low-income households and other marginalised groups.

Council believes:

- The Government should listen to the legitimate concerns of professional members of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) who state the legal timetable around postal votes means the current system gets overloaded and cannot cope.
- Disenfranchising voters in a democracy is inexcusable and must be urgently reviewed to ensure it doesn't happen again in future.

Council puts on record its thanks to council and other staff working so hard over local, regional and national elections to support the democratic process.

Council resolves to:

- Ask Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State with responsibility for Local Government and to the Minister with responsibility for elections to support the calls of the AEA in requesting a review of current postal and emergency proxy vote rules, including revising the timetable for postal vote registrations, to ensure everyone who registers can vote;
- Request the Government conducts a review of the requirement to present ID to vote that considers:
 - a) the types of ID accepted; and
 - b) if it is shown to disenfranchise registered voters that the requirement to present ID to vote is scrapped altogether.”

Cllr Hollyer then moved, and Cllr Fenton seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first paragraph, under ‘Council notes’, add the following additional bullet points:

- ‘More in Common’s recent poll that revealed that the new Voter ID rules may have stopped 400,000 people from voting in the General Election;
- The national voter turnout fell by 7.4% nationally and an average of 10.35% in York’s two constituencies at the July 2024 General Election;
- The “York Opposes Voter ID Requirements” motion that was passed at the 15th December 2022 Full Council meeting that committed the Council to opposing the ID voting requirements.’

In the second paragraph, under ‘Council believes’, add the following additional bullet point:

- ‘That all the evidence of the last two years of local elections and the General Election shows that the “York Opposes Voter ID Requirements” was right that the new Voter ID laws has “undermined the democratic process and has created barriers to exercising the right to vote, disproportionately affecting ethnic minority, low income, homeless, LGBT+, elderly, disabled and young people.’

In the third paragraph, under ‘Council resolves to’:

- Delete: ‘Request the Government conducts a review of the requirement to present ID to vote that considers: a) the types of ID accepted; and b) if it is shown to disenfranchise registered voters that the requirement to present ID to vote is scrapped altogether’, and substitute:
 - ‘Request the Government scraps the Voter ID requirement for voting completely.’”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes:

- The significant increase in voters registering to vote by post since 1997, when fewer than 1 million were registered, to the

2024 Parliamentary Election where an estimated 10 million (approx. 1 in 5) were registered to vote by post;

- The importance of ensuring the postal voting system is robust as it accounts for a growing proportion of votes cast with every election;
- National law prevents Returning Officers from issuing emergency proxy votes to electors whose postal votes have not arrived on time, leaving the potential for them being unable to vote;
- Issues in the 2024 Parliamentary Election with the timely delivery of postal vote applications and ballot papers through the postal system, and the impact this has had on electors with many left unable to vote;
- The recommended solution for the late arrival of postal vote ballot papers being to take them to a polling station instead of posting them fails to acknowledge mobility as one of the main challenges to voting in person and why people register for postal votes in the first place;
- Some electors also being left unable to vote following the requirement to present Voter ID, evidenced by Electoral Commission data returns from polling stations nationally in 2023;
- The requirement for Voter ID disproportionately affecting those from low-income households and other marginalised groups.
- More in Common's recent poll that revealed that the new Voter ID rules may have stopped 400,000 people from voting in the General Election;
- The national voter turnout fell by 7.4% nationally and an average of 10.35% in York's two constituencies at the July 2024 General Election;
- The "York Opposes Voter ID Requirements" motion that was passed at the 15th December 2022 Full Council meeting that committed the Council to opposing the ID voting requirements.

Council believes:

- The Government should listen to the legitimate concerns of professional members of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) who state the legal timetable around postal votes means the current system gets overloaded and cannot cope.

- Disenfranchising voters in a democracy is inexcusable and must be urgently reviewed to ensure it doesn't happen again in future.
- That all the evidence of the last two years of local elections and the General Election shows that the "York Opposes Voter ID Requirements" was right that the new Voter ID laws has "undermined the democratic process and has created barriers to exercising the right to vote, disproportionately affecting ethnic minority, low income, homeless, LGBT+, elderly, disabled and young people.

Council puts on record its thanks to council and other staff working so hard over local, regional and national elections to support the democratic process.

Council resolves to:

- Ask Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State with responsibility for Local Government and to the Minister with responsibility for elections to support the calls of the AEA in requesting a review of current postal and emergency proxy vote rules, including revising the timetable for postal vote registrations, to ensure everyone who registers can vote;
- Request the Government scraps the Voter ID requirement for voting completely."

On being put to the vote, the amended motion was declared CARRIED, and it was

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.

(iv) Fair Funding for York

Moved by Cllr Ayre moved, seconded by Cllr Cuthbertson.

"Council notes:

- The Institute for Fiscal Studies released a report into the disparity of funding for the same public services in different Council areas
- The IFS finding that the national average of funding per person is £4310 compared to only £3642 for York, ranking

York last in England and significantly behind North Yorkshire (£4005 per person) and East Riding (£4059 per person) when all services were considered

- Of the 150 Council areas in England, York ranked 150th overall, 147th in NHS funding, 148th in schools funding, 143rd in Local Government funding, 49th in Police funding and 127th in public health funding. This represents a £668 per person shortfall in spending on the national average or a £135 million gap for the city as a whole
- The work the previous Liberal Democrat led administration did to highlight this issue and help form a cross-party group of councils from across the county to lobby for a fair funding solution for the least well-funded councils in England
- The casework issues ward councillors have experienced in York with residents who can't book a GP appointment, can't register with an NHS dentist, struggle to find school places or have been affected by crime and anti-social behaviour
- The specific challenges York faces relating to increasing numbers of older residents and the need to provide for additional Adult Social Care services

Council believes:

- Successive governments have failed to address the long-standing lack of funding across all public services in York
- The new government should invest an extra £300 million into the local authorities that struggle to provide essential and valued services to their local communities due to low core spending power
- The F20 group is right that there should be a funding floor of 90% of average core spending power of local authorities, if this was enacted York would gain £78 extra per capita
- Fair funding for York would mean the council would be better able to provide the services that are desperately needed to fix the crisis in funding of Adult Social Care we see in York

Council resolves to:

- Request the Council Leader and Leader of the Liberal Democrat group write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge the government to take action to resolve York's chronic underfunding by central government by closing the funding

gap between York and the national average within this parliament.

- Request the Council Leader to write to York's Labour MPs to request that they urgently lobby the government to introduce a fair funding solution to close the gap between the most and least funded Council areas in England
- Request the Council to engage with the F20 group of the lowest funded Council areas in England to build an England wide campaign for fair funding and enact their principles in the next funding settlement
- Call on the new government to commit to a funding floor of 90% in the next financial settlement."

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED unanimously, and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.

Action Required

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|----|--|----|
| 1. | To note approval of the motion on York public spending and take the appropriate action. | DM |
| 2. | To note approval of the motion on giving York's children the best start in life and take the appropriate action. | PS |
| 3. | To note approval of the motion on ending disenfranchisement in elections (as amended) and take the appropriate action. | BR |
| 4. | To note approval of the motion on fair funding for York and take the appropriate action. | DM |

21. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (9:18 pm)

Members were invited to question the Leader or Executive Members. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members, and replied to as indicated:

Question to Cllr Ravilious, Executive Member for Transport

From Cllr Nicholls: As the Executive Member will be aware, there has been a weight limit on Appleton Road Bridge in Bishopthorpe since October, and hopefully it will be fixed by the end of the year. Whether the bridge is open or closed the location of Celkom and a

number of haulage companies in the Acaster area means an ever increasing number of lorries going through Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Appleton Roebuck, and they are a real threat to road safety to the youngest and the oldest, to pedestrians and cyclists. Does the Executive Member agree with me that this is an entirely unacceptable situation and that such companies should be located at the side of motorways or main A-roads, and where land is cheap? If she does agree will she join myself and Cllr Steward in working towards stopping such companies operating where always driving through villages is unavoidable, and what action would she like to see the Council taking?

Response: I think this is a case of a company that's outgrown its location, it's become very successful, and obviously when we're looking at our transport strategy and the movement and place plan we're really focusing on what kind of places do we want to create, what sort of traffic and environment are we trying to create. With all of area you mention, having such huge HGVs going through the villages is not appropriate, and we need to look at ways to discourage that kind of traffic through small villages. Fixing the bridge is in progress and will help to relieve some of the pressure as we won't have all the HGVs going along the same road. We will need to start looking at measures we can introduce in the villages to make them feel safer places for people to walk and cycle safely, and to get to school and to the doctor safely. I would be very happy to come to visit you in your villages to look, with officers, at what measures we can introduce in the short term as part of our movement and place plan to make them a safe environment for people. We're committed to our vision zero policy to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries by 2040; making sure that heavy vehicles like HGVs are travelling slowly enough and ideally not going through small villages is something we will be looking to do. It's not something we can do overnight, we will have to work progressively on the kind of measures we can use in the coming years.

Question to Cllr Douglas, Executive Leader

From Cllr Hollyer: In terms of the motion just passed in relation to postal votes, in York there were issues with the timely dispatch of postal ballots and incorrect polling cards being issued which led to residents having to come into West Offices to collect their postal ballots and some residents being disenfranchised altogether. Could the Leader please tell us what discussions she has had with officers to date to understand these issues and how they arose,

and what resources will be put in place to avoid a repeat in the future?

Response: There is no way that we can understate the challenges that both officers and residents felt over the general election period concerning the receipt of postal votes and re-issuing for those whose postal vote hadn't arrived. That's why we actually put together the motion we've seen today so that we can look at that process. There is no getting away from the fact that the administrative burden on staff around registration of postal voters and reissuing was a problem, but the team responded really well. There were long waits at certain points, particularly the Friday before the election but the team responded to that and by the Monday wait times were much reduced. The conversations over that period were ongoing, and I think the team coped remarkably well given the situation; they were as distressed about the wait for residents as many of the residents were. This is a bigger system issue, it's not just about what we deliver locally; we need to work together to ensure the voting system works for people nationally, and hopefully we will benefit locally from that as well.

Question to Cllr Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

From Cllr B Burton: The Council's Public Health team commissioned the Healthy Schools programme from Healthy Schools North Yorkshire from March 2023 up until March 2025. Could the Executive Member outline the benefits to schools and young people in York from that programme?

Response: We've introduced this award alongside North Yorkshire. Huntington School first achieved a bronze and has now achieved a silver award, and I have been to speak to some of the young people there. Something that is really positive is that it is not just about physical health but mental health as well. Huntington School, for example, introduced mental health champions and a mental health policy; in order to get the silver and gold level awards schools have to show that staff wellbeing is part of this, something very dear to my heart. Finally I think the really key point around this are that it is supporting active lives, emotional health and wellbeing, healthy food in schools, and PSHE education. We are starting to encourage schools to do what they can to support their young people and their staff to be healthy in all aspects of their life. I'm really glad that a quarter of York's schools have

already started on this programme. I'd love to see more and we're hoping that will grow over time.

Questions to Cllr Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency

From Cllr Fenton: An issue that residents have raised with me is whether volunteers who help manage Council land, whether that's weeding kerbsides or gathering fallen leaves, will be charged by the Council for disposing of the green waste they collect on the Council's behalf? My understanding is that they will be charged in the same way as everybody else who wishes to sign up to that service, and I wonder whether the Executive Member shares my concern about the message that this could be perceived as sending out to volunteers in the city about how we appreciate their work if we don't seem willing to recognise that work through the system that's being implemented at the moment?

Response: You'll know from my report that I do value very highly the work that all our volunteers across the city do. how much value. This might be better for me to follow up with you afterwards about the particular volunteers and where they are doing the work, but the short answer is that if it's true voluntary work then there are arrangements with the Eco team for them to put the weeds or leaves they're picking up into green bags and have it collected by the Public Realm team. If they are currently putting it into green bins which are residential and will need to switch I can help you to put them in touch with the right people to do that. There could be some issue around where they are collecting green waste on Council land or their own land but if its genuine volunteer work there is a system in place and the Eco team are the ones to talk to; I can get in touch with you afterwards to discuss further.

Supplementary from Cllr Orrell: It's not just volunteers who work for organisations; there are many residents across the city who look after the areas in front of their houses as a part of civic pride to keep their neighbourhood looking in good condition. If they didn't do it, the Council would have to spend more money maintaining those areas. Are they are now going to be charged for the privilege of helping the Council by doing that?

Supplementary response: Obviously people are free to cut the verge in front of their homes, it's a matter of personal choice; you might prefer that the Council cut it more often than it does or is able to, and we've talked all evening about the difficult financial circumstances that local authorities find themselves in. We've

made a commitment to cut them six times a year this year, that's level of standard we can afford to keep at this stage; that's under review and we are checking on it. If people want to cut the verge more than that, that is a preference and a matter of choice; it is hard to balance because I also have an inbox full of people who are irate when the Council cuts the verge in front of their house because they were valuing the short flowering plants that were there. It's a choice. I value volunteer work and we all appreciate the civic pride that the residents of York show in the city and all the work that goes into that. Some people like very short grass, some people would like it much longer, and that's their choice; if they want to take that additional work on as many parish councils do that's great, and if it is truly volunteering work there is a system to help them remove green waste.

From Cllr Vassie: Your report refers to steps to improve biodiversity, for example changes in mowing regimes to support wildflowers. Councillors of all parties and none are reporting that wildflowers continue to be destroyed this year in wards across the city including on wildflower verges in Wheldrake, Westfield and elsewhere. Given that a Liberal Democrat motion aimed at enabling councillors of all parties to repeat our joint commitment for action on biodiversity was ruled out of order, how do you see elected members helping you to ensure that officers listen to the political will of York and deliver the protection and enhancement of biodiversity that we all wish to see? Your report also refers to the investment that Innovate UK is making in York; are you aware that Innovate UK helps local authorities extend EV charging to terraced properties. Will the administration seek to ensure that York's 15,000 homes in terraced streets can take advantage of Innovate UK funding and participate in the switch to electric vehicles?

Response: I am not sure as to what happened with the overruled motion, I think it was before my time on the Council. I think the gist of your question was how we can all ensure that biodiversity is protected and that officers enact that desire. I mentioned the mapping that has been going on over the last twelve months; I think everybody here knows that there wasn't a very good system, or no system of mapping properly what should be cut and what shouldn't. It is difficult and I'm not underestimating it – where we have this patchwork it is hard for operatives who are just sitting cutting to know about. If there are areas that have been cut and shouldn't have or vice versa, please get in touch with me and the Head of Environmental Services jointly so we can enable that

mapping to be done. It takes all of us – you know your local areas better than anybody. Keep informing us so that mapping becomes complete, and report immediately if it's gone wrong. I don't think there is a desire by officers to destroy biodiversity, they understand the importance of it. I think it's an operational management problem. You'll know that we deeply regret what happened in Wheldrake, and I hope the conclusion we've reached in terms of taking the management off the landowner in question will help, and I look forward to next year's crop there. There are further steps that we are taking in terms of biodiversity – I mentioned the local mapping that we are doing. If you ask me again about Innovate UK in the next item I can answer that then.

22. **Report of Executive Member (9:35 pm)**

A written report was received from Cllr Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency.

Members were then invited to question the Executive Member on her report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed, and replied to as indicated:

Carbon Reduction

From Cllr Coles: Where is the partnership with Solar for Schools already operating and what are the plans to roll it out to other schools? Any particular reference to the Westfield Ward would be much appreciated.

Response: This is very timely. I was at Dringhouses Primary School this morning where 75 solar panels have just been put on the roof. I met the 'eco-warriors' from Reception to Year Six who were fantastically keen and passionate about the project. The whole team at the school was delighted and this is the latest of seven schools across York that now benefit from the Solar for Schools project. This is a fantastic collaboration between the Solar for Schools Partnership and local authorities and educational establishments; they assess your school to see if it's suitable, then do all the planning and installation, and there is a payback scheme whereby they take off the energy, but you get a reduced energy price, so it's a win-win. In addition, there is an educational component; they come and deliver STEM-type subjects around

sustainability, renewables and cheaper electricity, and involve the children in that. You'll be delighted to know that we have two more projects in the pipeline, the first of which is Westfield Primary and the next is Applefields School. I hope these will be installed by the end of this year which will bring the total to nine. It's a really wonderful project; a win for the planet because it reduces emissions, a win for the schools because it gives them extra educational training and cheap renewable energy, and a win for the Council because it reduces our costs.

Housing

From Cllr Whitcroft: What role is the Executive Member playing in the development of retrofitting Council homes and making sure our housing stock is as environmentally friendly as possible, particularly in relation to new development, but also existing housing stock?

Response: This overlaps with Cllr Pavlovic's portfolio; a huge amount of work has been done by that team to map all the energy performance certificates across the city, so we have a really good idea for each individual house of how its energy is used and how efficient it is. The good news for our Council tenants in our social housing is that generally we perform much higher than the private residential stock. In relation to that our retrofit policy is that under our repairs scheme we do voids first so that there is no fuss for tenants; much of the resistance to retrofit that has to happen is from residents themselves because houses are turned upside-down, insulation is quite intrusive if you're fitting heat pumps or new cookers, so we do it when there is nobody there. We've shortened the times between the voids and have done the repairs and mould prevention and made them cosier, warmer, cheaper houses to live in. This is a good time to ask this question – York has recently come first in one of the social housing major project awards, and second in the local authority doing outstanding work in this area under the social housing decarbonisation fund project in the Yorkshire Energy Awards; this was not just about delivering energy efficiency measures but doing it with customer satisfaction, craftsmanship and skill. In relation to the city as a whole we've been running various schemes which are largely government funded but from different pockets of funding; we've rolled this out really well and are seen as a very good place to pilot or roll out schemes in because of the way we do it. The lead project has

been for hard-to-reach areas: conservation areas, Gypsy and Traveller amenity areas. Teams have visited at least 35 private homes and there is at least another twelve months to run on this; they give an advice pack and support including details of trusted suppliers. The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2 is going to places which are hard-to-reach and not on gas. In terms of new build we have a commitment to 100% affordable housing which we are sticking to resolutely, and I'm delighted to announce that we are also sticking to Passivhaus standards where we can – this will be rolled out wherever possible, and these houses will be cheaper to buy, cheaper to live in and cheaper to run

Supplementary from Cllr Healey: You mentioned retrofitting heat pumps into existing Council properties – I wasn't aware we were doing so, so I'd be really interested if you could expand on that?

Supplementary response: Yes, in certain properties where we can, we have; we don't do it as a matter of course as there are some properties it doesn't suit and there's some debate over efficiency levels of insulation first, which was our priority. I can give you details of where that has happened after the meeting.

Garden Waste

From Cllr Fenton: Your report states that you are looking at relocating the Hazel Court recycling depot, can you please confirm which alternative locations are being considered, and also whether you are considering the future of the Towthorpe household waste disposal site?

Response: This is part of a Mayoral Combined Authority-funded project looking at the business case for a green energy park at Harewood Whin, which is where our recycling currently goes. This business case is in progress and the outline position would be the potential to provide 10,000 homes with renewable electricity from primarily solar or possibly onshore wind. This business case is also exploring the potential for hydrogen, for battery storage, and for EV charging. As a sideline to that, because Hazel Court is approaching capacity and there are issues with its location in the city centre, they are exploring the business case for relocating Hazel Court to Harewood Whin, which might make sense in terms of uptake from cheap renewables there. We're only looking at the business case for that as part of the project, it's not a conclusion and if it happened it would not be for some years; this is about assessing whether this would be part of the best use of a new

green energy park. If hydrogen comes out as the most appropriate use, then this might mean using it as a waste depot would not be the most efficient use.

Supplementary from Cllr Fenton: Is Towthorpe in the mix as part of the business case?

Supplementary response: It was Hazel Court primarily, so Towthorpe would remain. Obviously if there are benefits to doing anything there we would look at it, but that's not part of this project.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: As a point of clarification: one of the mitigations for the green waste changes is that residents can take their green waste to Hazel Court; you seem to have just said that Hazel Court will be closing and moving to Harewood Whin, so the suggestion is that green waste is taken to Harewood Whin?

Supplementary response: I apologise if I did not make myself clear, I said that what we have is a business plan being looked at as to whether it would make sense for Hazel Court to be relocated as part of the green energy park. I also said if this happened it wouldn't be for a number of years, probably the end of this decade if that did happen; meanwhile of course you are free to take your green waste to Hazel Court. If relocation did happen, if it made sense in terms of carbon and energy efficiency and costs to relocate, of course we'd also be looking at what happens to green waste for people who live in the city – meanwhile this is primarily about large vehicles travelling in and out of the city carrying waste which many people would say is not ideal, but nothing is going to happen in the next few years.

Supplementary from Cllr Crawshaw: You mentioned that the Harewood Whin project was part of discussions which are ongoing with the Combined Authority looking at the environmental benefits that there might be for the city, could you very briefly outline any other discussions that you might be having with the Combined Authority about potential environmental benefits for the city?

Supplementary response: Yes, this is funding we've already got, it was part of about £3m from the MCA Net Zero fund; in addition to that we've just had all of the LED lighting on the second and third floors of West Offices and 900 streetlights replaced through funding from the MCA. There's a possibility because of an underspend by North Yorkshire we might get an additional 1000 LED streetlights across the city and possibly for other Council buildings as well. We are joining with them on all sorts of projects, and there is also £10m in the mayoral climate fund which we are

putting pipeline projects forward for, so the new Combined Authority is a fantastic collaboration for us and opportunity for us to decarbonise the whole region, to get to Net Zero and all the benefits that entails for our air, our costs, our homes and our people.

23. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (9:45 pm)

A written report was received from Cllr Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the committee.

24. Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members (9:47 pm)

The following recommendations contained in the report of the Monitoring Officer at page 67 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Kilbane.

“Council is recommended to:

- i. Agree to the implementation of the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached at Annex A;
- ii. Agree that a Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy is a suitable reason for Council to grant a dispensation from the provisions of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, and that such a dispensation is therefore granted for any Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy; and
- iii. Amend the Council’s Scheme of Delegation to introduce a delegation to the Monitoring Officer to confirm in writing a dispensation under b) above for any Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy.

Reasons:

- i. To ensure that Members requiring Parental Leave are able to take such leave as they may require, ensuring equity of treatment with Officers, and contributing towards improving Member retention and diversity;

- ii. To ensure that Members taking Parental Leave do not inadvertently vacate their offices by virtue of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, by granting a dispensation in advance for any Member taking Parental Leave under the Policy, rather than requiring individual dispensation reports to be presented to Council meetings; and
- iii. To ensure that such dispensation can be confirmed at an early stage, and that individual Members are not required to disclose personal information unnecessarily.”

On being put to the vote the recommendations were declared CARRIED unanimously, and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendations on the Parental Leave Policy for Members and take the appropriate action. BR

25. Joint Standards Committee Annual Report for 2023/2024 (9:56 pm)

A written report from the Monitoring Officer was received, presenting the Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

26. Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures (9:58 pm)

The following recommendation contained in the report of the Monitoring Officer at page 82 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Kilbane.

“That Council is recommended to note the report.

Reason: To comply with legislative and constitutional requirements, and ensure full transparency.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared CARRIED, and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.

Cllr Margaret Wells

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.31 pm and concluded at 9.59 pm]

Leader of the Council Report to Full Council
19 September, 2024

Our city, Our community

Civil unrest and York's response

Early August saw a hugely challenging period nationally with troubling and totally unacceptable civil unrest across communities in England. This was a tremendously unsettling few weeks for communities in York. I was proud to see how community representatives, the police and emergency services, elected members, Council staff, the voluntary sector and York's residents all worked in solidarity and support of each other. York is proud of its social justice history, its status as a City of Sanctuary and Human Rights City. Our city showed it will not countenance or tolerate racism, intimidation or violence and I'd like to thank you all for any positive part you played in events over that period to allow our communities to feel supported and cared for. We will no doubt have challenges around this issue in the future and we should all do everything in our power to moderate our language, show a collective rejection of racism and discrimination and continue to move forward together towards a tolerant and welcoming nation.

Yorkshire Day

Yorkshire Day celebrations were hosted in York on 1 August for the first time in 39 years. It was a joyous event with over 120 civic representatives from a huge range of cities, towns and districts across Yorkshire celebrating our great county in our fine city. The Lord Mayor, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell and I provided a warm and thought provoking, welcome to our visitors. Breakfast was hosted at the Guildhall, followed by a civic procession to the Minster, with residents and visitors lining the route, for a service of thanksgiving for Yorkshire Day, encouraging public service and humility for all elected members and celebrating the embracing Yorkshire welcome that residents who have moved from other nations and communities to York have experienced. Music at the Minster was provided by the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir and soprano Wenjun Li, accompanied by Ioanna Koulleppou on piano. The uplifting message from Reverend Canon Tim Goode, 'we commit ourselves afresh to working together for a just and fair society in which all people are treated with dignity and respect and enabled, without fear, to be the people God calls them to be' is one we should all consider every day of our public service as elected members.

Lunch was provided at the Citadel by Yahala Mataam, the fantastic York based social enterprise whose mission is to give opportunity, build confidence and instil dignity in the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in York. It was a day of celebration of Yorkshire, its amazing diversity, service, humility and inclusion. I cannot thank enough the council staff, community groups and representatives and other volunteers who worked so hard to make it a success.

York Community Fund Launch

It was great to see the launch of York Community Fund take place at the Merchant Adventurers Hall in July. This independent fund is a partnership between Two Ridings Community Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, City of York Council, York CVS and York Together. The launch event was a tremendous example of York pulling together for the good of our communities. It was attended by voluntary and community organisations, businesses, philanthropists and was a real celebration of the work that is taking place across our communities.

Already accepting donations of any size, the Fund will help support organisations making a positive difference in communities across our city. This includes funding activities, projects, support and providing help with the running costs of these organisations.

The Fund is a meaningful way in which individuals and businesses, through their corporate and social responsibility commitments, can contribute to York's communities and voluntary sector, helping in areas such as affordability, climate action, health and wellbeing. I thank those who've already contributed and urge anyone else who can to do so.

Delivering for our city

I would like to draw attention to the progress that our children's services team has made over the past months. This has involved an awful lot of hard work and unrelenting focus from senior managers, heads of service across the team, and front-line staff carrying out the day-to-day, face-to-face work with young people and families. Their work has resulted in a transformative reduction in agency staff working in the department with only 1 remaining at the time of writing. In addition to a renewed sense of purpose in terms of the practice model that staff are being trained in and delivering, and the launch of Together We Can, wraparound support for young people in our care.

A recent letter from Ofsted concerning CYC's Children's Services stated "corporate parenting as being completely transformed with children being the top priority at the corporate centre.

Relationships with politicians and multi-agency partners are much improved and this is reaping benefits for children.

For example, the council wide approach to children has led to the increased housing offer for young people in the context of high waiting lists for York properties.”

This is vitally important work and progress for York’s children and young people and has seen the council coming together as the corporate parents that our children need at a time when they need it most.

Changemakers Programme

Children and young people in York will benefit from work to explore how to best help families facing challenges, thanks to a £300,000 funding boost. City of York Council is one of only four local authorities chosen to partner with Foundations, the national What Works Centre for Children and Families, and the Youth Endowment Fund on the Changemakers Programme.

The programme aims to explore how to put research about what helps parents and children overcome a wide range of challenges into practice at a local level. It is co-funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and Department for Education.

In York, the programme will initially focus on how to best help parents during pregnancy (antenatal period) and how to best support children aged between six and eleven years old with their mental health and wellbeing.

Improved support offer for Care Leavers

The improved Local Offer for care leavers, recently approved at Cllr Webb’s Executive Member decision making session responds to the views of young people and feedback from the National Advisor for Care Leavers on how the Council, as corporate parents, should be supporting care leavers to move towards independent adulthood. The new offer enhances what has been offered in the past through extending the bus pass for care leavers from the age of 21 to 25, a newly implemented annual subscription to a Mindfulness app supporting emotional well-being, a 12 month long payment for internet access and addressing the current ‘cliff edge’ in relation to council tax, spreading support over three years rather than the existing one year. Also changes to the university accommodation offer have been made to better reflect the fact that care leavers should also be supported through other forms of further education and apprenticeships. I look forward to hearing over time how this package works for our care leavers and responding to their feedback on the scheme.

Housing Delivery Plan Update

It was pleasing to see Planning Committee approve the new 100% affordable Ordnance Lane housing scheme recently. I know officers and Cllr Pavlovic have put a lot of hard work into preparing a scheme that stacks up financially and which delivers more of the affordable housing our city desperately needs. I look forward to further sites coming forward in meeting our commitment to deliver 100% affordable housing either the council or its partners will develop on existing council land.

We continue to work with a housing partner in developing a revised proposal for Castle Mills. Such schemes are complex and take time but we're confident what they deliver will be fantastic for the city.

York Community Woodland opening

It was fantastic to join the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jenny Kent, representatives from Forestry England and Council officer colleagues for the opening of the York Community Woodland last month. 210,000 trees, one for each York resident, are now growing well on 78 hectares just outside Knapton, with wild meadow swards between them and wildflowers on site. This will not only be a fantastic place for all to walk and play in but will also help offset our city's emissions by capturing 18,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide as they mature.

I'm pleased to see this location on the doorstep of Acomb, a ward with far too little open green space. I hope its residents and those right across the city will, over time, enjoy the leisure opportunity the woodland provides.

Bus Service Improvement Plan Benefits

Over a quarter of a million reduced price bus tickets have been sold to families and young people since January. The reduced tickets were just one of several measures this administration chose to prioritise using York's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding, making bus travel more accessible and affordable, easing the financial burden on families. A programme of upgrading bus shelters is also well underway, with over 150 shelters now having real-time information screens and audio announcements.

First Bus Depot launch

At the end of August, we joined First Bus in celebrating their York depot becoming one of the first net zero bus operations in the UK. This achievement has supported both the Council's net zero ambitions and will help to markedly improve air quality across the city.

Working in partnership with the council has enabled First to electrify at pace, and their fleet of 86 all electric buses has reduced emissions by over 90% since 2020. It's a fantastic achievement and we are now looking forward to assisting other bus operators running services in the city going electric and bringing in more bus priority measures to help buses cut through congestion.

Combined Authority and Regional

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is in full swing with the arrival of elected Mayor David Skaith in early May. He has visited and been welcomed with enthusiasm at a large range of organisations, businesses and events across the region. The partnership working between politicians and officers across the Combined Authority, City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council has already been productive for the region with over £11m being allocated to York through the Brownfield Housing Fund, £3.3m for York through the Net Zero Fund, the setting up of four additional funds consisting of the Carbon Negative Challenge Fund, a Vibrant and Sustainable High Streets Fund, a Business Innovation Fund and a Skills Innovation Fund, and early win projects being funded and assessed for implementation across the region. York has received £14.4m in total since funds have started to flow from the Combined Authority. Vitrally important additional funding allowing York to move forward in delivering on our housing, climate emergency and city infrastructure improvement goals.

The Mayor, Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire and I have recently participated in the recruitment process for the Combined Authority's Business Board. The exceptional business acumen, skills, and commitment to the region of the business leaders who applied to join the board is truly outstanding. We are all looking forward to the Business Board meeting for the first time over the Autumn and starting the task of providing expert input into the abundant economic growth opportunities across York and North Yorkshire. They will initially provide input into creating the Growth Plan for our region, supporting existing businesses to grow and innovate and promoting and creating a thriving start up environment for entrepreneurs. It's a truly exciting time across the region and an environment that York is tremendously well placed to take advantage of.

Local Plan Update

Consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller policy in the Local Plan ended recently and officers will now submit all representations to the Inspectors for their consideration.

We hope this is now the final issue successfully resolved and that the Inspectors will be able to issue their report on the soundness of the Plan

shortly. We expect this will then allow for the Plan to be presented to Full Council for approval and thereby adoption.

We still await indications from Government as to any revisions from their consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), but we have been told that plans at this late stage in the process will not be required to start again so for the first time in decades York will have a clear local development plan. This will signal a sea change in the number of schemes coming forward for development and we can finally start delivering homes at scale, including the desperately needed affordable housing the city needs.

York Central Update

Mayor Skaith and I visited the York Central site in early summer where we were hosted by senior figures from Homes England, Network Rail and the developers McLaren and Arlington. Progress is moving forward at a pace with refinement of the plans for phase 1 of the project that the developers hope to submit to the planning authority in the first quarter of 2025. Phase 1 will include significant housing, public realm, green space, commercial space and the western entrance from York Station into York Central. I have had a firm focus over the past 16 months on representing the hopes and aspirations of the citizens of York and what we all need to see delivered for our city on this hugely important development site. Good quality jobs across a range of skill levels, affordable, energy efficient, housing for residents to live in, not for short term investment opportunity, place building including green space, health and community facilities and integration of the site into the surrounding communities and the existing city centre.

I continue to be impressed with the inclusive and listening partnership approach of the developers and remain very optimistic that we will see York Central deliver a strong array of opportunities for a great place to live, work and play for future generations of York residents.

Council Budget 2025-26 Consultation

I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents, organisations, businesses, and partners across the city for participating in the hugely important public consultation concerning the Council's 2025-26 budget that closed in early September. Community sessions were run by an independent research firm that led conversations with residents from a range of communities allowing them to contribute their views on priorities for spending of the Council's approximately £150million revenue budget. The outlook for the Council's budget continues to be exceptionally challenging, with cuts of £10million per year required over the coming three years in order to keep a balanced budget and our city solvent. I

look forward to seeing the final analysis of the findings. Providing opportunities for residents to better understand which services the Council must spend its Council Tax and Business Rates Income on, and which services are discretionary is an important process that must continue through to budget setting in February 2025.

Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) - Climate Action Plan

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to the publication of the YHCC Climate Action Plan 2024 on Wednesday 18th September. The Commission is an independent advisory group and was set up to support ambitious climate action across Yorkshire and the Humber. It is made up of climate leaders from across the public, private and voluntary sectors in the region. I am currently a Vice Chair alongside a private sector Chair and 3 other Vice Chairs covering the region. The Climate Action Plan 2024 is a truly collaborative publication bringing together data sets, costs and actions taking place across our region. It outlines the task that faces Yorkshire and Humber to reach net zero by 2038, adapting our places to the climate impacts that are already affecting our region and will worsen in the years to come; protecting and restoring nature, building on our region's incredible natural assets; and doing all of this in a way that is fair and involves our communities. Its publication is a perfect opportunity for members across the council chamber to remind ourselves of the commitments, we as a Council, have made in the forms of declaring a climate emergency and approving a pollinator strategy to provide spaces for nature to thrive and survive. York has made large strides in starting to tackle our carbon footprint but there is still, collectively, a very long way to go. [Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission](#)

Cllr Douglas, Leader
10 September 2024

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Meeting	Executive
Date	18 July 2024
Present	Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Baxter, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious, Steels-Walshaw and Webb
In Attendance	Councillor Fenton, Karen Bull - Managing Director City of York Trading
Officers in Attendance	Debbie Mitchell – Chief Finance Officer Dan Moynihan - Senior Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer James Gilchrist – Transport, Highways and Environment Pauline Stuchfield – Director of Housing and Communities Claire Foale - Assistant Director Policy and Strategy Julian Ridge - Sustainable Transport Manager Steve Wragg - Head of Highway Asset Management Michael Howard – Head of Highways and Transport Kathryn Daly – Head of City Development Julie Stormont-Dawber - Regeneration Project Delivery Officer Mike Southcombe - Environmental Protection Manager Andrew Gillah - Principal Air Quality Officer Sophie Draper - Resourcing Manager Michael Jones - Head of Housing Delivery and Asset Management Andrew Bebbington - Housing Policy Officer Sophie Round - Housing Delivery Programme Manager Nick Collins – Head of Property

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

14. Capital Programme outturn (17:11)

The Chief Finance Officer noted the significant level of investment currently outlined in the Capital Programme. She confirmed that some slippage on projects had meant that funds were moved into future years.

The Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion thanked officers for their work in maintaining an ambitious programme despite financial challenges and highlighted the importance of the capital programme for the city.

Recommended:

- i. Recommend to Full Council the restated 2024/25 to 2028/29 programme of £421.368m as summarised in Table 3 and detailed in Annex 1 to the report;

Reason: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme

Cllr Douglas, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.31 pm and finished at 7.04 pm].

Report of the Deputy Leader

Since my last report to Full Council, it remains my honour to Deputise for the Leader when called upon to do so. She leads from the front with an energy and purpose that has a positive impact on progress for our city. She sets the bar high for us all and we are happy to rise to the challenge for the benefit of our residents, organisations, and businesses in York.

Over August, I deputised for the Leader during her two weeks of well-earned annual leave. Unfortunately, during this time the nation suffered rioting organised by far-right groups. While these disturbances came close to the borders of our region, I am happy to record that decency prevailed and York remained peaceful.

I should like to put on record my thanks to the Office of the Prime Minister, CYC council officers and partner organisations who all worked tirelessly during that worrying time to keep our residents safe. We were ready, we planned for the worst but fortunately our hopes for the best were realised.

I should also like to thank all the residents of York who turned out in large numbers to show support for our Muslim and migrant communities at a time when they felt greatly under threat. The gatherings at the Mosque, in particular, were joyful occasions. The far right attempted to spread fear amongst our communities, but instead they spread solidarity.

On Yorkshire Day it was my pleasure to welcome Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood MP to York. We showed her some of the great work being undertaken by our highways team in Fishergate ward, as well as the superb work they completed to enable greater flood resistant access to Millenium Bridge. The CYC team created a great impression on the Minister, cementing York's reputation in Government as an ambitious place that can be trusted to deliver.

Alongside the Leader we continue to work tirelessly to bring forward York Central in a way that maximises benefit to residents. Conversations are not always plain sailing, but I can put on record my thanks to all the partners who are working so hard to deliver this project for York. Their commitment to genuinely affordable housing, decent jobs and sustainability is to be commended. We will continue to give this project the leadership it needed, so that when residents look down on the site from Severus Hill they see it as brimming with opportunity for themselves and future generations.

In my role as Deputy Leader I also represent, along with the Leader, the City of York on York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Since winning outright the City of York Council elections in May 2023 your Labour representatives on the Combined Authority were able to secure a fair share of millions from the Brownfield Housing Fund to help build genuinely affordable housing in York. Since the election of a Labour Mayor, this Fund has been boosted by £4m of Mayoral funding to continue to deliver the social housing our residents so desperately need.

With further millions being directed towards transport, skills, retail, natural capital, net zero and business innovation we can all see the benefit that united and focussed politicians, working in partnership with our colleagues in North Yorkshire and in Government, bring to the whole region. In my role of Deputy Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, I continue to work with regional and national organisations to secure the best future we can for residents of York and the whole region.

As I have stated on previous occasions, the Deputy Leader Report remains an anachronism left over from the old coalition of Liberal Democrats and Greens. Should the constitutional changes proposed on tonight's agenda be accepted, this will be the last time such a report is delivered to Full Council. I know it will be sorely missed by many Members but please be assured that, along with my brilliant colleagues in the Labour Group, we will continue to deliver day in, day out, for the people of York.

Cllr Kilbane
Deputy Leader

**Report to Council, September 2024 – Lucy Steels-Walshaw
Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care**

Public Health

Health Trainer Success

The health trainer service in York offers advice around stopping smoking, healthy eating and lowering alcohol use.

The health trainer service has shown a high success rate working with people in local communities or remotely to provide advice and support on health issues, encouraging positive lifestyle and behaviour changes, improving wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

The health trainer service in York has recently undergone a restructure which is now complete. This service will offer more opportunities for community engagement to promote meeting national smoking cessations targets. The health trainers are also working very hard on their communications strategy to reach out to harder to reach communities.

When attending the health trainer service people set goals they would like to achieve around their health and out of 366 people engaging, 86% had achieved one or more of their health-related goals. Out of 660 referrals for the stopping smoking service, 331 people set a quit date and 72% were still stopped at 4 weeks post quit date.

Oral Health

Public Health, within local authorities, has the responsibility for the prevention of poor oral health (the responsibility for access to dental care lies with the NHS/ICBs). In York we have several initiatives to prevent poor oral health by encouraging regular toothbrushing and the promotion of good oral health messages. Over the last two years we have:

- Held an oral health promotion campaign with all early years settings (nurseries), providing resources for use within the setting and for parents to take away. This included an on-line training opportunity to which over 40 early years providers attended.
- Commissioned an Oral Health Promotion service. This included the roll out of supervised toothbrushing across several settings including early years, primary schools and all special schools in York. This provides training for settings to provide supervised toothbrushing when children attend these services. The provision

of free toothbrushes, toothpaste and information for parents are provided four times per year. This provision expands each year as more settings are included. The service also offers workforce development training opportunities for any professionals who have contact with children and can support good oral health.

- For the last two years our Healthy Child Service has offered a free toothbrush, toothpaste and parental information to all children in York at their 9-month child assessment. This is around the time when the first tooth erupts and encourages good oral hygiene from an early age.
- Public Health teams from East Riding, Hull, North Yorkshire and City of York Councils have been successful in securing funding for more toothbrushing packs and the extension of the supervised toothbrushing in children's settings. Once funding is confirmed a detailed plan will be drawn up.
- In collaboration with our NHS colleagues, we have developed a "flexible" commissioning arrangement whereby health and social care staff can refer children who have a dental health need but no access to an NHS Dentist to one of the City's dental practitioners. They will be treated and can remain on the dental practitioners list as an NHS patient. This is a fantastic step forward in ensuring improved dental hygiene and oral health for some of our youngest and most vulnerable residents.

Vaccinations at all ages

One of the most important ways to ensure people of every age remain healthy is to be vaccinated. The NHS contains a tracker so people can check whether they are up to date and contact their GP to find out further information on how to book. Health leaders in York and North Yorkshire continue to back the major campaign to remind parents of their children missing out on protection against serious diseases.

The risk from measles and whooping cough is rising in England and sadly we no longer have the levels of population immunity recommended by the World Health Organisation to prevent outbreaks.

York to become breastfeeding friendly city

To coincide with World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August) City of York Council last month announced its plans to make York a 'baby friendly city'.

Plans outlined in the city's Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding Delivery Plan have taken a step forward with the city committing to improving its support for families around procurement.

A specialist integrated sexual health service provides service users with open access to confidential, non-judgemental services covering sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBV), testing including HIV, treatment and management; HIV prevention including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), the full range of contraception provision, health promotion and prevention including relevant vaccination.

Sexual health plays a big part in preventing disease and promoting good sexual health, including relationships, sexuality and contraception.

At June 2024 Executive a report was approved for YSTHFT to extend the contract for another 12 months, including some efficiencies. This involved a staged reduction to some services as the cost of services is increasing at higher rates than the public health grants are increasing, and officers have produced options to ensure these high-quality services continue to be delivered across York. Changes will be made gradually in the second half of 2024-25 whilst continually assessing the impact on residents.

I will monitor the situation in relation to sexual health service savings, including through briefings from Public Health colleagues, to ensure integrated sexual health services in York continue to provide appropriate coverage.

The consultation on York's sexual and reproductive health services closed on 2 September and responses are now being considered.

Adult Social Care

Leadership

A new Corporate Director for Adult Social Care (ASC) and Integration has been in post since March 2024 and since this report is a very rare opportunity, I'd like formally welcome Sara Storey who has settled in well.

Sara has been leading work with the Adult Social Care management team to develop leadership approaches and behaviours, and to prioritise transformation projects and savings plans. Through regular engagement with front line teams, partners, and citizens, directorate leadership is developing positive relationships and opening discussions about opportunities for more integrated working. Sara is also taking up the role of ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) regional

commissioning network chair; and SRO (Senior reviewing officer) for a key workstream under the urgent and emergency care board to further develop the MDT (Multidisciplinary team) discharge hub model.

Earlier this year, a peer review team supported the department to identify areas of good practice and areas where we can strengthen performance – this feedback has been incorporated into our transformation planning. Some of the senior team will be joining or leading peer reviews elsewhere in the region, providing excellent opportunities to bring back learning and examples of good practice elsewhere. I welcome this approach of looking at what is happening outside the council to learn how we can strengthen the services we provide here in York.

Mental Health

There continues to be increased demand on mental health services due to a mix of economic, social, and financial factors. Within Adult Social Care this has required additional statutory resource due to an increase in Mental Health Act assessments for those most acutely unwell or in crisis.

The team has worked hard over the last 18 months to improve the staffing position. Recruitment has been positive and there is much less reliance upon short term contract work to cover gaps, and this is enabling service improvement.

The team has been piloting different ways of working to forge better links with TEWV (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust) Crisis Team and this has been positively received to date. Alongside this, the team is engaged with the Right Care, Right Person agenda with North Yorkshire Police, TEWV and other partners to ensure where possible residents get access to the right response and are not diverted into Police custody.

The Connecting Our City projects, supported via York Mental Health Partnership, have made significant progress in the opening in May of the first Mental Health Hub. This is a multi-agency team, co-located within 30 Clarence Street to offer a new service, transforming the approach to mental health provision in the city. The Hub is a team made up of social prescribers, peer support workers, clinicians, carer support workers, social care worker, a group facilitator and recovery workers. It offers responsive support in a flexible manner to connect people with their local communities.

The Mental Health Partnership has successfully secured funding to develop a new mental health hub in the West of the city. This hub will be open 24/7 and available to all adults without needing a referral. There

are plans to deliver a third hub in the East to ensure provision across the whole of York so residents are supported in their communities. This is an exciting step forward and an innovative project which will benefit residents in York.

Service Improvement

Adult Social Care has commenced several service improvements across the directorate, developed through engagement with our workforce. Amongst these improvements, they are developing a new Assurance Forum where staff and managers can engage to discuss the work they have completed and the recommendations they make. This process will allow officers to ensure a strength-based approach is embedded in practice and all opportunities to maximise an individual's independence have been explored. Learning from the Assurance Forum will be passed directly to our workforce development colleagues to inform training plans.

Running parallel is a range of other service improvements, focussed on, Quality and Audit, Voice of the Person, CQC preparation, improvement of Direct Payment provision and developing a Review project team.

The Review Team is a new team which will be focussing on utilising a multi-disciplinary approach, working in partnership with individuals to identify and utilise their strengths. The Review Team will address a backlog of overdue reviews and ensure the support residents receive is proportionate, appropriate, and cost-effective. The new team is aiming to be operational towards the end of the year.

Adult Social Care is also developing with partners a research and co-production strategy. The ambition includes identifying opportunities for practitioners to undertake research relating to social care and we are working with the Curiosity Partnership and the voluntary sector to co-produce this work supported by our researcher in residence. This work will build research capacity and literacy within Adult Social Care teams, providing opportunities for colleagues to build skills and use evidence-based practice and research in ways that can enhance and assist with the work the Local Authority is already doing. This will ultimately improve outcomes for people who have contact with social care.

Adult Social Care is working with our local People First self-advocates who are leading on designing a Learning Disability Partnership Board. We have approved 'easy read' training for several of our colleagues who can then help us to produce information for people in more accessible formats.

ASYE (Assessed Year in Practice)

The quality of our Social Work practice is key in ensuring the high quality of service that citizens expect. Ensuring that new social workers flourish and can demonstrate and celebrate their achievements is a vital part of this.

Adult Social Care recently introduced an ASYE Moderation Panel. This consists of the Principal Social Worker, an Assistant Director, Head of Service and the Practice Educator; and it involves our ASYE practitioners submitting their portfolios and receiving feedback and recommendations of their first year in practice. There has been a high standard of portfolios and received helpful feedback from practitioners of their experience in their first year. On successful completion, Social Workers are presented with their certificates by the Principal Social worker and the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care. This has been an important process to introduce as it formally recognises the hard work and excellent commitment from our social work practitioners.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy (OT) undertakes a central role in working with colleagues to ensure York residents remain at home as confidently, safely, and independently as possible.

To achieve this, Adult Social Care undertakes a strength-based approach working alongside individuals to realise their goals. This can include provision of low-level equipment such as, bathing, aids, grab rails and toilet equipment. In addition, Adult Social Care also provides assessment and provision of specialist equipment such as beds and seating, including safe moving and handling. The OTs also assess on behalf of the healthy and sustainable housing team for appropriate adaptations. Over recent years we have continued to see an increased demand for Occupational therapy and equipment. This has resulted in waiting lists, which the OT team prioritise and monitor on a consistent basis. The OT team is very experienced team and can support individuals with complex challenges to continue to live in their own homes. OTs are looking forward to the opportunity to work alongside social work colleagues to undertake a multi-disciplinary strength-based approach to overdue review work.

CYC Adult Social Care providers

- **CYC Telecare** – Digital telecare practitioners have been in post 2 months and have been providing education and support to Be Independent in transition from analogue to digital technology.

- **Learning Disability Provider Services** – The CYC learning disability provider service includes Pine Trees (a day centre for people with complex needs), Flaxman Avenue (short breaks), community-based support and The Bungalows (day provision that supports integration) have all recently undergone a restructure. This has led to increased capacity of all services. A key element of this restructure was to introduce short term interventions to reduce the need for long term care for customers with learning disabilities.
- **Personal Support Service** – PSS is also regulated by CQC and has a 'Good' rating. There is currently a restructure to strengthen and improve the service.
- **Commissioning** - There is a new interim joint head of service for our all-age team, who while also working for the ICB York Place team, is supporting the team to identify opportunities to develop one integrated commissioning team.
- There has been engagement around several new commissioning contracts this year, including reablement, advocacy, sensory services, dementia model, and community contracts, and officers have been bringing more assurance and efficiency to our contracts through developing approved provider lists and frameworks.

Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The council plays a major role in protecting the human rights of those who lack the mental capacity to decide where they live and how they are supported. Requests to support people through the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards process continue to increase. A review of Adult Social Care processes and systems has commenced to ensure ASC is able to safeguard as many people as possible in the most effective way. The directorate is improving its capability and capacity to deliver these safeguards by investing in its staff through commissioning more Best Interest Assessor Training for staff.

Local Safeguarding Adults processes have also been reviewed along with our multi-agency policies and procedures ensuring they are up to date and effective for the community that are supported.

ASC has undertaken some positive and well received work, and awareness raising, with our partners to enable concerns to be raised more easily. It also enabled sharing of the kind of information that helps staff to act in a timely manner to support adults at risk, to help them manage risk in their lives and plan how to live more safely.

There have also been some significant developments in operational and strategic safeguarding pathways to support and safeguard young people as they grow into adulthood. This includes the launch of a Transitional Safeguarding protocol endorsed by the both the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), and the Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

The SAB has also successfully appointed to some key positions recently which include a SAB Business Manager and a new Independent Chair. Both these appointments will be pivotal in developing the SAB's assurance, governance, and performance arrangements so that we are able to maximise the impact we have.

ASC professionals understand the contribution Adult Social Care can make in helping to tackle domestic abuse. Work is underway in Public Health to identify training needs amongst ASC colleagues in relation to domestic abuse. This has initially focused upon delivering MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) training to our frontline safeguarding practitioners.

Cllr Steels-Walshaw
10 September 2024

Abbreviations used in this report:

ADASS - Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

ASC - Adult Social Care

ASYE - Assessed Year in Practice

BBV - Blood Borne Viruses

CQC – Care Quality Commission

CYC – City of York Council

GPs – General Practitioners

ICB – Integrated Care Board

MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MDT - Multidisciplinary Team

NHS - National Health Service

OT - Occupational Therapy

PEP - Post-exposure prophylaxis

PrEP - Pre-exposure prophylaxis

PSS - Personal Support Service

SAB - Safeguarding Adults Board

SRO - Senior Reviewing Officer

STIs - Sexually Transmitted Infections

TEWV - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley

YSTHFT - York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust

Report of the Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSCCSMC) – September 2024

1. This report is more brief than usual as there has been very little scrutiny activity during August, as is usually the case. Since my July report there has been one CSCCSMC call-in meeting. The meeting on 12 August considered a call-in of the decision made by the Executive on 18 July 2024, in respect of the Update on the Housing Delivery Programme and the Disposal of Surplus Sites. The outcome was that no breach was found and the original decision was upheld.

CSCCSMC

2. At its 8 July meeting the committee considered the feedback that had been provided by the other scrutiny committees in response to the draft York pipeline of projects for the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority. It was agreed that the pipeline proposals would be reviewed again in 12 months, or earlier if required. Members also discussed the draft Corporate Improvement Action Plan and make recommendations for some additions to be made to the plan.
3. At its 9 September meeting the committee provided pre-decision scrutiny of the Acomb Front Street Phase 2 proposals, ahead of a decision being made at a Decision Session on 24 September. This came to CSCCSMC, rather than EPAT, in order for feedback to be provided in time for the decision session. Members also considered options for a review of the council's scrutiny function. There was consensus that scrutiny training for members should be signposted and arranged where appropriate and that the £5k available for member training should be used. Further discussion is needed around the desirability and affordability of commissioning external expertise to help facilitate a scrutiny review.

Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee

4. Cllr Nicolls reports:

At the 3 September meeting members received a report on the end of Q4 finances as they affected CCC, which saw recurring improvement of some £2m in the outturn position. The good news

from a financial aspect is The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is ahead of the target position set out in the Safety Valve recovery plan agreed with the DfE. The local authority is now in the second year of this four-year agreement and has exceeded the financial targets for this year.

5. Members also received an update on the SEND operational plan which highlighted 4 key facts:
 - a. More children and young people are being identified as having SEND;
 - b. Their needs are not being met in mainstream education, and thus require specialist provision;
 - c. More money is being invested in SEND, but it is significantly less than what is actually being spent on SEND;
 - d. Finally, despite rapidly rising spending outcomes of those with SEND and day to day experiences of the system have not improved.

6. As corporate parents, councillors may wish to read the Health Needs Assessment which can be found in the CCC scrutiny agenda on the Council Calendar for 3 September. It was also noted that the Council perhaps needs to promote the fantastic work of the SEND team to demonstrate we do more than cut grass and collect bins.

7. The committee also received an update on the Youth Strategy, we were perhaps a meeting early for this as there is potential good news on this to follow over the next few weeks. We will get a written update from Niall McVicar once this news is confirmed.

Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee

8. No update this time as the committee last met on 25 June and next meets on 24 September.

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

9. At its 10 July meeting members discussed the ongoing work of the Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding Delivery Plan, including around the development of a food insecurity pathway for those formula feeding, and how creating a breastfeeding-friendly city can provide an enabling environment to support breastfeeding. Members also discussed the approach being taken by York and Scarborough

Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to address issues identified by the last Care Quality Commission inspection. The Trust's Chief Executive and Chief Nurse took part in the discussion.

Cllr Fenton, Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee

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Full Council

19 September 2024

Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
(Portfolio of the Executive Leader)

Proposed Change to the Council Procedure Rules

Summary

1. To agree the proposed deletion of the Deputy Leader's Report from the Council Procedure Rules.

Background

2. Over the course of the preceding 9 months, the cross-party Constitution Working Group has been considering proposed amendments to the Council Procedure Rules. These were submitted to Audit & Governance Committee on 8 August 2024, for information and early sight, and were then submitted to Audit & Governance Committee on 4 September for discussion and decision.
3. Ultimately, Audit & Governance Committee decided to circulate the updated 'clean' version of the revised draft Council Procedure Rules to Group Leaders in order that each group could provide feedback, on any fundamental issues it may have with the proposed changes, by the end of 27 September 2024.
4. It was, however, unanimously agreed by Audit & Governance that the proposed deletion of the Deputy Mayor's Report should be actioned without further delay and separate to the remainder of the Council Procedure Rules.
5. It is therefore proposed that paragraph B3 1 i) be deleted from the Council Procedure Rules with immediate effect, and the remaining items be renumbered accordingly.

Implications

Financial – None directly arising from this report.

Human Resources (HR) – None directly arising from this report.

Equalities – None directly arising from this report.

Legal – None directly arising from this report.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property – None directly arising from this report.

Recommendations

6. Council is recommended to approve the deletion of paragraph B3 1 i) of the Council Procedure Rules, and the renumbering of the remaining items accordingly.

Reasons for the Recommendation

7. In order to remove a report which is recognised as being unnecessary.

Options

8. Members may choose to approve or not approve the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Author and Chief Officer responsible for the report: Bryn Roberts, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Approved

Date

10
September
2024

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- [Appendix 3 - Council Procedure Rules](#)

Annexes:

- None

Appointments and Changes to Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies 2024-25

To note and confirm:

Committees

Corporate Appeals Panel

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy as substitute.

Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee

Cllr Rose appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

Economy, Place, Access, and Transport Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Merrett appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Cllr Wilson appointed to fill Labour group vacancy replacing Cllr Rose.

Local Plan Working Group

Cllr Steels-Walshaw and Cllr Myers appointed to fill Labour group vacancies replacing Cllr Rose, and Cllr Moroney appointed as a substitute.

Planning A

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

Planning B

Cllr Coles appointed to fill Labour group vacancy replacing Cllr Wilson.

Outside Bodies

Fostering and Sharing Care Panel

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy replacing Cllr Nelson.

Heslington East Community Forum

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

York Health and Care Partnership

To appoint Martin Kelly, Corporate Director of Children and Education.

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Business Board

Cllr Douglas and Cllr Kilbane appointed.

York Wheels

Cllr Moroney appointed to fill Labour group vacancy.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Whitcroft appointed to fill Labour group vacancy as substitute replacing Cllr Baxter.